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Volume 24 Number 8

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 20, 2009

## County cuts ALS levy, considers more tax cuts

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Taking up a proposal put forward by Commissioner Tim Lea during their February 2 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners [BOC], on Monday night, February 16, approved a half-cent cut in the Advanced Life Support [ALS] tax rate and reduced the amount of cash the county must maintain in its undesignated fund balance.

Lea had recommended cutting the general property tax rate by three cents, but that idea was tabled until the second meeting in March, at which time the Commissioners hope to have in hand an updated set of financial projections from their consultants Davenport and Company.

The move to table Lea's proposed cut was made by Commissioner Larry Caddell, who

said he wanted assurances that the cut would not hamper the county's ability to move forward with the construction of a new jail, public safety facility, and administration building in Carthage. "I'm not saying I won't support a three cent [decrease]," Caddell said, "but I'm not going to support it in February. I think we have given direction [to the staff]. Until Davenport come's back

(See "Commissioners," p. 31)

## Board approves budget

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

With unanimous support from the Board of Directors, the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget was approved in a special meeting immediately following the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Work Session on Thursday, February 12. The proposed budget — which includes a \$50 dues increase for lots with houses — now goes before the mem-

bership for final approval and vote. Increasing dues on vacant lots was suggested and, eventually, discarded. In discussion, the Board agreed the current dues level for lots was already set to a relatively high percentage and that, with few vacant lots remaining, the revenue gained by any increase would be minimal.

The Board also worked through language for a new

bylaw that will funnel any revenues from a dues increase in FY 2010 or FY 2011 to a reserve fund for road repaving and state-mandated dam repairs. "I wouldn't support a dues increase without this," explained President Randy Zielsdorf. "Seven Lakes has no history of saving money. The new dues need to be specified for roads and this [bylaw] will place it in a segregated account."

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

## Top Dog!



**Kathy Constantino** of Seven Lakes West and her therapy dog, Tess, were honored by the Moore County Board of Education in February. [See story on Page 2]

## Business Guild sets date for Chili Cook Off

It is time to dust off your crock pots and prepare your palettes for some of the best chili in town. The Seven Lakes Business Guild will hold the annual Chili Cook Off and Street Fair on Saturday, April 4 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This year's event is being moved to the corner of Trade and Grant streets [next to Master Kleen] which will allow everyone a little more room to breathe. Last year's event was a huge success but everyone felt like sardines and

the rain didn't help.

Now is the time to reserve your booth space and enter your best recipe. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place decided by the judges and for People's Choice [best overall]

and the President's Award [best decorated booth].

In addition to the Chili Cook Off, this is also a street fair. Please use this opportunity to promote your business, organization or club, sell your wares, hold a

membership drive, or thank your customers. Whether you make chili or not, feel free to decorate your booth for your chance at the President's Award.

There will be fun for the entire

(See "Cook Off," p. 2)

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# School Board honors Kathy Constantino

by Linda Hubbard  
Moore County Schools

Kathy Constantino of Seven Lakes West and her therapy dog, Tess, were honored by the Moore County Board of Education in February.

Each Tuesday, Constantino and Tess work with sixth grade students at Elise Middle School in Robbins to improve their reading fluency and reading comprehension. The students come in pairs and do their work as Kathy and Tess look on and listen.

Constantino, herself a certified teacher, has a background in special education. She is

adept at helping the students with other subjects besides reading and is willing to do whatever the teachers request of her.

In the early part of the school year, she also spoke to the seventh grade classes about her travels to Africa.

The students were studying the continent and enjoyed a comprehensive video that Constantino and her husband had made

on their trip. The students learned about African safaris and animals, houses the African people live in, schools the children attend, foods common to Africa, and many other interesting facts about this continent.

Through her volunteer involvement, students are improving in their reading abilities and also

learning the value of animals as helpers to humans.

The MCS Board and staff

salute Kathy and Tess and appreciate all of their hard work at Elise Middle School.

## Cook Off

(Continued from front page)

family, so bring your children and your parents and stay for the afternoon. The Guild is working on some great entertainment so watch *The Times* and the website for the updated schedule of events.

To enter the Cook Off or to reserve your booth space, please download an entry form and the rules and regulations at [www.7lakesbusinessguild.org](http://www.7lakesbusinessguild.org) or contact JuBilee Screen Print at 673-4240.

### 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](mailto:mail@sevenlakes-times.net).

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
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.

## Try Wii Golf at SLCC!

In spite of the weather it's time for the golf season to begin. The PGA Tour is in full swing and in February, Seven Lakes Country Club will launch a tour of its own.

Beginning Friday, February 27, the Seven Lakes Wii World Tour will tee off. The Nintendo Wii game system has taken the world by storm and everyone is invited to get swept up in the frenzy.

The first night will be a demonstration and familiarization night for everyone to get some practice time in with the controllers and the aspects of the Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09 game.

Depending on the number of

people who sign up for the fun participants will then play on the following Friday evenings on courses from around the world until everyone completes an eighteen-hole round and SLCC will crown a champion. In conjunction with the Wii activity, Chef Jackie will offer an optional one entrée buffet each evening to enjoy before or after your tee time.

To reserve your spot in the field, simply call the Club Office at 673-1088 and tell them you want to "Wii it up!" You do not have to be a member of the Club to participate, all are invited to enter the tournament, or to just come and watch the fun that is sure to ensue.



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# Increased Westside fees draw questions

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The agenda for the Tuesday, February 9 Work Session of the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] ranged widely over a host of issues, from pool passes to dam remediation, annexations to beautification.

## Pool Fees and Passes

The Board approved some refinements to this year's plan for pool passes suggested by Direc-

tor Karen Milligan, who said she had heard concerns from members that visiting children and grandchildren will need to have guest passes to use the pool this summer.

Milligan recommended that each member household be given, upon request, fourteen days worth of pool passes at no additional charge. The pool guest passes will be designed so that pool personnel punch the pass each time it is used.

Milligan said her recommen-

dation was aimed at "fairness to the entire paying membership."

"No demographic gets a special allowance with their membership, but rather that all members get the same privilege," she said. The passes could be used for family or friends — however the members household chooses to use them.

Punch card passes would also be available for purchase at the rates specified in the proposed fee schedule: \$25 for a seven day pass, \$75 for a 30-day pass, or

\$200 for a season pass. A single day pass is \$5. Milligan noted that the seven-day pass could be used seven days in a row by one person or on seven days at any point during the swim season by seven different guests. The "seven days" is, in effect seven uses. The same is the case for the thirty-day pass. The season pass will consist of four 30-day passes — a total of 120 uses for a 107-day swim season. The passes expire at the end of the swim season. Guests using the passes must be accompanied by a SLWLA member.

Though the Board unanimously approved Milligan's plan prior to the public comment segment of the meeting, former Treasurer and current Finance Committee member Lois Rocco used the public comment segment to express concern about the large increase in pool fees from last

year. Rocco noted that the cost of a season pass had increased from \$25 to \$200. She asked for an analysis of pool costs and pool usage and volunteered to help compile those analyses. [See page 25 for a letter from Rocco on the subject of pool fees.]

Rocco's comments prompted a similar request from John Oravetz, who expressed concern that the rental fee for slips at Johnson Point had increased by \$100 in the proposed fee schedule. Estimated that rental income from the boat slips totals \$38,000 annually, Oravetz said he doubted that the cost of maintenance of the slips approached anything close to that number. When a Board member suggested that that revenue was used for more general maintenance in the Johnson Point area,

(See "Westside," p. 17)

## Crossing project should take 18 months to complete

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

It's likely to take eighteen months to complete the upgrade of the Lakeway Drive rail crossing at the entrance to Seven Lakes West, along with the closing of crossings at Mode Road and Edgewood Terrace and the upgrade of the NC Highway 73 crossing near West End Fire and Rescue.

NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] Project Engineer Nancy Horne told *The Times* on Tuesday that the state Board of Transportation is expected to review the project during its

March meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, March 4 and 5.

"We anticipate that the Board will approve the project," Horne told *The Times*.

Once approval is in hand, engineering design and environmental documentation are the next steps before construction begins. Horne said she doubted that the environmental assessment would be complex, but wouldn't know for sure until NCDOT environmental staffers had taken a look at the project.

Horne told *The Times* that the

crossing closures and crossing upgrades are all part of one

(See "Crossing," p. 17)

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# Broken pipe nets owner big Foxfire water bill

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

\$2,700 — That's the anticipated water bill one unfortunate Foxfire condo owner will receive this month. A broken hot water heater in a vacant rental unit dumped approximately 200,000 gallons into the ground, reported Councilman Ed Lauer during February 10 Village Council Meeting.

"This was an unfortunate circumstance . . . the cost of the water will need to be repaid," said Lauer, explaining that the Village turned off the utility immediately after the monthly meter reading that revealed the breach.

"If you are going to be away for an extended period, shut off the water or ask the Water Department to turn off your water," Lauer recommended. "Property owners have to take responsibility for their own actions."

Lauer also reported that final bids were approved for the new well site on Woodland Circle and the Village was proceeding with signing contracts.

## Stonehill Pines

Mayor George Erickson dispelled rumors that work has ceased on the Stonehills Pines project. He reported the Quality Assurance Team compiled a comprehensive report after reviewing the Master Plan, and a Special Meeting of the Foxfire Planning & Zoning Committee would be conducted on Thursday, February 19.

"The process is moving forward and, hopefully, later this year the 1,500 acre area will be annexed into the Village and the project will get underway. That is the hope of everyone

involved," said Erickson.

## Woodland Circle Extension

Ten of fourteen property owners along the Woodland Circle Extension project have responded to the Village's petition request. Three refused to sign and one owner has not been located, reported Erickson.

Under North Carolina statutes, the petition may proceed with over half of the affected owners approval and sixty-seven percent of the affect road's linear feet represented.

"We have written to our State and Federal legislators asking, 'If the stimulus package passes, could we get reimbursement for the project?'" Erickson said, noting that, so far, they had received no response.

## Streets

Councilman Vic Koos said three Horse Crossing signs will be installed in the Village, and that 25 MPH signs were being installed along a private road in Reynwood Vista.

Koos also thanked Sharon Thingstad for her pruning work at the intersection of Hoffman and Richmond Roads.

## Finance

The General Fund is \$315,000 and Water Fund is \$305,000, reported Councilwoman Leslie Frusco.

Tax lien notices will be published in the next thirty days on approximately ninety properties: most are undeveloped lots, stated Frusco. The properties have a combined tax revenue of approximately \$50,000. Warning letters will be sent to delinquent owners.

## Appointments

Eileen Umland was appointed to the Planning & Zoning Board for another three year term.

Members of the Parks & Recreation Committee were appointed to two or three-year terms, and the Council approved a motion changing the designation from an ad hoc to a standing Committee. Appointed for two years were Jack Olsen, Gene Petrie, and Helen Munro. Three year appointees were Charles Coker, Tommy McCaskill, and Candy Howard.

The Board of Adjustment has two vacant positions for residents of the Foxfire Extra-Terri-

torial Jurisdiction [ETJ] and three other positions up for renewal.

"We're trying to get committee appointments into a sequence so that new appointments can be made each January or February," Erickson said.

## Other Items

The Council unanimously approved adding a \$25 permit fee to install an underground fuel tank.

John and Louise Quella, developers of the Reynwood subdivision, requested permission to install and maintain an eight foot wide horse trail across the narrow, undeveloped western portion of the Village Green. The trail would parallel Tufts Vista Road.

He also reported that horse trails in Reynwood and Grande Pines may be connected in the future.

"Sharing trails will increase property values," said Quella.

Foxfire Village Police Chief Mike Campbell reported six vehicles were broken into. All had been unlocked and parked in residential driveways.

"Keep your cars locked," said Campbell.

"In petty theft, if the car is unlocked they are going to go into them. These were isolated incidents; but times are tough, and people may be tempted to do desperate things."

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# Finance Committee's openness questioned

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Treasurer Denny Galford called an open meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Finance Committee on Friday, February 6 to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget and answer questions. Many in the small crowd expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet directly with the committee.

"I hope this is a preview of better communication in the future," said Jim Allen. "Many of us feel there are problems with financial communication and transparency . . . I hope we can spend this useful time looking forward."

Northsider Charlie Oliver asked Galford to pinpoint specific cost reductions included in the draft budget. Galford responded that a total sum of those expenses was not immediately available to report but that he would prepare and present a complete list of the approximately twenty-five reduced items.

Oliver also applauded Director Bud Shaver and Maintenance Supervisor Bob Darr for the good things happening in maintenance, and asked for clarification of how the proposed funds listed under Professional Fees would be distributed and what percentage of the \$32,000 total represented fees to be paid to retiring Community Manager Dalton Fulcher for consulting work in 2010.

During the SLLA Open Meeting on January 28, President Randy Zielsdorf had reported that the Board of Directors entered an employment agreement with Fulcher formalizing his departure as an employee on December 31, 2009 and included a "small, monthly retainer" which requires him to remain available, if needed, in a consulting role.

Galford refused to cite a specific amount but acknowledged that the "professional fees" category included fees to be paid to Fulcher, as well as other professionals including legal counsel and veterinarians and farriers for the stables.

Northsider Conrad Meyer observed that the Board was not transparent in signing an employment agreement, during

a Closed Session in September, which was not reported until January.

"You have a valid point," Galford admitted. "From a Board perspective, we did not announce it in September because of how

we thought it would be viewed in *The Seven Lakes Times*. We have a small minority with a negative approach to our Community Manager. We came up with what we felt was a good solution and had hoped to avoid

the dirty laundry and what we saw as embarrassing press [coverage] of this community."

In other discussion, several suggested the Board's transparency issues were not limited to what was or was not being

reported but the manner of presentation was a concern as well.

"There is a difference between how information should be reported for management than what is useful to the public," said Allen.

(See "Finance," p. 21)

## Featured Homes



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# Yates Hussey celebrates 30 years in 7 Lakes

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

A fourth-generation Moore County farmer, Yates Hussey is better known around Seven Lakes for building award-winning homes. Celebrating thirty

years in business, Hussey estimates he has built approximately 175 custom homes since opening his doors in Seven Lakes.

"In the beginning, I worked out of a phone booth and conducted meetings on the tailgate of my truck," Hussey said. "Seven

Lakes West was nothing but dirt roads; and, when we built houses around Lake Auman, we had to have surveyors show us where the water would be so we knew how to position the house."

Growing with the community, Hussey soon set up shop at the intersection of Seven Lakes Drive and NC Highway 211, and runs the business with his wife Carmen.

"It's been very rewarding and I've been blessed to work for some great homeowners. I appreciate my employees and subcontractors. The whole building

process is a team effort."

Yates Hussey Construction features light commercial work and all-custom new home construction, including additions and remodeling projects of all sizes and any style of architecture. "We try to be very flexible and very versatile," said Hussey.

Looking to his motto, "Built with Southern Pride," Hussey said he looks forward to many more years of building in Moore County.

He can be reached, Monday through Friday, at 673-4170.



Carmen & Yates Hussey

## Spring Home and Garden Expo

The Moore County Home Builders Association Spring Home & Garden Expo will be held Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1 at The Fair Barn and Pinehurst Harness Track. Sponsored by MCHBA and BB& T, this year's theme is "It's easy to be green."

Members of the Moore County Master Gardener volunteers will speak on plant propagation, edible landscaping, container gardening and more on Friday afternoon, February 27 at the Fair Barn in Pinehurst.

Throughout the weekend, discover great ideas on making your new or existing home and lifestyle more green with demonstrations and over fifty vendors who are dedicated to showing you how easy it can be! Show hours are Friday, February 27 from noon to 6:00 pm; Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; and Sunday, March 1 from noon to 5:00 pm.

Tickets must be purchased at the event. For more information, call 695-1464 or visit [www.mchba.com](http://www.mchba.com)

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# In memory of . . .

**Marlene Borst Balzer**, 57, of Seven Lakes, died Thursday, February 12, at her home after a long illness. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Balzer was born in New York City, NY, the daughter of Alice Borst Dore and the late Louis J. Borst. She and her husband moved to Seven Lakes in 2005.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jeffrey L. Balzer, and a brother, Kenneth Borst.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Balzer is survived by her husband of thirty-nine years, Robert C. Balzer; a son, Robert L. Balzer, of Southern Pines; her mother, Alice Borst Dore, of Long Island, NY; two brothers, Alan F. Borst, of Cape Coral, FL, Robert L. Borst, of Long Island, NY; a sister, Alicia Borst, of Long Island, NY; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions be made to Batten Disease Support and Research Association 166 Humphries Dr. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Alice Francis Thomas**, 99, of Seven Lakes, died Monday February 16, at her residence.

