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Volume 24 Number 21

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

August 21, 2009

Wool-E-Bull



Kiwanian Sammy Gilmore was lucky enough to get a photo with Wool-E-Bull when the Seven Lakes Kiwanis took a field trip to see a Durham Bulls game.

Neighborhood Watch wins blessing of Westside Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Seven Lakes West is on its way to having a Neighborhood Watch program. The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors approved, during its Tuesday, August 11 Work Session, the use of a Neighborhood Watch manual endorsed by the National Sheriffs' Association as the guidebook for implementing the program.

A copy of the guidelines is

available on the SLWLA Website.

They also approved Standard Operating Procedures designed to make sure that Neighborhood

attempt to take on functions better left to law enforcement. The Board also decided that any Neighborhood Watch patrols will be conducted using the Association's new red pickup truck rather than private vehicles.

But Safety and Security Director John Hoffmann's request that the Board adopt the

National Sheriff's Association standards initially ran into some (See "Westside," p. 27)

West Side Landowners Meeting

8/11

Watch patrol members function only as observers and reporters of suspicious behavior and do not

Favorite emerges among management companies

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

One community management company has emerged as the clear favorite among Seven

Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Directors, announced Director Kent Droppers during the Monday, August 10, Work Session. Droppers did not, however share the name of the favored company with the landowners or press attending the Work Session.

As part of their effort to replace Community Manager Dalton Fulcher, who will retire at the end of the year, Board members have met with representatives of three companies and Droppers had asked each director to rank the companies in order of preference.

Though the favorite was clear after those interviews, Droppers recommended that both the first and second -- and, possibly, even the third -- choices should

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

8/10

County lowers building fee

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

In one of their briefest regular meetings on record, The Moore County Board of Commissioners on Monday night, August 17, cut the cost of building permits, approved minor changes to the county's Zoning Ordinance, and appointed members to two committees.

The price of a building permit jumped fifty cents on July 1, rising from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per \$1,000 of construction cost. The county also changed the way it figures construction costs, moving from an estimate of \$60 per square foot to \$70 per square foot. The increases were approved as part of the complex county budget for Fiscal Year

2009-2010 and attracted little notice or comment during budget work sessions.

That still left the County's fees well under the national standard, which estimates residential construction costs at \$101.95 per square foot and then charges \$4.50 per thousand for the permit.

(See "Commissioners" p. 24)

The Times, PO Box 468, West End, NC 27376
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The 7 Lakes EMS Telephone Book: Explained

by Chief Bob Hann
Seven Lakes EMS

It is time to update the Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Book.

Here are the frequently asked questions about the telephone book:

1. Isn't this done automatically when I move into Seven Lakes?
A. No, very little happens automatically in life.

2. How do I get my name listed in the telephone book?

A. Go to your Landowner's Office (N/S or West). There is a little box on the table with forms to fill out and leave in the box.

3. When can I submit my name, etc.?

A. During normal working hours at the Landowner's Office between September 1

and December 1.

4. I only have a cell phone or digital phone. Should I be listed?

A. Yes, individual cell phones and cable based digital phones are encouraged.

5. I am a renter. Should I be listed in the telephone book?

A. By all means! Renters are a part of this community and the friends that you find here

will be able to get in touch with you.

6. When is the telephone book published?

A. Annually at the end of January.

7. How much does it cost?

A. \$6.00 per copy.

8. I have a business and I would like to advertise in the telephone book. How do I do this?

A. Contact EMS Chief Robert Haan at 910-673-8001.

is necessary.

People who have used the telephone book for a few years find it useful because it includes both your mailing and physical address along with your telephone number.

It also includes a listing of government, utility and other important telephone numbers. It has an advertising section which is very useful in helping you to "buy local" and support your local merchants.

Over the years, the Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Book has been an instrument that helps to make Seven Lakes the friendly community that it is.

In summary, your participation in this project is totally voluntary. However, in order for the telephone book to be successful, maximum participation from the residents of Seven Lakes

Scout lodge burns down

The not yet finished lodge of West End Scout Troop 98 burned to the ground just after midnight Monday night.

Scoutmaster Steve Schrodtt told *The Times* that the insulation had been installed in the walls and ceilings of the approximately 4,000 square foot building, which was a project of West End United Methodist Church.

The church was building the lodge for use by Boy Scout Troops 98, Cub Scout Pack 98,

and local Girl Scout and church groups.

"The only thing left standing is the chimney," Cal Loy of the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department told *The Times*. Loy said the structure was "fully involved" when the Seven lakes squad arrived a few minutes after getting the call at 12:09 am.

Erik Stromberg of West End Fire and Rescue told *The Times*, that in addition to Seven Lakes and West End, firefighters from Eagle Springs, Carthage, and Robbins responded to the call, as did Moore County and Seven Lake EMS.

The Times was unable to reach representatives of the Moore County Fire Marshal's office to obtain further details on the units responding or the Fire Marshal's investigation.

Schrodtt told *The Times* that

the Fire Marshal; State Bureau of Investigation; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agents; and insurance investigators were on the scene Wednesday attempting to determine the cause of the blaze. A dog trained to sniff out accelerants was part of that investigation.

Individuals and groups interested in contributing to the building fund for the lodge may contact West End United Methodist Church at 910-673-1371.

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 888-806-2572, or e-mailed to mail@seven-lakestimes.net.


Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

| Issue | Deadline |
|------------|------------|
| Sept. 4 | August 28 |
| Sept. 18 | Sept. 11 |
| October 2 | Sept. 25 |
| October 16 | October 9 |
| October 30 | October 23 |
| Nov. 13 | Nov. 6 |
| Nov. 24* | Nov. 19* |
| Dec. 11 | Dec. 4 |
| Dec. 22* | Dec. 17* |

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Kinney, 7 Lakes Civic Group, plan transition

by Dave Kinney
Seven Lakes

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

— Ecclesiastes 3: 1,2

Flashback To Yesteryear

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association, and later the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, were established to take over from the developers responsibility for managing the affairs of our gated communities. The Business Guild was also established. By and large, their boards of directors have been effective. As with most, if not all, such boards, some have been more effective than others because of the complexity of the issues they