Mrs. Thomas was the daughter of the late Thomas and Katherine Kennedy VanDean of Brooklyn, NY. She worked for New York Life until she retired to Lake Valhalla, Cold Spring on the Hudson, in New York.

She was a volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital, and a twenty-one year member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband Robert Thomas.

Mrs. Thomas is survived by

her sister Joan E. Kayes of Seven Lakes, and an array of nieces and nephews.

Mass was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst on Saturday, February 21. The Rev. James M. Labosky officiated. Rite of committal will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Community Home Care & Hospice at 685 South Bennett St. Southern Pines, NC 28387. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Minnie Burns Williams**, 99, of Eagle Springs, died Sunday, February 15, at her home.

Mrs. Williams was a native of Moore County and a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Willie Norman Williams; parents, Rome and Laura Burns; and a son, Curtis Williams.

Survivors include her children, Margaret and Bill Chase, Bob Holden, Jack and Amanda Williams, Sam Williams, Catherine and Eldon Williams, and Ted and Phyllis Williams; fourteen grandchildren; twenty-four great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren and two great-great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 18, at Rock Hill Friends Church. The Rev. Bob Choplin and the Rev. W. L. Wade officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Kennedy Funeral Home in Robbins assisted the family.

**Boyd Andrew Maness**, 54, of Eagle Springs, died Monday, February 16, at his residence.

Mr. Maness was born in Moore County, the son of the late Ernest Brack and Mishie Frances Hussey Maness.

He was a truck driver.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Freeman Maness, of the home; daughter Martha Brewer, of Eagle Springs; son Adam Morgan, of Eagle Springs; brothers Gene Maness, of Carthage, Dwight Maness, of Robbins; sister Betty Garner, of Robbins; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 18, at Big Oak Christian Church. The Rev. Roger Rife officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Big Oak Christian Church, c/o Linda Carter, 1447 Eagle Branch Road, Eagle Springs, NC 27242

or High Falls Wesleyan Church, 216 Phillips Road, Bennett, NC 27208.



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# League celebrates Women's History in March

by Ann Torok  
League of Women Voters

The month of March has been designated as Women's History Month, and the League of Women Voters of Moore County is planning a luncheon for Thursday, March 5 entitled 'Lunch with Legends: an afternoon with historic women.' The luncheon will be held in the ballroom of the Belle Meade Clubhouse, 100 Waters Drive, in Southern Pines. Doors to the Belle Meade ballroom will open at 11:30; the luncheon will start at noon.

Both men and women are invited to reserve tickets, by calling Ginger Finney at 673-1330 by February 19. The total cost is \$30 each. Funds raised will support voter education efforts of the League.

After a delicious lunch of chicken cordon bleu, attendees will be treated to a wonderful program. The theme of the program was developed by League Board member, and secretary, Mary Lou Bennett. She is a former elected county official, having served in Indiana as Clerk of the Courts and County Auditor. The idea came from her love of history and government and witnessing more women running for public office.

Three League of Women Voters – Moore County chapter members, dressed in costume, will read from the actual writings, letters, and speeches of American women legends.

Abigail Adams will be portrayed by Mary Price. Price moved to Seven Lakes West ten years ago, coming from Connecticut. She has held several League offices, and was the editor of their Bulletin. She takes part in two book clubs, is active in her church and enjoys golf.

Eleanor Roosevelt will be depicted by Dorothy Greenwood. Greenwood moved to Pinehurst twelve years ago from Rochester, NY. She has been very active on recycling issues throughout Moore County and and currently teaches ESL classes for the Literacy Council.

Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffragette and a founder of the League is being portrayed by League President Jo Myrle Nicholas. Nicholas has lived in Seven Lakes for six years and has been a League member

that long. She is a retired elementary school principal and past administrator educator's union president. She is currently a member of the Women of Seven Lakes.

The luncheon will also feature two special musical performances. First a quartet, the Southern Connection, will sing patriotic songs. The Southern Connection is a part of the Sand-

hills Harmony Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. The Sandhills Harmony Chorus was chartered by Sweet Adelines International in 2005; as a part of the group, they must enter contests every three years. The singers for the luncheon include Sue Sikes - baritone, RuthAnn Porter - lead, Mary Scott Arnold – tenor, and Kay Cormier - bass. The Sandhills

Harmony Chorus is also presenting a concert on March 7 at SCC based on the 1940s radio show, "In the Mood."

To conclude the event, musician Tom Bennett, also the emcee of the event will perform his creative rendition of 'American the Beautiful.' Bennett has played drums and sings professionally

since 1969. His band, Swing Street, is a swing band that has provides music and entertainment though out the region.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization with the goal of improving government and impacting public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

## A Feast for the Eyes

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, February 25, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, for a new show and sale. The theme is "A Feast for the Eyes," featuring beautiful work expertly created by area artists.

The artists invite you to enjoy refreshments as you enjoy the feasts of beauty presented in The Gallery.

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is located in the St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Building, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. The Gallery is open Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Watch for the 'Open' flag and the Art Gallery sign.

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# Board responds to Advocates of Compromise

*An Open Letter from the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association Board of Directors to Ron Erskine and "The Advocates of Compromise"*

We, the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association, have read with interest the series of demands that you have directed to us in recent days. Your membership list reveals a vast wealth of knowl-

edge and experience that comes from years of dedication to the betterment of our community. We have appreciated the positive and constructive suggestions you have made in the past. We have read them carefully and many of us have listened with great interest, and when it was feasible, we made every effort to implement these suggestions.

Recently, however, your suggestions have become more like demands carrying with them the threat that unless your demands are met you will not support any dues increase even if that increase is restricted to the repair and maintenance of the roads, dams and infrastructure of Seven Lakes North and South. These demands appear to come from some personal vendettas and long-held grudges against management and certain members of the Board of Directors rather than a genuine concern for what is best for the community.

You seem particularly interested in the contractual agreement which the Board has made with the present Community Manager, an agreement signed

by every member of the Board of Directors that not only recognizes his long years of service to the association but also anticipates that the future board of directors in a time of transition to new management can benefit from the wealth of his knowledge and experience for several months after his retirement. As many of you know from your past service on the Board, it is not the practice of the Board to publicly release the compensation paid to employees, although the employee is not bound by this policy if he or she chooses to make that information public.

Each of us as a director is dedicated to preserving and improving the good things that make our community a great

place to live. If you, individually or as a group, choose to jeopardize your property values and the property values of your neighbors by withholding your support or actively opposing a modest dues increase dedicated in its entirety to roads, dams, and infrastructure, that is, of course, your prerogative.

We, however, choose to believe that the vast majority of the landowners will make their choice with more foresight, so that when each of us seeks to sell our home, there will be eager buyers attracted to the beauty and cooperative spirit of our community.

We will continue to welcome your suggestions for the betterment of Seven Lakes.

## Galford on reporting

by Denny Galford,  
SLLA Treasurer

Before the community becomes unduly alarmed that any type of problem exists with the Association's accounting for funds, I must make the following assurances:

All funds are and have always been correctly accounted for in the Association's books and records. The monthly trial balances have always reported the correct total balances.

The current Finance Committee has requested that the Certified Public Accountants' [CPA] April 30, 2009 Audit Report include a Funds Statement or comment on why no funds statement is enclosed. [See: Jan. 6, 2009 minutes] If a Funds Statement is included in the report it will provide a format which should be used for a monthly report to the membership.

The Finance Committee has discussed financial reporting since the first meeting in April. They have revised the monthly income and expense reporting and recommended a policy for funds and investment reporting. The policy was formally adopted by the Board of Directors in November and provided that "account numbers and more detailed information shall be treated as confidential for account protection."

As a Treasurer with background experiences involving fraud and disclosure problems in both electronic and face to face investment banking, I have recommended conservative financial reporting. Volunteer Directors and Association members should wait until the CPAs recommend a reporting procedure before the detail of every bank account is placed in a monthly docu-

ment that is available not only to association members, but "for anyone that walks in the door."

Historically, the SLLA has never issued a Funds Statement. In fact, until August of 2008, only the bank investment total [CDs] was reported in the computerized account records. The detail was manually maintained in an informal subsidiary record. Although the investment activities were verified annually by the auditors and no discrepancies were ever noted, no documents are available to indicate that prior year Treasurers, Finance Committees or association members reviewed the accounts on a monthly basis. They simply relied upon the CPAs yearly confirmations.

In August of this year, the detail [including bank account number] of every investment was entered in the computerized accounting system. Every month, the Community Manager provides the Finance Committee with a report detailing the beginning balance, ending balance, and each monthly transaction. The ending balance of each account is reported in total on the monthly trial balance. That trial balance has been made available every month to the two Association members that have requested it. It would be made available to any additional Association member that requests the data.

As stated above, until the CPAs recommend a Funds Statement format, the volunteer Finance Committee will follow sound internal control procedures and not report individual investment or bank account identity data that is not included in the yearly audited financial report.

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# Plenty to do in the garden in February

Just a few comments about the weather because, as we know, weather and temperature are necessary prerequisites for plant growth and development. The days are becoming longer. We are experiencing warmer days and nights followed by fronts of cooler temperatures. This changing weather is normal for this time of year, although occasionally we experience hard freezes here in the Sandhills. Hopefully, Spring is just around the corner.

## Here are a few gardening suggestions for the month:

February is the time for cutting those unwanted hardwoods and scrub oak trees. Now, while they are dormant and before new growth begins.

Inspect your shrubs and other plants for insects and if present, treat with dormant oil and insecticidal soap in combination with another insecticide if needed.

When temperatures are above forty degrees, I have observed oyster seaks, white flies, and a few other insects on shrubs. One method of control is two teaspoons malathion, one tablespoon each of dormant oil and insecticidal soap per gallon of water. Spray thoroughly and completely covering the foliage both on top and underside. It may take two applications to do the job, the first and another two weeks later.

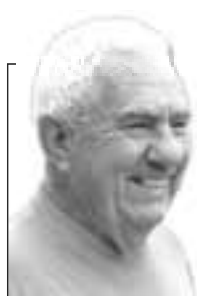
Continue to clean up around your shrubs and trees.

Clean off the lawn by grinding, chopping, shredding, vacuuming, mulching, or raking leaves.

Control those troublesome broadleaf lawn weeds, such as dandelions, oxalic, wild onions and garlic, chickweed, etc, by pulling and digging them out, or by use of a broadleaf herbicide. There are several recommended ones on the market. Follow the use directions closely.

Some have indicated the green tips of their daffodils and other bulbs are emerging from the soil, believe it's a little early, and think future cold freezes will kill or damage their bulbs. Those bulb varieties are probably on schedule. If a hard freeze burns or kills the emerging top growth, new sprouts will form, growth will reappear and flowering will ensue.

Some have observed mole and vole tracks in their garden and lawn and asked for control measures. The moles are normally after insects [grubs] and voles travel in their runs. If the



## Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

tall fescue lawn. In the absence of a soil test analysis, as a general recommendation use five pounds per 1,000 square feet of a premium slow release 16-4-8 lawn special, or a slow release 10-10-10.

For a new lawn or renovation of an older one, use a hybrid fescue and follow directions for seed amount recommended.

It's time to prune grape vines both bunch and muscadine types, crape myrtles, and butterfly shrubs, fruit, nut, and shade trees if desired.

There is still time to plant, transplant, and move dormant trees and shrubs. In fact, February is a good time for planting almost everything because most plants are dormant and soil moisture conditions are favorable for early growth. The list includes small evergreens shrubs,

pecan and fruit trees, berries, grapes, perennials, and other nursery shrubs and plants.

Water all replants well during the planting and thoroughly the week after. Plant them at the correct depth in the soil, which is the same depth level the plant grew in the soil or in the container. More shrubs and trees die from incorrect deep planting than almost any other reason.

Clean out old flower beds and decide where to plant new ones this year. Outline the areas and plant them in a protected mole and vole barrier, if possible.

Cut back your liriope [monkey grass] before it starts grow-

ing. Ornamental and pampas grasses appear ragged and weather beaten this time of year. Go ahead and cut them back.

## Suggested vegetable plantings for February:

asparagus crowns, cabbage and onion seeds and plants, carrots, lettuce, garden and edible podded peas, radish, rutabaga, spinach, turnip and mustard seeds, and Irish potato seed pieces.

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# Civic Group hosts SLLA Candidates' Night

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Major decisions about future direction and management of the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association hangs in the balance of this year's election as longtime Community Manager Dalton Fulcher prepares to retire and the incoming Board of Directors is tasked with transitioning to a replacement. Four of seven seats are up for grabs, representing the majority of the Board, with six candidates vying for the positions. A seventh candidate, Don Fentzlaff removed his name from the ballot for personal medical reasons.

On Wednesday, February 11, The Seven Lakes Civic Group sponsored a Candidate's Night forum at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. The event was moderated by Greg Hankins, Editor and Publisher of *The Times*.

Using a new format that combined introductory statements with prepared questions, candidates Randy Zielsdorf, Mike Pennington, Kent Droppers, Steve Hudson, Denny Galford, and Bruce Keyser Jr., had six minutes each to answer the three-part question, and then were provided a brief period to respond to audience questions.

The Civic Group's three-part question was:

*What do you believe to be the high priority issues important to the welfare of the community that the Board must address? What expertise do you, if elected, bring to the Board that would contribute to aggressively addressing the issues you cited, and what is your professional background [schooling, skills acquired, work experiences] and how does it relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited?*

**Kent Droppers**, a resident of Seven Lakes North, identified several high priority issues with number one being a continuation of the example set by the sitting Board of "collegial conflict."

"The day we stop being collegial, having respect for one another, and working through issues; we will fail to implement them," he said.

Droppers also said the Board must move towards more of an oversight capacity rather than

day-to-day operational management of the Association, focusing on strategic and long-term planning. He also prioritized operational excellence and better communication, attention to community standards, and fiscal responsibility.

"I suspect we will need a dues

increase but we also need to be good stewards of the money we are given," he said.

Married for thirty years and the father of three grown sons, Droppers has thirteen years experience in sales and marketing, and fourteen years of executive experience. He has

managed budgets in excess of \$20 million and sales of \$200 million.

"Change is inevitable," said Droppers. "We will have change. Progress, however, is not inevitable. There is a lot to do and I'd like to help do it."

[Editor's note: Unlike the other

candidates, Bruce Keyser Jr. did not receive a letter outlining the format or prepared questions in advance.]

Northsider **Bruce Keyser, Jr.**, is a self-employed business owner and his parents are third generation. (See "SLLA," p. 13)

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# SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 12)

ty year residents of Seven Lakes.

"I'm not sure what the priorities are because I've read so many different things in *The Times*," said Keyser, explaining that his personal priority is to get involved.

"I want to find out about the things that have people up in arms," he said.

Keyser said he is interested in the budget and, with thirteen years in management and twelve years as a small business owner, feels he can be of service on the Board.

**Mike Pennington**, a resident of Seven Lakes North for four years, said he is running for the Board because he would like to see a change in activities for the younger generation of residents.

As a parent, he said he is disappointed in the limited number of supervised, organized activities for teenagers. And as an active boater, Pennington said another high priority is protecting the dams and lakes.

A manager in the poultry business, Pennington said he has experience with million dollar budgets and maintaining a large fleet of trucks. "I don't believe in 'It's 5:00 pm, let's go home.' I believe in sticking it out until the job is completed safely... with good results that will please the majority of people," Pennington said.

Looking forward, Pennington said he isn't interested in assigning blame for past decisions, "We need to focus on the future for our retirees and families. Working together we have great community – it just needs a small push in the right direc-

tion."

Former Treasurer **Steve Hudson**, also a resident of Seven Lakes North, has lived in the community for twenty-two years.

"I am controversial. I speak my mind and you know where I stand on issues," said Hudson.

He identified openness and Board transparency as his top priority. He cited, as an example, the Board's decision to offer an employment agreement to Community Manager Dalton Fulcher without notifying the membership for four months.

Hudson also said the current Board schedule with Work Sessions held early in the day, limited opportunities for younger and/or working residents to participate. Other priorities for Hudson included prioritizing and planning for replacement of infrastructure including buildings and roads, addressing the budget and freezing salaries.

"I will put the landowners first. My experience and expertise comes from owning small businesses in the past," said Hudson. "I have the knowledge and experience to be a productive Board member."

Current President **Randy Zielsdorf** identified his top priority as seating a new Community Manager.

"One things that hurts Seven Lakes, as a community, is the lack of continuity from one Board to the next. The incoming Board must determine the new manager....what type of management do we want? What should be the role of the Board?" he asked, noting his belief that the Board should be limited to over-

sight.

He also prioritized better communication with younger and working members of the Association, and looking at ways to unify Seven Lakes as a whole when addressing regional and county issues, such as water concerns.

Zielsdorf said he first visited Seven Lakes thirty years ago, and bought his home in Seven Lakes North nine years ago. He has a degree in mathematics and a Master's in biomedical engineering and mathematics.

"Problem solving is my game – and when you are dealing with people there aren't any perfect solutions just the best possible compromise," said Zielsdorf.

Current Treasurer **Denny Galford** opened his comments by thanking the Seven Lakes Fire Department for achieving an improved fire district rating this past year which lowered homeowner's insurance rates, substantially in some cases. He encouraged residents to contact their home insurance providers as the deduction is not automatic.

Retired from the IRS, Galford has a business degree and is a CPA. He said the Financial Committee has been very productive, preparing the budget, completing a community comparison report, and writing a financial procedures guide which provides a format for future years "that will assure consistency and protection of assets."

Galford said copies of all committee meeting minutes are avail-

able on the SLLA website and offices, and that he always welcomes any questions after each meeting. His top priorities for next year will be to ensure community appearances are a source of pride, and to evaluate and establish new community management.

"I offer common sense and the ability to cooperate with others. I don't hesitate to offer my thoughts and suggestions but remain respectful of others," said Galford. "We must place community objectives ahead of personal agendas."

**Audience Question #1:** *What do you see as the manager's role versus the board's role in leading the community? Does your view require a change in the current job description for the Community Manager?*

"Yes," said **Steve Hudson**. "In the past, too many board members have taken over and done the manager's job."

He said the position should be clearly defined and the Board's role should be oversight.

**Mike Pennington** said the manager's job should be to run the company – the day to day operations. He also feels that outside contracted management would not maintain the best interests for Seven Lakes.

"The Board should oversee and veto any bad judgment. This is our community. We need it run how we want it run," said Pennington.

**Bruce Keyser, Jr.** agreed with Pennington's and Hudson's comments, stating that management should include day to day operations with a Board providing oversight.

"The Manager serves at the pleasure of the Board but he has to be allowed to do what he is supposed to do," said Keyser.

**Kent Droppers** said the Board should set strategy and hold the

(See "SLLA," p. 14)

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# SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 13)

Manager accountable to those goals.

Looking to the community's covenants, **Denny Galford** said the day when the developer controlled everything and gave the Board power to control operations has passed.

"The Board should not be micromanaging," said Galford. "We need to enable the company or manager to do day to day operations without the Board being overly involved."

**Randy Zielsdorf** said he agreed with Dropper and Galford, "Part of the reason we're where we are, is because we are victims of our past...We have an excellent opportunity to put a new model in place and we need to have a serious review of the job description for a new manager."

**Audience Question #2:** *What is an appropriate level of reserves, now and after the roads are repaved?*

**Zielsdorf** stated reserves should be held at \$200,000 to \$400,000.

"If the dues increase is approved, that will restrict any increase this year or next to be used for roads and dams," he said.

**Galford** said the Association needed to keep a day to day minimum of \$300,000 in a protected account – an amount equal to three months of oper-

ational expenses.

**Keyser** agreed that in a community the size of Seven Lakes, \$500,000 or three to six months worth of expenses was an appropriate reserves level.

"There shouldn't be a [capped] level. The reserve should constantly build and we should have a savings account built into the budget," he said.

**Pennington** said in business it was smart advice to pay yourself first, "Put it in savings and tuck it away for a cold day when you need it."

He recommended an appropriate reserves level was twenty-five to fifty percent of annual revenues – approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000.

**Hudson** set reserves levels should stand at the \$300,000 mark.

"Reserves should be kept no matter. Road paving is going to be a huge, huge project," said Hudson, noting that once repaving is complete, the Association should be able to obtain \$600,000 to \$700,000 in reserves.

**Droppers** said a ninety-day reserve was necessary and that reserves should be set by dividing the capital budget in half by line item and by expected replacement date, if the information was available.

**Audience Question #3:** *If the dues increase were to pass, would you be in favor of designating those funds solely for*

*lakes & dams remediation and roads repair?*

**Pennington** said revenue from a dues increase should be secured in an account "that makes money." He continued, "Roads are the main problem but there are others."

**Keyser** agreed that a dues increase should be restricted and placed in separate account.

**Galford** cited the 5/10 year plan presented by the Finance Committee.

"What is proposed is one dollar a week this year and another dollar a week the following year and again in 2014...\$62,000 over ten years gives you \$620,000 which is not enough. We need two dues increases to pay for the roads," said Galford.

**Zielsdorf** expressed concern that if the funds were not placed in a segregated reserve account, they would not make it to the roads.

"I am a strong believer. If we do it [dues increase], it must be for the roads and dams."

**Droppers** said the only chance of passing a dues increase would be to commit those funds to

roads and dams.

"However, we should look at how to supplement with operational improvements and other savings," he said.

**Hudson** said there was no way to guarantee dues increase funds would be used strictly for roads and dams, by a future Board.

"You can't control it," he argued.

**Audience Question #4:** *The current Board began releasing monthly profit and loss [P&L] statements and there have been calls for the release of a report to look at fund status as well. Would you be in favor of increasing landowners' access to records including fund status reporting and detailed accounting files?*

**Keyser** said all members should have access to certain financial records but that did not include salary information for employees.

**Zielsdorf** agreed noting that much information was already available to landowners. "We are a private entity. Making payroll public is not a good idea."

**Hudson** expressed concern

that existing policies were restrictive and inconvenient.

"All of us are equal. We all own the Association and it's our money," said Hudson. "We should be able to look and see where it is going."


**Pennington** said that reproducing financial documents for members cost the Association time and money.

"If people want to see these papers fine, but at the same time don't come back and ask why paperwork and administrative costs so much money. It's okay to ask but don't waste people's time & money," said Pennington.

**Droppers** said he agree it was appropriate to provide documents to the level reasonable for publication.

"I am not in favor of publishing private information or alary. We need to respect the privacy of our employees." Droppers continued, "Any information publishes needs to be cleansed at some level to protect their public data and ours."

**Galford** clarified the existing (See "SLLA," p. 16)




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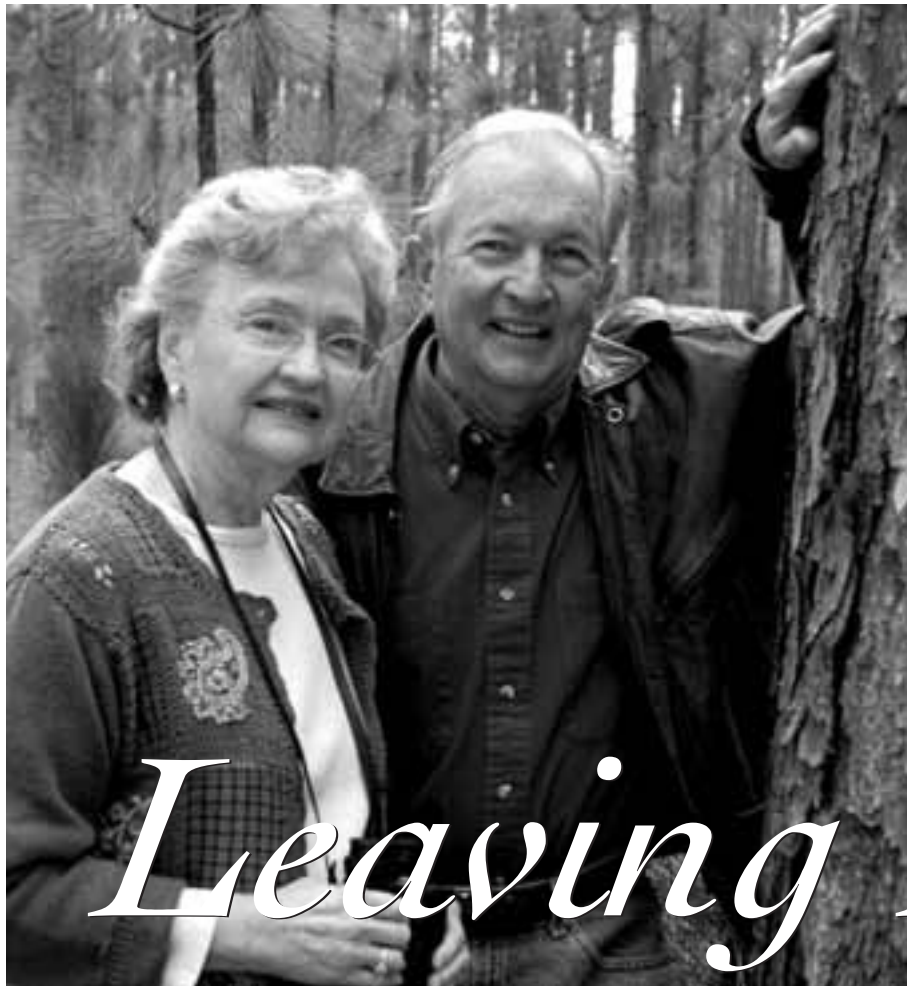
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9 Broccoli Spinach ♥  Sausage & Cheese Manicotti Dinner	10 Beef Barley Soup ♥  Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	11 Vegetable Soup ♥  Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	12 Potato Leek Soup  Herb-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	13 Cream of Zucchini Soup  Swiss Steak Dinner
16 Curried Carrot Soup ♥  Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	17 Tomato Basil Soup ♥  Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	18 Chicken Dumpling Soup  Chicken Piccata Dinner ♥	19 Mushroom Bisque Soup  Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	20 New England Clam Chowder  Walnut Crusted Pork Dinner
23 Potato Bacon Soup  Shrimp Creole Dinner ♥	24 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥  Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	25 Creamy Chicken Vegetable Soup  Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥	26 German Cabbage Soup  Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	27 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo  Chicken Parikash Dinner
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Pioneer. Millwright. Farmer. Teacher. Merchant. Legislator. Physician. Whatever the trade, whatever the profession, generation after generation of the Monroe and Bruton families pass down the same legacy: be grateful for your heritage and feel responsible for others.

Both John Monroe, M.D., and Ebbie Bruton Monroe grew up in families where public service, education and medicine became the means of “paying their civic rent.” Ebbie and John are particularly proud of their sons Edward C. Monroe, DDS in Southern Pines, and Clement D. Monroe, DDS in Pinehurst, for continuing the family legacy by volunteering their time, providing dental care for those in need.

Ebbie’s grandfather served in the N.C. House and Senate, her uncle was the state’s attorney general, her father was the long-time sheriff of Montgomery County, and her great-aunt was one of the first teachers in Biscoe’s one-room schoolhouse. John’s mother, grandmother and two aunts were schoolteachers, too, and his grandfather was an original trustee of the Biscoe Graded School District, the first state-supported school district.

And, of course, there was John’s “Uncle Clem,” the legendary Clement R. Monroe, M.D., the first chief surgeon/administrator of Moore County Hospital, who dedicated his life to medicine and to the people of Moore County. He used to tell John and Ebbie how he treasured the tremendous trust and support he received from the hospital’s board and from the community.

“They’ve done so much,” he would say. “I can’t let them down.” John and Ebbie feel the same about their ancestors.

# Leaving A Legacy

*Dr. John and Ebbie Monroe live a legacy of caring they inherited from generations of Monroes and Brutons and share it with The Foundation of FirstHealth. From chairing the 1990s “In Love and Service” campaign to supporting the current “Stepping Stones” campaign, the Monroes have steadfastly supported their hospital and community.*

For almost 50 years, the two have carried on a family legacy to make life better for others. As a teacher and member of local, county and state educational organizations, Ebbie has focused her boundless energy on improving public education, which she considers the “backbone of any community.” During his 32-year career as the area’s first otolaryngologist (head and neck surgeon) with Pinehurst Surgical Clinic and FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Dr. Monroe was a leader in providing quality health care to the community.

Since his retirement in 2001, he has continued volunteering his time to a variety of community organizations and to the Foundation of FirstHealth as a member of its Legacy Circle.

Growing up in Moore County near West End, John Monroe always wanted to be a physician. “I idolized my Uncle Clem,” he says. “He was my mentor and my inspiration for going into medicine.”

As a teenager in the early 1950s, John did his first suturing under his uncle’s tutelage in the operating room at Moore County Hospital, where, he says, “birds sat on the windowsill and a flyswatter was a sometimes necessary piece of equipment.”

Both John and Ebbie were raised on family farms – he in Moore and she in Montgomery counties – and attended small rural schools that left them having to play catch-up when they reached college – John at UNC-Chapel Hill and Ebbie at UNC-Greensboro. John’s dream of being a physician was threatened when his adviser suggested he “pick something else to do” after his first year. He changed his adviser, persisted and earned a degree in chemistry before entering the UNC School of Medicine in 1958.

When John proposed marriage to Ebbie, she was teaching vocational home economics at Terry Sanford High School in Fayetteville. After they were married in 1961, she taught math and science at Chapel Hill Junior High School. The next year, they and their first son, John Jr., moved to Pennsylvania, where Dr. Monroe completed an internship at Geisinger Medical Center before beginning his two-year military obligation as a U.S. Air Force flight surgeon.

Once John completed flight surgeon training, the family moved to Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany, where a second son, Clement, was born. In March 1964, Dr. Monroe was hailed as a hero in *The New York Times* after he volunteered to go to East Germany to recover a young flyer injured when shot down by the Russians. “It was a scary experience,” Dr. Monroe recalls.

His orders were to demand the prisoner’s return, but the more difficult task proved to be convincing the patient he wasn’t a Russian spy. After the airman’s successful release, he was asked why he trusted John. The airman replied, “It was his Southern drawl. I didn’t think he could fake that.”

John, Ebbie and the children returned to North Carolina in 1965, where he completed a residency year in general surgery at N.C. Memorial Hospital. They then moved to Virginia for his three-year residency in otolaryngology at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Their third son, Fred Bruton, was born during that time.

In 1969, John moved his young family to Moore County. He joined Pinehurst Surgical Clinic, the practice co-founded in the late 1940s by Uncle Clem. He was not only the first specialist of his kind at Moore County Hospital but also the only one in five counties.

“I worked night and day for the first months, and never left town for the first two years,” he recalls. By 1975, two other specialists had joined the ENT team and a fourth son, Edward, had joined the Monroe family.

Although busy with his practice, John joined Ebbie in devoting themselves to their children and to improving the public schools that she called “the laboratories for the growth, development and preservation of our democratic society.”

He developed a hearing screening program for elementary school children and with Ebbie, who had trained as an audiology technician, implemented it with the help of the Medical Wives Auxiliary. He volunteered as team physician for a variety of school sports, and recruited other doctors to offer free annual physicals for Moore County students participating in athletics.

Ebbie developed a volunteer program for the schools, wrote and coordinated a pre-event nutrition program for high school wrestlers, taught Red Cross classes, and became the first woman to chair the Moore County Recreation Commission.

For almost three decades, she served on countless committees as a member of the Moore County School Advisory Council, as a trustee of Sandhills Community College and as a member of the North Carolina State Board of Education. In 2007, when she was recognized as one of the state’s educational leaders, former Gov. Jim Hunt said, “There’s never been a parent in Moore County more involved in the schools than Ebbie Monroe.”

Ebbie and John are proud that the public education their sons received fully prepared them for higher education.

John was equally devoted to improving health care for people and a better quality of life for those in the community. He served on numerous boards and committees for both the hospital and Pinehurst Surgical, and served as president of the hospital’s Medical Staff and of Pinehurst Surgical Clinic. He and Hospital Administrator Crenshaw Thompson spearheaded the establishment of a hospital radiation therapy unit.

It was no surprise when, in the late 1990s, he agreed to chair the Foundation’s “In Love and Service” campaign to raise \$10 million to build a cancer center, patient tower and new emergency facilities – the most ambitious expansion in the hospital’s history.

A few months before John retired, he and Ebbie were honored at the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Auxiliary Ball for their lifelong dedication to the hospital and the people of Moore County. “The Monroe family has steadfastly supported the hospital and the well-being of several generations,” said Charles T. Frock, CEO of FirstHealth of the Carolinas.

Today, John and Ebbie continue living the legacy of caring they inherited from generations of Monroes and Brutons, a legacy they will pass on to their sons and their children.

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**For more information on Leaving a Legacy, contact the Foundation of FirstHealth at (910) 695-7500**

# SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 14)

policy of providing a two-page report made available at monthly meetings and published on the SLLW website, and that a fund balance and invoices and for the previous month are available for review following the monthly Open Meeting.

**Audience Question #5:** *The Seven Lakes West Landowner's Association adopted a Bylaw that sets up a formal public hearing process for all matters of significant interest to the community and/or large expenditures. Should the SLLA adopt a similar Bylaw?*

**Galford** said getting seven Board members to agree on an issue was difficult and that trying to get 1,400 to agree would not be effective.

**Hudson** said adopting a formal process for a public hearing was an excellent idea. He cited the example of a previous Board successfully soliciting input prior to costly remediation work on Echo Dam.

"People came and listened. We talked and then went back and made decisions," said Hudson. "A public hearing should be held on any matter of great importance."

**Zielsdorf** said he was open to a public hearing on an individual basis rather than a blanket policy.

"What is 'every important issue?' he queried.

**Keyser** said he was not against conducting public hearings but expressed concern that if it was used for minor issues, "What do we need a Board for? I see pros and cons."

**Pennington** stated that some issues could be resolved in a public hearing but questioned the difference to the public comment portion of each Open Meeting.

**Droppers** said he was not for changing the Bylaws.

"It would be difficult to define what are important issues. We have the mechanism for a public hearing when we choose too," said Droppers. "This just opens a whole lot of discussion as to what is a major issue. The Board should determine and institute it when needed."

**Audience Question #6:** *To what extent can you control and/or manage your work schedule to allow ample time for Board meetings and to work on immediate opportunities or problems?*

**Droppers** said, as the owner of his business, he has 100% control over his time. However, he said the Board needs to set strategy and goals and entrust management to solve problems.

**Pennington** said he was not sure how much time service on the Board would need but that he was in control of his work hours and could provide needed time for any issue that he felt was necessary and appropriate.

**Zielsdorf** stated that while only his mornings were free during the day, that the internet allowed him to stay connected to Seven Lakes concerns. He also agreed with Droppers that the Board should provide oversight not a day to day problem solving function.

**Hudson** said his work schedule was flexible but that he felt the Board should adjust the Work Session schedule to hours that would accommodate working members to participate.

**Galford** said service on the Board did not mean there was no flexibility. "We can work around anyone's schedule. I don't think being a fulltime employee should be a hindrance or drawback for anyone to serve. The Board should make adjustments so all can attend."

Like Droppers, **Keyser** said as a business owner he could arrange his own schedule. "However, I don't want this to turn into a five-day a week situation. The Board needs to be for oversight only."

**Audience Question #7:** *Vandalism continues to be a problem in Seven Lakes. How do you propose addressing this expensive and annoying problem?*

**Hudson** said vandalism was

a chronic problem but felt the increasing roving patrol and that the new lights at community shelters were a good step. He suggested leaving them on until 3:00 am or 4:00 am.

**Zielsdorf** agreed that illumination of common areas was a relatively inexpensive deterrent.

"Without certified law enforcement, it's tough to control," he said, also agreeing with Hudson's suggestion to increase roving patrol.

**Pennington** said lighting was a start, but argued it would only move the problem to another area.

"I would like security to do more than they can do. I'm not opposed to security putting them in the car and letting mom & dad take care and make them responsible," he said.

**Droppers** said to the level security can catch them and punish on an increasing basis,

was appropriate.

"If we know we have problems between 8:00 pm and 2:00 am, then let's put security in the times and places where the problems are," Droppers said.


**Keyser** said there were many different ways to handle vandalism but expressed concern that control costs should not override the actual cost of the damage.


"When kids get bored they find something to do and it's often vandalism. We need more lighting but it basically falls back to the parents."

**Galford** joked that he wasn't a perfect child, but he did agree that lighting, increasing roving patrol and shifting their hours, and creating activities or areas for youth were all good solutions.

"These are young, maturing children. They're going to make some errors," said Galford.

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# Westside Meeting

(Continued from page 3)

Oravetz replied, "You're saying we are taking the income from that and it goes back into the lake and the launching ramp. Why should the marina subsidize something that is a larger part of the community?"

"If you look carefully [at the fee schedule], you will see that everything has gone up," President Fewkes told Oravetz.

"The whole fee schedule got changed by about 50%," Director MacKay said. "Fees were expanded on the recommendation of the Finance Committee."

"For each of us, there are amenities we use and amenities we don't," Secretary Ed Tuton added. "Would it be fiscally or financially possible to track every

individual or track what they use and what they don't? That makes no sense. It's our choice which amenities we use."

Fewkes said the questions being raised should ideally be answered by Treasurer Kathy Kirst, who was away on family business and did not attend the Work Session.

## Insurance fee quadrupled

Silberhorn said that the settlement of the Terrill case allows the Board to now publicly discuss that the case placed the Association's Directors and Officers [D&O] insurance policy in jeopardy. Because of its concerns about some aspects of the way the 2005-2006 Board of Directors had handled the matter, the

Association's insurance carrier put it on notice that it would be terminating the policy.

"Though we do not agree with their assessment," Silberhorn said, "we had a duty to listen to what they had to say. What we have been doing in the meantime is making sure that any actions we take with regard to liability have been very cautious." He noted that the Community Emergency Response Team was brought under the aegis of the Board in order to satisfy liability concerns, and also that instructors offering athletic classes were asked to provide their own coverage indemnifying the Association for the same reason.

"We have been a little manic on that issue," Silberhorn admitted.

He noted that the Board had filed applications for D&O insurance with four or five companies, only two responded and one of those dropped out. The Board now has a policy with AIG, at four

times the cost of the previous policy.

"We will live this down over the years by being very conservative," Silberhorn said. "In the short run it is costing us extra money."

D&O insurance is required by the Association's bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

President Fewkes explained that the Board has worked to be as open as possible with the membership, but has had to be cautious in that regard on some matters because of the problem with its D&O insurance.

"Our hands have been tied," she said. "We have been on pins and needles. We have Ed Silberhorn to thank for bringing the Terrill case to closure for us. We have been working on putting closure on a variety of things."

Silberhorn thanked Terry Schafer and his insurance committee for the effort they put in to work through the various insurance issues.

## Dam Plan Approved

In the absence of Lake and Dam Director Mick Herdrich, President Fewkes reported that the Association had received approval from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the remediation of the Lake Auman dam. Herdrich will be convening a meeting of the Dam Committee with Dam Engineer Dan Marks in order to hammer out the details of bid packets for the work.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn cautioned that, despite repeated requests of Dr. Marks. The Board has yet to receive for its review copies of the contracts that will be included in those packets. He noted that the Board must approve the contracts, because the Association — not the engineer — will be letting the contracts.

## Annexations

(See "Westside," p. 20)

# Crossing

(Continued from page 3)

project and will be presented to and approved by the Board of Transportation as a single project. Part of the reason for this is that the crossing upgrades are considered mitigation for the closures, and must be linked in a single project in order to take

advantage of the federal funding source that will be used to pay for the effort.

If approved, the closures and upgrades will move along on parallel tracks, Horne said. The upgrades will not have to be delayed until the closures are completed or vice versa.



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- **Project Linus celebrates "Make a Blanket Day"** – 10 am – 5 pm, Bookshop by the Lakes & The Coffee Scene, Seven Lakes Business Village. Make a blanket, complete the one you are working on, drop in to purchase homemade baked goods or just to learn more about Project Linus. The coffee will be hot, the books entertaining, and there will be blankets to tie and label. Be sure to register for a door prize. Tickets to win a watercolor painting by Andrea Schmidt will be available. Information, Pat Weber 673-1457.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

- **5th Annual Sandhills Camellia Festival** – 12 pm – 4:30 pm, Homewood Suites Hotel in Olmsted Village, Pinehurst. Sponsored by the Sandhills Camellia Society, the event is free and includes education opportunities through seminars and also benefit raffle items.
- **Ronald McDonald Meet & Greet** – McDonald's Restaurant, Hwy 211, Seven Lakes.
- **Sweetheart Swing Dinner Dance** – 5:30 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. Everyone's invited to the festivities. Dinner and dessert. Music by Glen Davis. Hosts Tony & Lois Rocco. Member's \$23 inclusive, non-members \$28.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- **Family Movie Night at Bensalem** – 6 pm, Bensalem Presbyterian Church, Eagle Springs.

Join the church for pizza and popcorn while viewing the movie "Ice Age." Kids and adults will enjoy this clever animated film. Handouts will assist teens and adults in discovering spiritual themes embedded in the film. The community is invited to attend. Located on Bensalem Church Road, off Rt. 705, Eagle Springs. For more information con-

welcome. Information, 692-2167 or visit online at [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- **Ash Wednesday**

- **A Feast for the Eyes: The Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 pm to 4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Build-

ing, Seven Lakes Drive. The Gallery presents an Open House reception of new and beautiful works expertly created by area artists. Come enjoy an afternoon of beauty, inspiration, and conversation with the artists. Refreshments served. All welcome.

- **Tree & Shrub Pruning Workshop** – 2 pm, Agricultural Building, Carthage. Now is the best time to get your trees and shrubs ready for spring.

## What's When Calendar



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R e v .

Wes Brandon 691-2942.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- **Sandhills Natural History Society Meeting** – 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd, Southern Pines. 'Ranger in the Land Down Under,' join Weymouth Woods Ranger Kim Hyre for a talk about her Australian travels. Visitors are

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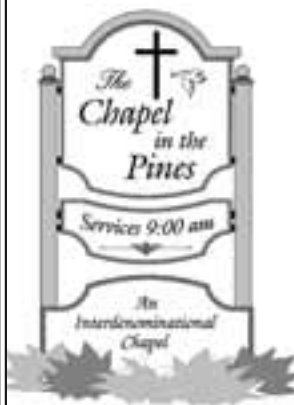
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March 1  
Greg Pilson, Soloist

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Extension Agent Taylor Williams will conduct a workshop and demonstrate how to correctly prune and shape broadleaf evergreens; prune flowering trees, shrubs such as crape myrtles and crabapples; and prune fruit trees for maximum yield and life. Bring shears and a notebook. Handouts available. Info: 947-3188.

- **Ash Wednesday Service** – 7 pm, Eagle Springs Untied Methodist Church, 640 Eagle Branch Road. All are cordially invited to share in the sacred disposition of ashes during the Ash Wednesday service. The Chancel Choir from Marcus United Methodist Church will provide special music. Marcus and Pleasant Hill UMC congregations will be participating.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **Spelling Bee for Literacy** – 7 pm, Owens Auditorium,

Sandhills Community College. A light-hearted competition to benefit Moore County Literacy Council, three-member teams compete for the coveted Best Spellers trophy, Most Team Spirit award and Best Costumes. Admission is free but donations are definitely welcome! Information, 692-5954.

- **The Adult Academy: Lenten Study** – 7 pm, The Chapel in the Pines. Sponsored by The Chapel and West End Presbyterian Church, Carolyn and David Helms will facilitate the six-week series using Richard Foster's book, The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth. All are welcome. Cost \$20.45 includes study book. Registration, 673-4341.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- **Spring Home & Garden Expo** – noon – 6 pm, The Fair Barn & Pinehurst Harness Track. Sponsored by MCHBA and BB& T, this year's theme "It's easy to be green," will be demonstrated by over fifty ven-



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dors. On Friday, Master Gardeners will speak on propagation, edible landscaping, container gardening, and more. Show continues Sat, Feb 28, 9 am - 5 pm; and Sun, Mar 1, noon - 5 pm. Tickets must be purchased at the door. Information, 695-1464 or visit [www.mchba.com](http://www.mchba.com)

- **Wii Golf Tournament** – 6pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. Tee off in the Seven Lakes Wii World Tour. Using the Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09 Wii games, each Friday night participants will play courses from around the world, completing an eighteen-hole round and eventual SLCC Wii Champion. Chef Jackie will offer an optional one entrée buffet to enjoy before or after your tee time. To reserve your spot in the field, call SLCC at 673-1088 and tell us you want to “Wii it up!” You do not have to be a member of the Club to participate, all are invited to join or just watch.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Hindering Hoodlums & Helping Heroes... Understanding Insects in your Garden** – 10:30 am – noon, Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. A Spring workshop sponsored by the Greenway Wildlife Habitat Committee of the Pinehurst Conservation Commission, join Taylor Williams, Agricultural Agent for the NC Cooperative Extension Service of Moore County, for a discussion on desirable and undesirable insects. Open to the public at no charge. Information, 295-1900 or 673-4239.

## MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- **Project Linus Craft & Blanket Workshop** – 10 am – 3 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Bring sharp scissors, and a snack or lunch if you plan to stay all day. Information, Pat Weber 673-1457.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- **League of Women Voters Luncheon & Meeting** – 11:30 am, Ballroom at Belle Meade Clubhouse, 100 Waters Drive, Southern Pines. ‘Lunch with Legends: an afternoon with historic women,’ features two special musical performances and League members Mary Price, Dottie Greenwood, and Jo Nicholas portraying Abigail Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Carrie Chapman Catt. Men and women are invited. Tickets \$30 includes luncheon of chicken cordon bleu. Reservations, Ginger Finney 673-1330 by February 19.
- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 1 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. A roundtable discussion about the Club, its structure, responsibilities, and some exciting changes for next year. All members are encouraged to attend. Your input is needed to make the Women of Seven Lakes stronger and better able to meet the needs of the community. Meeting is casual and refreshments will follow. Information, Pat Weber 673-1457.

- **Organic Vegetable Gardening Workshop** – 6 pm – 8 pm, Agricultural Center, Carthage. Presented by Agriculture Extension agents Taylor Williams and Paige Burns, seminar will cover the benefits of gardening organically and what the home vegetable gardener needs to know to get started. Information, 947-3188.
- **Moore County Planning Board Meeting** – 6 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- **Kiwanis 26th Annual Pancake Breakfast** - 7 am to 11 am. Held at WEE cafeteria. Tickets \$6. Children under 5 eat free. Tickets available from all Kiwanis members. Don't miss wonderful breakfast and fundraiser.
- **Organic Vegetable Gardening Workshop** – 10 am – noon, Armory Park, Southern Pines. A hand-on continuation of seminar, Taylor Williams and Paige Burns will discuss the botany of vegetables, container and raised bed gardening, and more. Information, 947-3188.
- **Painted Bird House Craft Class** – 3 pm – 4:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Kids will have fun painting a house for our fine feathered friends just in time for Spring.

- \$10 fee covers all supplies. Preregister at least three days in advance, class size is limited. Register at SLWLA office.
- **Puttin' on the Ritz** – 6 pm, Country Club of North Carolina. The Sandhills Habitat annual fundraiser Spring Gala offers an escape to the decade of flappers, the Charleston, prohibition, and speakeasies. Cocktails, dinner, and silent auction. Visit website or call 295-1934 [www.sandhillshabitatgala.weebly.com](http://www.sandhillshabitatgala.weebly.com)
- **Sandhills Harmony Chorus Musical Comedy** – 7 pm, Owens Auditorium, SCC. “In the Mood” is set in 1945 at a radio station whose staff of men has been depleted by the draft. Like Rosie the Riveter, women come in to fill the vacancies, and an evening of comedy and memorable music begins. Great barbershop music and comedy abound in this delightful glimpse into the Swing era. Tickets \$15 at the door or in advance. Information, Sue Myers 255-0097.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra Fundraiser Dinner** – 1 pm, Outback Steakhouse, Southern Pines. Sponsored by Outback Steakhouse, tickets are \$20/person for full dinner. Music performed by

Orchestra members. [www.mporchestra.com](http://www.mporchestra.com)

- **Eddie Barrett & Goodman Legacy Orchestra** – 4 pm – 6:30 pm, Mr. P's, 155 Hall Ave, Southern Pines. 603-7660.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- **Seven Lakes West Landowner's Association Work Session** – 8 am, West Side Park Community Center.
- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 3 pm, Game Room, Seven Lakes North. Guest speaker Chris Jones from the Sandhills Community College will discuss computer networking.
- **Foxfire Village Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

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# Westside meeting

(Continued from page 17)

After meeting in a closed executive session the Board returned to open session to make public information on three neighborhoods that are to be annexed into the Association. Lot owners in each of the neighborhoods already have the right to access their property through the gates via Association-owned roads, but, prior to annexation, did not have the right to use Association amenities. After annexation, those lot owners will pay standard Association dues.

Parkwood, which lies uphill from the mail house, opposite the Pinnacle was annexed subject to streets and fencing meeting Association standards.

Stonegate, which lies at the corner of Longleaf and Gateway Drives near the back gate will include a dozen or more maintenance free homes. The Board approved the annexation of that area subject to approval of a final plat by Moore county and the SLWLA Board. Residents in Stonegate will have an additional maintenance agreement and dues much like residents in the Pinnacle.

Clubhouse Commons, which is located near the Beacon Ridge Country Club Driving Range and Lucas Road was approved subject to the approval of fencing and negotiation of impact fees. The annexation agreement provides for a construction entrance off Lucas Road while infrastructure is being built, after which the entrance will be permanently closed.

## Architectural Standards

The Board during its Work Session approved a new set of architectural standards that have been in the works for some time

and were recently approved by developer Lakeside Development Company. The new standards are available on the Seven Lakes West website; copies are also available in the Landowners Office.

## Reciprocity Agreement with SLLA

President Fewkes told her fellow Board members that she had contacted SLLA President Zielsdorf about negotiating a new letter of understanding between the Associations that would govern reciprocal gate access and use of amenities. Zielsdorf suggested that negotiations await the election of new directors in March.

Director Shepard suggested the SLWLA Board should go ahead and develop a position on reciprocal use of the pool, but Fewkes said the boards needed to work together to develop an agreement. "It's not something one Board can do," she said.

"One of the reasons it didn't get signed last year because it was something that came from one side."

Fewkes said the SLLA Board had "learned a lot" from their recent survey of the membership. "They would do it differently were they to do it again, she said. "Next year we are most likely talking about doing a survey," she added. "I'm interested in learning from them."

"I realize we have two communities that are very, very different," Fewkes said, "but we can learn from each other."

## President's report

President Mary Anne Fewkes brought the Board up to date on a number of items of interest:

- After learning that the Moore County Board of Commissioners planned to send a letter to US Congressmen Howard Coble requesting his assistance in securing federal funding for a Lakeway Drive railroad cross-

ing upgrade without the need to close two crossings in West End, Fewkes sent her own letter to Coble explaining the strong support NCDOT's plan has among Association members.

• Fewkes said she and Gerhard Hergenbahn would be attending a meeting in Robbins, along with representatives of the Town of Robbins, the Village of Pinehurst, Moore County, and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association to discuss plans from bringing water from Robbin's water treatment plant to Southern Moore County.

• A letter has been sent to the US Postal Service requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act any information regarding USPS decisions to utilize centralized mail house delivery in Seven Lakes West and to consistently deny the community's requests for curbside delivery.

- The Human Resources

Committee has continued to meet since the hiring of Community Association Services, Inc. to manage the community, even though the Association no longer has employees. The committee is working to develop benchmarks against which CAS' performance can be evaluated. Quarterly evaluations are planned, incorporating comments and concerns gathered from all Board members.

• Through the efforts of CAS, the Association has now collected \$28,000 of \$70,000 in delinquent dues, Fewkes said.

## Other Business

In other business during its Work Session, the SLWLA Board:

• Heard from Director Ray MacKay a presentation on the Lakeway Garden Project — the drainage control and beautification project that has been underway for several years in

(See "Westside," p. 21)

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## Westside meeting

(Continued from page 20)

Lakeway Mall. MacKay is leaving the Board after the Annual Meeting and aimed to ensure that current directors were well-informed about the project, which will need to be completed over the next several years. MacKay said the plan had an estimated

cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000 when approved by the Board in 2004. So far the Association has spent about \$42,000 on the effort, and the proposed FY2009-2010 includes another \$20,000 for additional work.

- Winding up his term as infrastructure director, MacKay said

the only major project still pending on his watch is crack sealing some road surfaces. The work has already been contracted, MacKay said, but recent warmer weather has not been conducive to getting the work done.

- Learned that Manager Joan Frost has developed a plan that will have a compliance officer making weekly rounds of the entire community checking for ARC and rules compliance, as well as conducting house checks requested by vacationing residents.

- Heard from Frost that an effort to correct errors in the barcode database was nearly complete. Barcodes with missing or incorrect information were turned off, so that the owners of those codes could be identified and their information could be corrected in the database.

- Heard from Legal Director Ed Silberhorn that the Septic Management Program Committee had met and discussed to potential for making the program mandatory within the watershed

of Lake Auman.

- Silberhorn said that, with the assistance of CAS and the company from which the Association leases its copier, the effort to scan the archive of Association records is now underway. Silberhorn said the Committee is considering asking the Board to have CAS, beginning May 1, scan key records going forward, so that all SLWLA records are filed digitally.

- Heard from Silberhorn that he had heard from the Association's attorney that the remaining defendants in the Terrill lawsuit had settled with the plaintiffs for another \$35,000, bringing the total settlement in the case to \$180,000. He noted that he had not confirmed the information with the court and so could not vouch one hundred percent for the report.

- Approved the purchase of three trees to be planted in Lakeway Mall in honor of the three retiring Board members: Fewkes, MacKay, and Rowland.

- Put out a call for members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, who will recruit and vet applicants for Board seats in the 2010 Annual Meeting elections. Interested members can contact Secretary Ed Tuton or any other Board member.

- Set a March 20 meeting for the election of officers after the Board Elections are finalized at the Annual Meeting on March 15. Legal Director Ed Silberhorn, who will not stand for office in those elections, will convene the meeting. The Board will meet later in March or in early April for a more extensive orientation of new Board members.

## Finance Committee

(Continued from page 7)

"We are asking for clarification and simplification. It's not that the information is not available -- it's that it is in a format that they don't understand."

He continued, "I've seen enough to know the [dues] increase is a necessity but am frustrated that the current format of financial information will not give people enough information."

Advocates of Compromise [AOC] Spokesman Ron Erskine agreed, "Transparency is what concerns me the most."

Erskine said the Finance Committee could improve communication by adopting the same format for financial reporting that is presented to Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] members at their monthly General Meeting. "On page five [of the SLWLA report] they list twenty-four fund statement accounts. Why are you so obstinate about providing this type of information to our residents?"

Galford responded that fund statements were not included in the annual audit, however, landowners could, by request, receive a fund balance report which included total Association assets and interest rates. He also reiterated that he had and would continue to refuse to provide account numbers out of identity theft concerns, prompting an open debate in the room as to whether account numbers had actually ever been requested, as opposed to requests for asset information broken out by bank and interest rate.

"It's one thing to show the numbers, but your report should answer questions, not create them," said Meyers. "I want to see a year-to-year comparison and a document that will walk me through items to demonstrate

cost savings."

Noting a February 6 *Seven Lakes Times* article which compared the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budgets of the Seven Lakes and Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, Meyer said, "This is the type of thing many people are looking for to understand finances."

Concluding the meeting, Galford reminded those in attendance that funds realized by the dues increase included in the proposed budget would be strictly limited to capital reserves for the roads and dams.

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## From the crew at the Bookshop: 'Farewell'

From the day Robert Sheard opened Bookshop by the Lakes in 2003, Marcy and I never bought a book anyplace else. Before that, we were like many folks, buying our books online at Amazon or dropping by Borders on the occasional trip to Greensboro or Raleigh.

After Bookshop by the Lakes opened, when we'd hear about some book on Morning Edition while driving into work, we'd wheel into the village, grab a cup of coffee, and give Robert the name of the book. He'd call a day or two later, and that would be that.

Did it cost more to buy books at Bookshop by the Lakes? Maybe more than Amazon — though not when you figured in the shipping cost and the time lost looking the thing up online and ordering it. Besides, it was more fun to buy a book from a real person and to get a chance to poke around the shop and see what new books might catch your eye.

More important, for us, the thought that Seven Lakes could have its own bookshop, beside its own coffee shop, was a wonderful thought indeed. This community has always been a neighborly place, but it has also always lacked a focal point — a gathering place — in the village center. A bookshop, right beside a coffee shop, seemed like a good start. It seemed the least we could do to encourage the effort by changing our shopping habits.

Marcy and I still loved the idea a couple of years later, when a teaching job with health benefits lured Robert away to Pinecrest High School. We were already in the business of producing a product that folks read, we thought, so why not get into the book business as well? Besides, we really didn't want to see the bookshop close.

So we dove in. We quickly found that we could expand the shop's offerings with a great selection of books for children and teens. And those folks — and

their parents and grandparents — have become some of our most loyal customers.

We once heard the owner of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi repeat an old rule of thumb: that, to sustain a bookshop, you need a dozen families of good readers to buy all their books from you.

If that's true, then Bookshop by the Lakes had about eight families.

It's not that the Bookshop lost money. We learned the business, expanded our customer base, and paid the bills. But, despite a wonderful group of loyal customers, the Bookshop never really made money either.

In other words, it wound up being more of a hobby than a business. And a wonderful hobby it is. But running a bookshop is not, in the end, what we want to do with the time we have left

over after publishing our newspaper.

More than a decade ago, we gave up the suburbs and professional life to live in a 100-year-old farmhouse in rural North Carolina, run a small town news-

bored of sitting in the driveway.

It's time we got back to doing the things that brought us here in the first place, so we'll be closing the Bookshop at the end of the month. *The Seven Lakes Times* — which has been running out of a closet in the back of the Bookshop — will expand into the whole space.

The hardest thing about this decision is taking "their" bookshop away from so many great, loyal customers. We are profoundly sorry to have to do that. We are grateful for your friendship and for your business. We hope you will find a new bookshop home at The Country Bookshop down in Southern Pines — another independent bookshop.

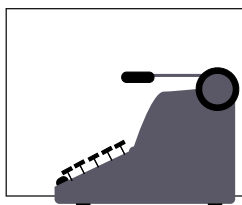
We are sorry that you will have to make the drive through the traffic circle to get there.

There are still a few folks around Seven Lakes who recall the time when this community lost its grocery store — after the IGA closed and before Food

(See "Farewell," p. 23)

### Your Turn

Greg & Marcy  
Hankins  
Bookshop by  
the Lakes



## O brave new world! That has such people in't!

"Crackbook," that's what some call it. Some — meaning me — and anyone else obsessed with this particularly insidious social network.

Facebook is not a lonely place...in fact, all my friends are right there with me. We keep busy adding Random 25 notes and throwing cyber pillows, kiss-

es, and assorted adult beverages at each other. You can race against my tricked out 350Z, if you dare, or challenge me to a game of Scramble. Though good luck beating Darling Hubby's score — who knew he had such a talent for jumbled letters?

Crackbook, of course, isn't the only online connection point.

Hipster cityfolk seem to gravitate towards tweets and blogs. But my drug of choice is shared by what appears to be the largest segment of us suburban, internet yahoos. In fact, a recent article in *Time* magazine, 'Why Facebook is for Old Fogies,' sagely noted that while this format was designed for college kids, "it took legions of people their parents' age to fulfill its ultimate destiny."

Want to see a photograph of my kids, my dog, my last vacation? It's there. Want to know where I went to school, my birthday, and who I'm in a relationship with? Ditto.

And therein lay the beast in this fairytale. Who owns all this drivel? Me, Crackbook, Al Gore?

Last week, in one of those astounding corporate 'group think' decisions that made New Coke look like a fresh idea or offering exotic mortgage pack-

ages was sound financial planning, Facebook decided to reword their privacy statement. Faster than you can say "lawsuit," a scathing

My worst offense, I'll admit, is frequent cyber chatting with my next door neighbors!

It's true. I know I could just as easily walk fifty feet and visit in person, or —

even more efficiently — just throw open a window and holler.

But what would the neighbors

think? You know...the other neighbors! Those poor deprived people who don't know about my 350Z, my barely remembered school chums, or my Random Note #9.

Shouldn't I maintain some modest level of dignity in the real world?

As you can see, clearly the whole virtual privacy thing ain't my ball of wax!



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

and massively forwarded blog made the rounds, generating tens of thousands of complaints.

Heck, I think even Nancy Grace took the night off from her daily dose of serial killers and "sexting" teens to raise the personal privacy alarm.

In a not-so-astounding move, the social website quickly backed off the policy and I resumed old nasty habits.

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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

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

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

# Choices: Why not shop where you live?

Dear Editor:

It seems to me that everyone in Seven Lakes and the surrounding area are experiencing difficult economic times. I believe every reader knows someone including themselves that have

lost money in the market, lost their job, lost their savings, and are dealing with reduced home values and rising prices.

As a result of these and other economic factors, we have choices to make.

## Kudos to Eilert

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the letter from Jamie Eilert of Seven Lakes West regarding home mail delivery. I agree wholeheartedly with his views on the matter.

The only thing he left out is the apparent lack of ambition by those who are pushing this to go pick up the mail. Again, I agree totally with his views.

*Jimmie E. Hurd  
Seven Lakes West*

## Farewell

(Continued from page 22)

Lion opened. There was no Lowe's Foods and no Olmsted Village then. It was not very convenient to have to travel all the way to Aberdeen to buy groceries.

There are lots of new businesses opening in Seven Lakes all the time; it seems like we have an article on a new one in almost every issue of *The Times*. Having those businesses here makes our community richer and our shopping more convenient.

As John Hoffmann notes in a letter to the editor in this edition [see above], Seven Lakers have a choice to make when they shop: they can patronize local Seven Lakes businesses or they can drive "to town."

Those businesses "in town," which increasingly include the sort of "big boxes" that make one American town indistinguishable from every other, will be there whether or not Seven Lakers shop with them. They have a much larger community in Southern Pines, Pinehurst, and Aberdeen to supply most of their customers.

But the shops in Seven Lakes will succeed only if folks in Seven Lakes support them.

Most of us moved here from one suburb or another. So we're

pretty oriented toward driving to town and shopping in the big boxes. On the other hand, most of us moved here to escape that suburban life — to settle in a neighborly village where life had a bit slower pace.

Our neighborly village can include shops — restaurants, coffee shops, florists, wine shops, gift shops, optical shops, and so on — only if we make their businesses successful by shopping at home instead of driving into town.

Whether we have a village here, or simply a suburb, is really up to us.

Marcy and I have no regrets about buying Bookshop by the Lakes. It has been a great adventure. But it is time for this adventure to, as all adventures must, come to an end.

It's time for us to shine up our Airstream, pump up those tandem tires, hitch the dogs to their leashes, and find some new adventures. There are new adventures on the horizon for *The Seven Lakes Times*, as well . . . but more about that later.

To all our wonderful Bookshop customers, farewell. May you always have one book in your hand and a stack on the bedside table.

Thank you for your patronage and for your friendship.

One choice may be to reduce or delay our spending; but some spending is necessary such as buying food, clothing, gas, fuel oil, propane, supplies for home, work, and school, etc. But even for these staples we have choices where we can shop; and I suggest that we shop locally whenever possible.

Why? Our community is comprised of neighbors that need our help. They don't draw customers from Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Vass, and elsewhere; they depend on local residents for their livelihood.

Since we must buy somewhere, why not buy from our neighbors, friends, and fellow

citizens. It is about seven to eight miles to alternative sources of many of the items and services we can buy right here in Seven Lakes.

When one accounts for the cost of gas, the time it takes to drive, park, shop, and return to shop at a store "in town," it makes good economic sense to shop locally.

Add this to the fact that we have so many quality businesses selling quality goods and services right here in Seven lakes, it just makes good sense to shop locally when able, and foster friendship within our community especially in these difficult times.

*John Hoffmann  
Seven Lakes West*

## Youth say 'Thanks'

Dear Editor:

The youth group of West End Presbyterian Church would like to thank all those who participated in the Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction on February 8.

The businesses and individuals who contributed made the event a huge success. The proceeds will make the Mexico mission trip possible this Summer.

*West End Presbyterian  
Church Youth*

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# Curbside mail delivery makes sense

Dear Editor:

This is necessarily lengthy – please read it all.

In last week's *Times*, an important issue was addressed in a Letter to the Editor "Home Mail Delivery."

As a member of the Long Range Planning Committee [reporting to the Seven Lakes Landowners' Association Board of Directors], and project point person for home mail delivery, let me state that this issue has been exhaustively researched by a team of resident homeowners for several years.

From this learned background, I offer these comments with somewhat differing perspectives.

Home mail delivery would require a change of address. True! However, we are advised by postal authorities that if multiple central mail houses are involved [which they proposed], street addresses must be used because our lot numbers are not geographically zonal.

Seven Lakes West comprises over 1,700 buildable lots. Looking ahead, is it even feasible for 1,700 potential residents to get mail from a single facility - one that cost patrons [yes, us] an estimated quarter million dollars? And logically, more than one facility would multiply that figure accordingly.

I believe the USPS charter obligates delivery to the addressee as a service paid for in the national postage rate. Mail content has changed with the introduction of cyber mail and commercial competition.

Today our boxes contain a lot of unwanted stuff that only provides the postal service revenue. Who knows what the future USPS posture will be?

With five-day delivery on the horizon and other inevitable changes, should we fund intermediate expensive facilities? And all this while each of the ten neighboring similar private communities enjoys home mail delivery.

But it doesn't stop there. Consider the cost to retrieve mail from our current facility. Using an average round trip distance to the mail house of 3.4 miles and assuming only 25% of the trips to pick up mail are special, and applying the IRS standard cost of \$.585 per mile to operate a

vehicle, the patrons expense is approx \$150 per year. Each lot owner's circumstances will be unique. We can't always time our side trips to mesh with the mail availability time slot.

Theft and damage to the street mail boxes. We have explored this pertinent matter with several nearby "private" communities enjoying home mail delivery. Without exception, their experience is highly favorable with negligible incidence of either theft or damage.

Design and cost for street mail boxes. Should we prevail in getting home mail delivery, the design would probably be selected by the ARC, a special committee or a referendum assuring majority preference.

An excellent example is Pinewild Country Club. They were able to convert to home delivery from three cluster boxes and adopted a common design that is unobtrusive, aesthetically pleasing, and cost effective. Their total cost per mail box is \$101.38 installed. Each box post includes house numbers which is encouraged by all service agencies.

Muddy ruts in your yard? Today with pavement and curbs, mail vehicles do not leave the pavement,

Safety is a real concern to everyone. Yes, we have curves and hills – but so do each of the ten neighboring communities. We are obligated to devise the most effective safety measures. Certainly, enforcement of speed limits is basic.

Going green, another term for environmental concerns. Simply imagine two or three carriers doing the job versus hundreds of private cars traveling to a central facility.

The request to spend up to \$5,000 was intended that legal specialists experienced in postal issues would evaluate the strength of our case if further action might be considered prudent. It was never intended to "get the government to deliver mail to our door." Our objective is to get only that which we are already paying for, to which we are entitled and which is provided to the other ten nearby communities and most of the nation.

With the elimination of the existing mail house, yes, we can

proceed as planned to redesign and upgrade the main entrance — the front door to Seven Lakes West. To protect property values, we must be as esthetically attractive as other "competing" developments.

The USPS effort to control cost is applauded and appreciated. This is a system problem. "Pocket" service discrimination, such as is imposed on us, is not a reasonable solution.

In conclusion, a recent survey indicated seventy-one percent of responding landowners

prefer home mail delivery. Is home mail delivery a good or bad idea? Apparently most residents

think we are on the right track!  
Gus Danielson  
Seven Lakes West

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# Big hike in fees may make pool too expensive

Dear Editor:

The 2008/2009 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Member Fee Schedule and 2009/2010 Finance Committee recommended SLWLA Member Fee Schedule reads:

## 1. User Fees & Deposits

**c. Swimming Pool:** There is no charge for pool use to SLWLA members **and their immediate family (children and grandchildren)**. For other guests of a member, the following applies:

- Annual Guest Pass [Includes four annual passes] - \$25
- Daily Guest Pass - available at the pool - \$2
- Pool Rental for Private Event Rental \$200 Deposit \$500. Note lifeguards are required and are paid by the group renting the pool.

The 2009/2010 SLWLA Member Fee Schedule [approved "including the adjustments made during the discussion" by the Board on December 9, 2008] reads:

## 1. User Fees & Deposits

**c. Swimming Pool:** There is no charge for pool use to SLWLA members in good standing. For other guests of a member in good standing, the following applies:

- One day pass - \$5
- 7 day pass - \$25
- 30-day pass - \$75
- Season pass - \$200; Pool Rental for Private Event Rental

\$200 Deposit \$500.

Note lifeguards are required and are paid by the group renting the pool.

As per my conversation with Joan Frost on February 4, 2009, it is my understanding that:

- Children and grandchildren, who are not permanent members of a SLW household, are no longer free guests of a member in good standing [2/10/09 Work Session: in response to several e-mails questioning the 09/10 pool fees increases, the Board approved a fourteen one-day, one person complimentary packet, which may be requested by a member in good standing]
- The above fee schedule is per person.
- Seven Lake North & Southsiders must be accompanied by a member in good standing with a pass [2/10/09 Work Session: The Board informed the public that SLWLA & SLLA Board Representatives will meet after the March elections to discuss a Letter of Understanding].
- FY 09/10 one-day, per person pass of \$5 is two and a half times greater [my calculation] than 08/09 daily guest

pass of \$2.

- FY 09/10 season per person pass of \$200 is thirty-two times greater [my calculation] than 08/09 annual guest pass of \$25 for four guests [which equals \$6.25 per guest].

The above is a dramatic increase in cost to members in good standing who wish to enjoy, with their children and grandchildren, one of the amenities for which we pay dues. [i.e. This Summer, upon requesting the complimentary pass, a member may visit the pool with one guest a total of fourteen times or fourteen different guests one time – the rest of the summer, the member will have to pay \$5 a day per guest]

This change in past practices not only affects our children and grandchildren, but our good neighbors from Seven Lakes South and North, where free use of their pool and our pool was reciprocal. In addition, the change in the fee structure will affect the cost for all other family members and friends who wish to use the pool while visiting. With the February 9, 2009 Board approved Fee Schedule, pool use will be severely limited for a vast majority of our members as a great number of our fifty-five and older members only use

the pool when children and grandchildren are visiting. After the first fourteen guests, the cost for use of the pool by family and friends may become prohibitive.

It has always been my understanding that amenities [WPCC Category A and select Category B use of rooms, pool, Johnson Point, tennis courts, playground, etc] are available for use by all members in good standing. The boat, trailer, RV and camper storage lot, boat slips, mail boxes, etc, are available for a fee as a convenience for members in good standing, who have a need for such services.

With the new fee schedule,

the full availability of the pool amenity has now been changed and may become off limits for some of our retired members, who may no longer be able to afford bringing their children, grandchildren, family members, etc, to the pool.

At the February 24 General Meeting, I am requesting that the SLWLA Board would again review the 09/10 Fee Schedule and return to the Pool User Fee Schedule approved for the 08/09 fiscal year.

Lois J Rocco  
Seven Lakes West



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# Roadside mowing tied to home values

Dear Editor:

No matter what the community survey showed, I can't believe that the management & board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association would even consider discontinuing roadside mowing within our gates. I also can't imagine that the folks who expressed that opinion, really thought it out. I think they must have been desperate to find some way to cut costs, and given our choices, they just latched on to that.

Anyone who drives around within our gates, knows how important well-kept roadsides are. It doesn't matter if people keep their own property neat, if our roadsides [much of which are beside vacant lots] are knee deep in weeds.

Here are some things to think about concerning the discontinuance of roadside mowing [I consider them facts, but you can make your own judgment]:

1. In the latest article in *The Times*, there were various things listed that, if not done, would lower property values in Seven Lakes. If you want to see property values drop, stop mowing the roadsides.

What is the first thing prospective property/home buyers notice after they enter our gates? They have to drive on our roads to get anywhere within Seven Lakes. I know that if I had seen unkempt roadsides with knee deep weeds, when I was looking here for property, I would've turned around and gone somewhere else. My thoughts would've been, 'If they can't even take care of their common areas, then what else don't they care about?' First impressions are everything.

2. The Association is always reminding property/home owners to properly maintain their house & property. If the Association isn't going to maintain the roadsides, isn't that kind of like saying, "Don't do as I do, do as I say"? That's certainly not much incentive, and to me, would make homeowners think less of our entire community.

3. The survey indicates that the homeowners say they will maintain the roadsides. That statement would be funny, if it wasn't so ridiculous. There are already problems in our community get-

ting people to take care of their own property, much less mowing the roadsides. Also, you have to take into consideration rental units, vacant lots, and the fact that many people, such as myself, don't even own a lawn mower. Plus, even if people did try to do that, does the association really want a bunch of homeowners out there mowing right alongside our roads. I don't even want to contemplate the liability for something like that.

In summary, I don't like having to pay higher dues any more than the next person. However, if lower dues means a run-down looking community or giving up our gates, security, yard waste site, or any of our amenities, then I'll vote for whatever dues increase is warranted. If we lose any of those things, then we'll be losing what makes Seven Lakes unique, and I don't want that to happen. Do you?

Larry Yates  
Seven Lakes South

## Employing curiosity

Isn't life full of routines?

Certainly.

Like going to bed.

Getting up.

Eating.

Sitting in a church pew.

Going for the mail.

But it's also a chance to go off on tangents that can enrich our emotional well-being, like when



## Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

a friend asks you over, jumping into your car and attending that lecture, or inhaling some new angles of life to ponder over and maybe act upon.

At least one thing my journalism professor implanted in me was to employ curiosity, almost to the point of being irksome.

Yes, in-depth learning sometimes implies being a bit obnoxious.

When you need the answer, you're going to hang on till you get it.

Such tenacity has helped win wars, debates, and hopefully, friendly domestic disputes.

It's all a matter of realizing that others may have some of the same attitudes or stances that we do.

When tossed together into life's interrelationships, that's where the need arises to think beyond the ends of our noses.

Yes, there is a such a thing as more than a single point of view.

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# Board rejects transparency, compromise

Dear Editor:

As an Advocate of Compromise [AOC], and one who remains steadfast in search of "common ground" with our SLLA Board of Directors, I am frustrated at their refusal to listen to our requests for transparency and reasonable timely access to financial information.

If nothing changes, I will vote "no" on any requested dues increase and, will continue to vote "no" until such time as a change for the better is noted and my confidence in both Board and Management is restored. From my perspective, several of our present Board members just "don't get it."

One of those who fits that description is our Treasurer, who repeatedly states that he will not reveal our Association's investment reserve account numbers, when in actual fact, no account numbers were ever requested.

At the February 6 budget meeting, we listened repeatedly to glib refusals to consider any change in policy as it pertains to the dissemination of financial information. Apparently, our "right to know" is either beyond his comprehension or terribly blurred.

Another who ignores our requests is our Association's President who, when interviewed by *The Times*, claimed that "we

have gone a long way toward making financial information available." In amazement, I ask what he meant by "a long way" or "available" to whom, where, and when? We see no change. He still questions our "need to know" and refuses to acknowledge our "right to know."

To be clear, and so that the residents of Seven Lakes North & South understand; the Advocates continue to "seek common ground" with the Board. In this search, on February 1, we sent the Board a document for the second time, in which we made four very modest requests. Simplified and for reasons of space, we asked for:

- Easier and more timely access to any and all financial information and/or employee agreements legitimately requested by residents in good standing.
- A commitment on the part of the Board not to increase salaries, wages, bonuses, rewards of any kind during this coming fiscal year.
- The continued operation of all our current amenities, including gates, stables, recreation facilities, and security.
- The reduction of our Administrative Expenses in this next fiscal year by ten percent. The implementation of such savings to be left to the discretion of our Community Manager.

We concluded this request by asking that the Board bear in mind that many of our residents have been adversely impacted by this current recession. Despite this, we went on to state that if all of the above became fact, and was clearly reflected in this next budget, we as an entity would urge support of a dues increase. Once again, no response!

Finally, on February 9, the Advocates sent yet another letter to our Community Manager and the Board. This time we requested information about a consulting contract, effective January 1, 2010, a contract which was executed this past September between our Manager and the Board. We knew nothing about it, not even of its exis-

tence until a couple of weeks ago. On February 12 we did receive a response, a letter containing very little more than accusations of "personal vendettas" or "long-held grudges." It shed no light whatsoever on the contract in question. Who knows, perhaps a petition signed by a couple of hundred residents would

generate full disclosure.

If you agree that we need more transparency from both our Board and Management, if you agree that we have a "right to know," please let me hear from you, [erskine@nc.rr.com](mailto:erskine@nc.rr.com).

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

## Letters to the Editor



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# Robbins-Pinehurst water deal's a pipe dream

Dear Editor:

As a former candidate for village council of Pinehurst and county commissioner, I've long been interested in the issue of water and drought prevention for Moore County and its citizens. The latest water initiative by the municipalities of Robbins and Pinehurst, which your newspaper describes as a "shove in the right direction" is hardly that. It is instead another example of precipitous parochial thinking on an issue too important to be left to amateurs.

The arresting comment by Mayor Bell of Robbins that, "It's not out of the question that just Pinehurst and Robbins could work together," should alert all who favor an efficient, well-thought-out countywide water system to be genuinely alarmed.

The irony is that the official parties to a "letter of intent" to bring water from Robbins south into the county are soon to learn from the very competent professionals at McGill & Associates exactly which of its several water sourcing options make the most sense for all of Moore County and

not just the municipalities of Robbins and Pinehurst. Included within that analysis will be a comprehensive review of the value of the Robbins water processing facility, which your paper describes as being "mothballed."

"Mothballed" may be flattering the condition of the plant. It is very likely that it has been neglected and will require complete rehabilitation or replacement at a cost estimated by Pinehurst Mayor George Lane on February 2 to be \$4,000,000.

The last Mayor of Pinehurst seemingly had a water obsession. He pushed to purchase most of the county water system for the exclusive ownership of Pinehurst and failed in the attempt. It resulted in a costly and acrimonious legal battle and did nothing to improve the water picture in the county. The present Mayor, George Lane seems to have

picked up a more virulent strain of the same water bug. He has already picked his favorite solution for the county's myriad water problems at a time when the McGill professionals are about to arrive on scene with their recommended answers and priorities.

Pinehurst citizens have absolutely no legitimate interest in a "bi-lateral arrangement," [Interlocal Agreement] that would tie the municipality to a "financial plan for the rehabilitation of the Robbins water treatment plant and the laying of pipe from it to the south of Moore County."

That roughly \$8,000,000 package, were the McGill plan to favor it should be purely a matter for the county and/or Robbins to finance, but not the taxpayers of Pinehurst.

Yet Mayor Lane, on his initiative and with no public meetings on the matter has specifically

requested that \$7.6 million be given to fund his pet water project as part of the Federal Recovery Stimulus Bill, [Region IV USEPA].

For decades county commissioners have looked at study after study seeking solutions to its very serious drought problem. Yet at a time when two of its commissioners are involved in the Pinehurst - Robbins bilateral meetings, another commissioner is recommending cutting the tax rate.

I like to eat breakfast this time of year at the Track Restaurant

in Pinehurst where the creamed chip beef can't be beat. There one may watch the trotters and pacers do their stuff. It's where drivers and owners are quickly taught Rule Number One — that horses are disqualified whenever they "jump the gun." By pushing his bilateral agreement, the Mayor of Pinehurst has jumped the gun and is betting the village's chips on a nag called, "Robbins." In the end Pinehurst taxpayers will be saddled with the bill.

Paul R. Dunn  
Pinehurst

## Letters to the Editor



## Marchers wanted for St. Pat's

All local clubs & groups, antique car and motorcycle enthusiasts, and golf cart owners are welcome to participate in the Seven Lakes St. Patrick's Day Parade. Marchers will step off promptly at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 14.

By popular demand, the post-parade Corned Beef Luncheon is back this year! Stay tuned for ticket sales and more information.

If you would like to march in the parade or have questions, please call Deirdre Florence at 673-2808.

### Little Miss Seven Lakes

Nominate your favorite miss for the Little Miss Seven Lakes Contest. All community girls between the ages of six and eleven are eligible to participate. The winner and two princesses will be selected by random drawing and invited to participate in the Seven Lakes St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at 11:00 am.

Nominating forms and collection boxes are located at the

mailrooms and the offices of both Landowners Associations.

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JOB0408

# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

According to a Finance Committee report included with the budget, "Using conservative estimates for road repairs and government-mandated dam remediation, the conclusion reached was that the current dues could not provide for future capital investment needs. Without a dues increase, current operations and amenities can continue; but the visible signs of road deterioration and property aging will be noticeable. The Finance Committee perceives that such conditions will lead to an overall decline in each member's property valuation." The committee recommended the 2010 dues increase be followed by a \$50 increase in 2011, and again in 2014. Together, the three increases would bring dues levels to \$950 five years from now. The increases would allow for the resurfacing of all primary roadways in 2011 and secondary roads as needed, and maintaining and/or refurbishing the dams at state-mandated levels. With those tasks completed the Association would still have a 2019 reserve of \$614,962.

If the FY2010 dues increase is not approved and road repaving goes forward, the Finance Committee's estimates, even with increases in FY2011 and FY2014 the reserve fund in FY2019 will be negative, at -\$18,138.

Director Don Welch said it was important to communicate to the public that the Board was taking the economy into consideration but that, short of cutting salaries, "This budget is bare bones. We must be sensitive, but I am convinced what we have here is the best thing we can present."

The proposed budget does not include employee bonuses; however, the Board did approve transferring funds that traditionally would have placed in the bonus line item over to salary. According to Community Manager Dalton Fulcher, the bonus program has been in place for ten years and most employees consider the percent and a half bonus as part of their total salary. Eliminating bonuses, he explained, essentially creates a cut in salary. However, the Board's decision does not represent an across the board increase for employees, but will

instead target those Association employees on the lowest rungs of the wage scale.

One stable employee and three on the maintenance crew earn less than \$11 an hour, "some substantially less," reported Treasurer Denny Galford. With Federal minimum wage increases anticipated for July 2009, he said it was appropriate to transfer bonus funds to the salary line so merit increases can be awarded, as appropriate.

Director Bud Shaver supported the decision. "We couldn't just go out and hire someone with the talents and skills many in our maintenance bring in. I'm not comfortable with how we're paying these guys."

Board members discussed a few items that may result in the actual results for FY2010 varying from the budget they approved. Interest rates on investments, for example, have been declining, which could reduce the actual interest revenue garnered by the Association over the next year below budgeted levels. Plan review fees for new home construction could also come in under budget if the housing market doesn't turn around.

The Board was expected to take up another item that could impact the budget — an unspecified \$2,000 personnel expense — in a Closed Meeting held immediately following the Work Session.

## Roadside Mowing

Sixty-five percent of Association members responding to a recent survey indicated they were not opposed to eliminating roadside mowing in front of member homes. The estimated annual savings of \$30,000 directed towards a roads reserve fund.

"We're topped out in growth," said President Randy Zielsdorf in Thursday's Work Session. "Any other town does not mow grass in front of homes. I think it would behoove us to begin running Seven Lakes as an established town."

He continued, "The mower doesn't do that good of a job and I think it would be better to concentrate on Seven Lakes common areas and make them the best they can be. We can stop mowing on a trial basis -- if it doesn't work out we can always bring it back."

Shaver countered that the Maintenance Committee had not been presented with the question and he requested that any decision be delayed until they could discuss the mowing issue in depth. "My view is the Board is getting into maintenance responsibilities. The people voted; and if that's what they want, fine. But I submit, let's take another look in six months."

Galford agreed, arguing that making changes now -- before the growing season -- would not allow for a true evaluation of how elimination of the service would affect the appearance of the community.

After discussion, the Board tabled the decision while they await recommendations from the Maintenance Committee.

## Gate improvements

In a related discussion of survey results, Director Gary Caulk renewed his request for \$19,840 in repairs and replacement equipment for the gates and security

camera system.

"The gate needs to be fixed . . . we have a system that is frail and no one to fix it," said Caulk.

Caulk's proposal was originally discussed last Fall, but a decision on improving or repairing the gate was tabled while survey results were tabulated. Pointing to the strong survey response indicating residents prioritize security and gates, Caulk's request was approved and will be voted on during the Open Meeting on Wednesday, February 25.

## A unified voice for Seven Lakes

Zielsdorf expressed concern over a recent invitation to participate in a water discussion with the Town of Robbins. Looking over the list of attendees, he was surprised and dismayed to realize no other Seven Lakes organizations had been included -- not Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, the Seven Lakes Civic Group, nor the Business Guild.

Alarmed, Zielsdorf contacted

(See "SLLA," p. 31)

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	Lot #'s 8003, 8004, 8027, 8028, 8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039	
Carriage Park Drive	...Quiet wooded street with 1+ acre lots	.....\$85,000
	Lot #'s 8031, 8035	
Acreage Lot 3E	.....Gelding Gap Lane, Carolina Equestrian	.....\$10,000
Arbor Creek	.....Off Hoffman Road 5 - 10 Acre lots	..\$78,750 - \$235,000
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## Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

and says we can cut the rate and still build the buildings, I won't support it."

Caddell's motion to table the

three-cent tax cut until March was approved in a three-to-two vote, with Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan opposed.

After assurances from Coun-

ty Manager Cary McSwain that the ALS tax, which is used to fund Emergency Medical Services, could be cut a half-cent without hampering the county's abil-

ity to replace some aging ambulances, that cut was approved unanimously by the Board.

Lea then moved to have the FY2009-2010 expense budget be based on the FY2008-2009 budget, but incorporating a five percent overall reduction in costs — a reduction that county department heads have already been working toward in their preliminary FY2010 budget requests.

Caddell again moved to have the proposal tabled until the second meeting in March and his motion passed in a three-to-two vote, with Lea and Morgan opposed.

Late last year the Commissioners approved a set of Fiscal Policy Guidelines that included setting the undesignated fund balance — the county's general savings account — at a minimum of twenty-five percent of the total operating budget.

In debate Monday night, Coun-

ty Manager McSwain noted that the NC Local Government Commission recommends a minimum fund balance of at least eight percent, which is equivalent to one-month's expenses. "That is hand-to-mouth," McSwain said. "I have consistently recommended that we have four months reserves, in case something dramatic should happen, so that we could continue to function and provide services for our citizens."

McSwain said the Commissioners were unwilling, when reviewing the Financial Policy Guidelines, to commit to a thirty-two percent fund balance and compromised on twenty-five percent, which is roughly three months expenses.

When Lea made his motion to cut that to fifteen percent Monday night, Commissioners Caddell offered an amendment

(See "Commissioners," p. 32)

## SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 29)

Mayor Theron Bell and explained that Seven Lakes, not being a municipality, did not have a single go-to contact point or person and explained the oversight.

"She thought I was it! The President of Seven Lakes," exclaimed Zielsdorf.

"At the very least, we should be thinking about a committee that will represent all entities -- a one source contact for this area. As I thought about this, where Moore County or Federal programs impact us, I see this as a necessity. I am concerned that they will bypass [notifying] us in the future rather than deal with a bunch of little outposts," Zielsdorf said.

Director Sally Kindsvatter questioned whether such a committee was not just mimicking the Civic Group's mission.

"Yes, you're right. But they weren't on the list [from Robbins]," said Zielsdorf, noting that after his discussion with Bell the Civic Group President, Dave Kinney, was included and would also attend the water discussion along with SLWLA President Mary Anne Fewkes. In addition, each invitee was allowed to bring a guest of their choice.

Director Don Welch said he had recently participated in what he termed a "groundswell conversation talking about what kind of community do we want overall." Rather than talking about incorporation, Welch said, right now we can talk about how to form a unified front where those needs need to be spoken for is a great thing to do.

Zielsdorf nominated Welch to head up the initiative.

### Drinking at Common Areas

Security Director Caulk asked the Board to consider placing a ban on alcoholic beverages at several common areas, including Northside Park, the soccer fields, and the stables.

"Public drinking and kids -- it's a bad mix," said Caulk.

He reported that of five neigh-

boring municipalities, Seven Lakes is the only one to allow drinking at parks and playgrounds.

Kindsvatter argued that Sequoia Point, one of the primary common areas where public drinking occurs, was left off the list.

"Sequoia Point is used mostly by adults," said Caulk. "I elected, because of controversy, to try and take care of the other park areas. Yes, Sequoia is a problem and I won't go there because of the drinking and language," admitted Caulk.

After going around the table, the Board tabled the discussion to a later date.

### Other items

SLLA will host the NC Open Water Swim on Lake Echo for the fifth consecutive year. Scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, the event attracts approximately 400 swimmers and many additional spectators.

During discussion on how to more effectively reach a wider audience of members, Fulcher agreed to prepare a new business hour schedule for the SLLA office which will include non-traditional times, such as one evening or Saturday morning hours.

Zielsdorf presented a basic timeline working toward replacing the Community Manager and his thoughts on how the Transition Committee should be set up. He recommended several subcommittees be formed, that the job description must be addressed, and that all prospects -- whether individual or a management company -- should be interviewed by the entire Board in a roundtable format, as practical. The Board agreed that additional meetings would be needed and that much ground-work could be put in place for the incoming Board.

Despite rumors circulating in the community, Zielsdorf confirmed that no other employees have been offered employment

agreements.

"No other employee was offered anything. In fact, no other employee was even discussed. The agreement with Dalton was simply to formalize his departure," said Zielsdorf.

Prompted by discussion earlier in the meeting, Shaver defended a consulting retainer fee which is included in Fulcher's agreement. "If we had a Community Manager named Bob Smith and we didn't set up deal where we could draw on his expertise, we would be criticized. We would be faulted."

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 31)

upping that to twenty percent, which passed with only Lea opposed.

## Staff urges caution on tax cuts

Both County Manager McSwain and Finance Officer Lisa Hughes had urged the Commissioners to be cautious in locking in cuts this early in the year, before the full impact of the recession on county revenues and expenses is known.

"Our budget is very complicated," McSwain said, noting that the revenue side involves various income streams from the state, as well as state and federal grant funds. The expense side is complicated by a variety of state-mandated expenditures which the county must meet but has little to no control over.

Hughes reported that, as of January 31, county revenues collected totaled seventy-one percent of the year's budget, versus seventy-five percent at the same time last year. In other words, the county's actual revenues, when compared to budget, are tracking about \$4 million behind last year's performance.

Every major revenue category is underperforming last year, with the biggest percentage shortfall in General Revenues, which include fees associated with the Register of Deeds and building and zoning permits. Because of the the slowdown in housing starts and real estate

transfers only fifty-two-percent of the budgeted amount had been achieved by January 31, compared to seventy-one percent at the same time last year. That represents a \$2 million shortfall in revenues collected.

Meanwhile, the county is seeing an increase in citizen requests for services — particularly in the Department of Social Services. Hughes said there has been a fifteen percent increase in requests for food stamps and an eleven percent increase in requests for Medicaid. In addition, there are more requests for child support enforcement because tough economic times result in fewer folks paying child support.

Hughes said the county expects to finish the year with \$4 million more in revenues than in expenditures — but only because the County Manager imposed a freeze of \$5 million in capital projects and a freeze on filling staff vacancies. "Without those austerity measures, we would not have \$4 million in excess funds at this point," Hughes said.

She said the proposed three cent reduction in property taxes would cost the county \$3.4 million in revenue while saving the average taxpayer about \$51 per year: \$48 on the average \$160,000 home and \$2.79 on the average vehicle, valued at \$9,300. The half-cent reduction in the ALS tax would cost the county \$560,000 in revenues and save the average taxpayer \$8.47 annually, Hughes said.

Turning to the question of

reducing the minimum fund balance to fifteen percent, Hughes said the average fund balance was approximately twenty-four percent among the twenty-six North Carolina counties with populations between 50,000 and 100,000.

She noted that the county had recently won an upgrade of its bond rating because it had increased its fund balance and implemented financial guidelines aimed at maintaining it at twenty-five percent or better.

That improved bond rating will save county taxpayers \$500,000 in interest over the life of the \$40 million in bonds voters approved for school construction, Hughes said.

Commissioner Lea said he was proposing to decrease taxes by approximately \$3.9 million. A five percent reduction in expenses would shave \$4.4 million off the budget, leaving a \$500,000 surplus, he said.

"I am not asking for the county to impact their revenue stream," Lea said. "If we do what I'm suggesting, we are going to have a half million to work with that we didn't have this year."

"These are hard steps," he said. "But I'm looking at Wake County, which is having to cut its budget by ten percent. We can

be proactive or find ourselves in their position."

"One of the things the Board has indicated is that they would like to be more involved in the front end of the budget process," Lea said. "Whatever we are proposing at this point is nothing but direction and policy. Down the road, if things get worse, we can change our recommendation."

## Robbins Water

Commissioner Lea had Clerk Megan Owrey read into the record a memorandum from January 2008 that described a meeting among the county and Robbins officials to discuss the prospect of restarting the mothballed Robbins water treatment plant and using it as a source for the Moore County water system. Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan were both present at that meeting.

Last Friday, February 13, Chairman Picerno attended a meeting on the same subject, hosted by Robbins Mayor Theron Bell and including representatives of the Village of Pinehurst and both Seven Lakes Landowners Associations, as well as the Seven Lakes Civic Group.

Pinehurst and Robbins signed last month a Letter of Intent to

work toward and agreement in which they would join forces to rehab the Robbins plant and bring Robbins water to Southern Moore County. Interviewed about that agreement, both Bell and Pinehurst manager Andy Wilkison suggested the county had been moving too slow on a deal with Robbins.

Lea, after Owrey finished reading the memo, said the county has, in fact, been waiting for Robbins to complete an assessment of bringing the old water plant back on line.

"I reckon my point is that the County Commissioners have not been sitting on their hands," Lea said. "We have had the door open for some time."

Lea noted that Robbins is currently selling the county a small amount of water, which Robbins purchases from Montgomery County, at \$3 per thousand gallons, while the county pays only \$2 for water purchased from other sources.

"There's going to have to be some kind of incentive for us to pay a dollar more for water," Lea said.

Chairman Picerno said the gist of last Friday's meeting in Robbins was that "they are concerned that this meeting took

(See "Commissioners," p. 32)

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 32)

place a year ago. They have seen little happening since then. They are trying to give the commissioners a refocus mechanism."

A presentation on the county's water source options, by consultants McGill and Associates,

was on the agenda for the Thursday, February 19 Board of Commissioners Work Session.

## Other Business

In other business the Commissioners:

- Unanimously supported a North Carolina Marriage Amend-

ment Resolution aimed at amending the state Constitution to define "marriage between a man and a woman" as "the only domestic legal union valid or recognized in the state." This item was added to the agenda after the meeting began and was passed without discussion

or comment. It is the latest variation of an annual attempt by opponents of same sex marriage and civil unions to modify the NC Constitution.

- Awarded a \$360,000 contract to Northwoods Software Solutions for a document management system for the Depart-

ment of Social Services. The County was able to cut the cost of the system in half by piggy-backing on the purchase of a similar system by Orange County.

- Decided to allow public comment during Board of Commissioners Work Sessions.



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**121 PLEASANTVIEW**  
Waterfront - \$375,000



**147 BEACON RIDGE**  
\$384,900



**106 ROLLING HILL -**  
Waterfront - \$249,500



**136 SHADYWOOD**  
\$218,000



**119 PHILLIPS - Auman**  
Waterfront - \$449,000



**117 PRIMROSE**  
\$197,000



**288 FIRETREE**  
5BR, 3BA - \$292,500



**114 JUNIPER Waterfront**  
\$197,500



**101 PINENEEDLE**  
\$197,000



**177 W. DEVONSHIRE**  
\$209,500



**134 W. DEVONSHIRE**  
\$235,000



**131 LANCASHIRE**  
\$215,000



**HIGHWAY 211**  
\$495,000



**103 YEARRINGTON**  
\$299,900



**103 OXFORD**  
\$192,500



**104 LAKEWOOD**  
\$220,000

## Whelan Realty, L.L.C

South Park Offices, Unit #1 1008 Seven Lakes Drive  
6523 Seven Lakes Village • Seven Lakes, NC 27376  
Office: 673-1818 • 800-267-1810  
Home: 673-8024 • Cell: 910-783-8024 • Fax: 673-1555  
E-mail: john@whelanrealty.com

*Cedar Wood Home  
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through Whelan Realty.  
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for a preview!*



**130 LANCASHIRE**  
\$220,000

## 7 LAKES LOTS

### WATER FRONT

#3157 - \$279,900

#3169 - \$62,500

### INTERIOR

#196 - \$25,000

#2066 - \$24,000

#2473 - \$16,000

#2475 - \$21,500

#2508 - \$22,900

#4148 - \$74,900

#5433 - \$32,500

### GOLF FRONT

#2147R - SOLD! - \$16,000

#2179 - \$31,500

#2211 - \$25,000

#2396 - \$35,000

#6146 - \$59,500

### WATER VIEW

#4173 - \$59,000

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE AUTOMOBILES

**2004 FORD FREESTAR SES MINIVAN** – 79,548 miles. Good condition. Asking \$6400. Call Mark at 690-2441.

**99 MERCURY GRM** - 82K miles, \$3950 exc.cond. **98 Ford Escort Wgn** 43K,\$2950. Super. Call 673-1601. *1tx 2/20*

## GARAGE/YARD SALES

**GARAGE SALE SEVEN LAKES NORTH** – 115 Fox Run Ct. - Fri. 2/20 and Sat 2/21 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Computer desk, wicker wine holder on wheels, women's clothing 6-10, etc, miscellaneous items, some new.

## FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**FISHER-PRICE POWER WHEELS** – Kawasaki Brute Force. Like New. \$125. 673-2932

**R U MOVING?** – We have large boxes, 20" x 15" x 10". \$1.00 each. 7 Lakes. 687-0283

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** – Pickup load, cut to desirable length, \$80. Iraq Vet would appreciate your business. Call 639-4969 or 428-1950. *8tpx 11/14*

**FURNITURE WHOLESALE FACTORY DIRECT WAREHOUSE** – Queen Bed Set - \$250. (5) piece set Queen Bedroom - \$999. Living/Dining Furniture and Youth furniture. Call 910-639-9555.

**MATTRESS SALE** – Pillow top sets All New Mattresses. Full-size \$200. Queen size \$225, King size \$300. Luxury Queen & King sets all below half price. Clearing from warehouse facility. 910-639-9555. *1tc 5/30*

**HEADSTONES AND PET MARKERS** - all sizes. Also installing death dates. 639-4084.

**Advertise in The Times**

## FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS

**8000 SQ. FT WAREHOUSE FOR DISTRIBUTOR** – or manufacturing. Located on Hwy 211, West End. Call Owner/Broker @ 910-315-6300.

**HILLCREST MINI WAREHOUSE, LLC** — Affordable storage in Seven Lakes. Units are located at 351 Grant Street, across from K.R. Mace Electric. Unit sizes – 10x10, 10x20. Units have lighting. Call 910-673-7320 for rental information. Urgent calls may be directed to 910-690-6491.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE LOTS

**BY OWNER 7 LAKES NORTH** – Double lot #670. Corner of Edgewater and Pineneedle. Priced @ \$30,000. Call 910-948-4064.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOTS** – 2 beautiful lots, 110 & 112 Dennis Cr, fairly level, mature pines, deep water cove, septic permit, \$250,000 & \$260,000 or buy both at discount, owner is ready to sell! www.TammyLyne.com Keller Williams Realty 910-603-5300.

**244 FIRETREE** – 1995 Upgraded ranch. Great Value. \$163,500. **117 BERKSHIRE CT.** – Golf Front A+ Views. Newly updated. \$215,000. *Lisa Stewart, Broker, 603-4500*

**CEDAR LOG HOMES** – 6x8 Tongue & Groove Cedar Logs; Best Insulation. Many Plans or Custom Designs. **Whelan Realty, LLC** 1008 Seven Lakes Drive, www.WhehanRealty.com Call 910-673-1818.

**7-LAKES WEST WATERFRONT HOME FOR RENT** – 3BD/2BA w/Carolina Rm & Wonderful Views. Asking \$2,000 a month & will accommodate Short or Long Term Lease. Pets Negotiable Call Christy@Edwards Real Estate for more Information at (910)673-1884.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**WATERVIEW LOT LAKE AUMAN** – 158 Otter Dr., septic permit in file \$65,000; **SEVEN LAKES SOUTH** – 102 Tiverton, corner lot, septic permit & 103 Lancashire, very private, septic permit \$26,500 each or buy all great building lots at discount! www.TammyLyne.com Keller Williams Realty 910-603-5300.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**INCREDIBLE LAKE FRONT HOME ON LAKE DIAMOND** – Rent reduced from \$1350 to \$1175. PGOS Broker (910) 585-0363.

**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE** – all utilities included for \$500 month. Additional space available if large space needed. In a great location in Seven Lakes. Call 910-603-3055.

**7 LAKES WEST PINNACLE HOUSE** – 2BD/2BA, w/study & Carolina Rm. 2 car garage. Enjoy all the amenities of Gated Community, Pool, Tennis, Waterfront Park, Golf Crs. Call John Williams@Re/Max Properties 910-992-6318. *2/6/09*

**OFFICE SPACE** – 720 sq.ft. first floor, water incl. Lease & Security deposit required. 673-4800.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT** – Woodlawn Square behind West End Post Office. \$600/mo. Call 910-673-0004.

**REDUCED CONDOS \$475 - \$675** – Furnished & Unfurnished PGOS (910) 585-0363. *2tc 2/6*

## INSURANCE SERVICES

**TEENAGER DRIVERS?** – Call Bottom Dollar Auto Insurance & Save. 910-692-8303. Visa/MC accepted. M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

**WHY PAY MORE?** – We shop Among The Best so you Pay Less! Save Time, Save Money. Call Bottom Dollar Auto Insurance. Get the lowest quotes! 910-692-8303. Visa/MC accepted. M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**SWIMMING POOL CLEANING & REPAIR** – Now accepting weekly maintenance customers. Call 910-988-6454.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**7-LAKES TRASH PICKUP** – Will pickup @ garage door. No Trucks in your driveway. Pickup weekly. \$19 per month. Locally owned. Cell 910-315-4746.

*2tc 2/6*  
**TUTORING SERVICES** - Certified Teacher - Spanish, French, reading, or writing. Experience with all ages & levels. Great starting rates. 910-400-5178. *2 1/23*

**SEVEN LAKES DENTAL STUDIO** – Repairs of dentures, acrylic partials, and relines. Same day service available. All work will be done only through your local dentist. Tom Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-1613.

**DEE OH GEE PET SITTING.** – When you can't be there...we will be! Professional, experienced pet sitter who will take care of your dogs and cats the way you would if you were there. Enthusiastic references are available from your Seven Lakes neighbors. Insured and Bonded. Other services: Pet Taxi, Outward Hound Off-Leash Adventures, Romper Room Puppy Playgroup (for puppies under 6 mos. old), Puppy 101 Behavioral Consultations. Cindy Allen, Owner and Seven Lakes Resident. Call (910) 986-0152 or visit www.deeohgee.net for more information. Let us know how we can help!

**JOHN KELLY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR LLC**– 25 yrs of experience, no job too small. Seven Lakes resident. Call 673-1605.

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SEVEN LAKES  
RESIDENT & SPECIALIST  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times  
February 20, 2009

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**TOTAL REMODEL** — Let us Upgrade your home! Over 22 years experience. Kitchens, baths, custom tile, hardwood floors, custom trim, stairs & railings. Let's move some walls and makes some rooms you really want, or closets you've been needing. Trent Wittenrich (910) 619-2288.

4tp \$2/6

**THE GREEN CLEAN TEAM** — Residential cleaning w/environmentally friendly products. Very reasonable rates tailored to your needs. One time deep cleaning, weekly or bi-monthly. Prepare your home for selling, leasing, seasonal departures and arrivals. If you're moving we can help with decluttering, staging and packing. Professional Property Manager with 20+ years experience. Enjoy living in your clean home. 673-3265 or 673-0222.

**B.R. PAINTING** — Commercial, Residential, Industrial Painting. Exterior & Interior. Fully Insured. Reasonable prices. Free Estimates. Brian Ritter, Owner. 910-528-0084 or 910-528-0619. 3 1/23

**HOOVES-N-PAWS PET & HORSE SERVICE** - Loving Care for All Creatures Great & Small. See our web site @ [www.hoovesnpaws.webs.com](http://www.hoovesnpaws.webs.com). Contact us: 910-975-2735 or 910-986-0745.

tfn 1/6

**RENOVATION & REPAIRS** — All-terior Improvements, Chuck Kieling, 27 years craftsman experience. Residential remodels. Kitchens, bathrooms, dens, custom cabinetry, counter tops, built-ins and bars. Custom furniture. 7 Lakes resident. Call Chuck to finish the unfinished. 910-639-2918.

**J&L HOME SERVICES** — "A Handy Man and More." Interior/Exterior Home Maintenance & Repairs. Call today for Free estimates. Your Seven Lakes Neighbor. Call 673-3927.

**PAWS & CLAWS PET SITTING** — Accredited, Bonded, Insured Call 603-8285 for a FREE Consult. Visit [www.freewebs.com/paws\\_clawspetsitting](http://www.freewebs.com/paws_clawspetsitting) for great info.

tfn 7/6

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**WOODFARM CARPENTRY & LANDSCAPING INC.** — Additions-New Construction-Remodeling-Foundations-Drainage-Driveways-Backfilling as well as all landscaping needs. Resident of Seven Lakes. Free Estimates, licensed & insured, 695-2005.

**TREE SERVICE — ALLEN & SON TREE SERVICE.** Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). tfn 12/7

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** — serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491.

**CREATIVE CUSTOMWORK** — "The Decorator's Workshop" Custom made Window Treatments, Bedding, Cushions, and Slipcovers. All made right here with the attention to detail demanded by the best designers! Pam Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Call 673-2500.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**CEDAR PINES LAWN AND LANDSCAPE SERVICE INC.** — Pine straw \$3.50/bale, Pine straw \$3.25 with purchase of 100 + bales, Pine straw \$6.25 per bale spread for you. Pine mulch: mini nugget, large nugget & shredded. Spring Cleanup. Materials available to: contractors, residents, & commercial use. Call Rick or Mary Horton @910-673-3405 or 910-639-5206.

**SCOTT'S LAWN SERVICE OF ABERDEEN** — We have a fertilization and weed management program for your lawn. Ask about our free application given to all new Seven Lakes customers. 910-944-1322.

**SEVEN LAKES HOME & LAWN SERVICE** — Home and yard upkeep services. Now full lawn care including fertilizing and weed control. N.C. Pesticide #026-25656. Mowing, hedge trimming, mulch and pine straw. Regular maintenance or project work. Dock and deck maintenance, trim painting and small repair jobs. Roof & gutter cleaning. Call Rich at 638-8081 or Lindsay 638-2387. Lic. & insured.

## BOATS FOR SALE

**BOATS FOR SALE** — Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wakeboard-Deck-Pontoon-Bass and Saltwater Boats. Full service to Seven Lakes area only a few minutes away. Choplin Marine in Sanford. Call 919-776-1004 or [www.choplinboats.com](http://www.choplinboats.com)

## BOATS FOR SALE

**NEW & USED PONTOONS AND SKI BOATS** — Call Seven Lakes Marine. 673-1440. tfnc

**TURN YOUR USED BOAT INTO CASH** — People are looking to purchase good condition used - boats. Let us connect you to the prospective buyers. Call Jeff at 910-673-1440 or Lynn at 910-690-8695.

**DONATE YOUR BOAT TO THE NONPROFIT MATTAMUSKEET FOUNDATION** — Tax deduction for fair market value. No middleman. Call Lewis Forrest at 252-746-4221.

## BOATS FOR SALE

**PONTOON, BASS, SKI, DECK & SALTWATER BOATS** — Over 250 boats in stock. 33 years in the Marine business. Only 25 minutes from Seven Lakes. Chatlee Boat & Marine, Sanford. Call 919-775-7259.

## PETS

**SHELTER PETS ARE BEST — WWW.MOOREHUMANE.ORG**

**SANDHILLS ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE** - Pets for adoption. Call Lou Atkins at 910-974-4468.

**ANIMAL ADVOCATES OF MOORE CO.** — invites you to join their email list of dogs & cats by signing on at [author-maggie@pinehurst.net](mailto:author-maggie@pinehurst.net)

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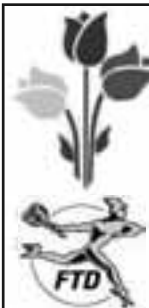


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### OUTSTANDING HOMESITES

**TBD Richmond Rd • Foxfire**  
Over 31 acres of prime property zoned for multi-family. Site plans available for 120+ unit build plan. Within walking distance to all community amenities. **\$896,000**

**123 Harwich, 7 Lakes South**  
1.25 acre golf front lot  
**\$52,900**

**46 South Shamrock • Foxfire**  
.7 acre level lot with golf view of 2nd & 3rd holes of west course.  
**\$55,000**

**110 Otter Ct, 7 Lakes West**  
Cul-de-sac, water view lot with past perk for 4Bd home. Short walk to community center and pool. **\$137,000**

**TBD Ridge Rd, Foxfire**  
Over 11 acres ready for development. Electric and water accessible. 4 lots at the end of 2 planned cul-de-sacs. **\$280,000**

**138 Andrews Drive  
Seven Lakes West**  
Water-View building lot. Great Value! **\$65,000**

**78 N. Shamrock, Foxfire**  
Desirable .78 acre building lot on desirable street. Front of lot has plenty of pines, rear of lot partially cleared for home site. **\$33,900**

**TBD Carriage Park Dr,  
Seven Lakes West**  
Choice 1 acre lot in newly developing area of Seven Lakes West. Nice pond view. Suitable for single level or walk out basement floorplan!  
**\$75,900**

For a complete listing of available properties in Moore County log-on to:

**www.prudentialpinehurst.com**

## MOORE COUNTY'S TOP SELLING REAL ESTATE FIRM

### 1100 SEVEN LAKES DRIVE, SUITE D • SEVEN LAKES, NC

(Directly across from Food Lion in Peachtree Center)



**41 RICHMOND RD, FOXFIRE,  
\$174,900**

Quality 3 Bd/ 2 Ba golf front home with hardwoods, cherry cabinets and large screened porch. .78 ac lot overlooking the 15th green of the Red Fox course. Great Buy!



**106 HASTINGS, SEVEN LAKES  
SOUTH, \$279,000**

Huge golf front home with 4Ba/3Ba and separate living space that could easily be in-law suite or teen hide away. Walk out basement includes bedroom, full bath, heated workshop and storage areas. Plenty of home for the money



**1092 ESTHER RD, WEST END,  
\$164,900**

Secluded 6 acres with one bedroom, one bath farm house. Home needs some TLC but offers small barn and several other out buildings. Large workshop attached to house could be additional living space.



**165 WEDGEWOOD DR,  
7 LAKES WEST, \$234,900**

Three bedroom, two bath located in The Pinnacle. This glorious home is "up to date" and offers hardwood flooring, split bedroom plan, fireplace, heated garage and cement terrace. A real beauty!



**6 GREEN VALLEY • FOXFIRE •  
\$299,000**

New Golf Front Construction! 4 Bd/3 Ba with appr. 2600 sq ft & full walk out basement. Brick & shingle craftsman cottage with open floor plan, island kitchen & breakfast bar, granite, wide pine flooring & custom cabinetry.



**188 PAULA COURT, SL WEST,  
\$399,900**

Better Than New! All brick, golf front home, meticulously maintained with upgrades galore. 3 Bd, 2.5 Ba, with finished bonus rm. Situated on 10th fairway, high ceilings, crown mouldings, custom cabinetry, hardwood & tile floors, large master, split BR plan.



**220 FIRETREE LN, SEVEN LAKES  
NORTH, \$159,000**

3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1.5 story home with attractive new aluminum roofing. Freshly painted interior and new carpeting! Vaulted ceiling in living room offers large windows for plenty of natural lighting. Motivated sellers want your offer!



**8 SEDGEFIELD LANE, PINEHURST  
No. 6, \$355,000**

Well maintained golf front home with fabulous views of the 16th hole par 3. Quiet cul-de-sac location. 3Bd/2Ba with hardwood, tile, large formal dining, den/study. Interior freshly painted. Huge eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless appliances. Motivated sellers!



**235 LINEBERRY ROAD, ROBBINS,  
\$179,000**

Super sharp and clean modular home on 14 acres of land. Plenty of privacy with remote controlled gate in driveway. 3Bd/2Ba home with maple hardwood floors, living room/dining room combo, split bedroom plan and large two car garage.



**122 SMATHERS DR, SEVEN LAKES  
WEST, \$317,900**

Super floor plan on this 3Bd/3.5Ba home. Vacant and move in ready! Bonus room has its own full bath. Complete with solid surface counter tops, hardwoods, eat in kitchen, and large master suite with sitting area. Located only a short walk from Lake Auman. Don't miss this great buy!



**105 TEAGUE DR, 7 LAKES WEST,  
\$299,000**

Fabulous Value! 4BR, 2.5 BA home within walking distance of Johnson Point. 22 foot ceilings in living room, master bedroom with private sitting room on main level and three bedroom upstairs. Hardwoods, solid surface counter tops, formal dining and plenty of storage. A must see!

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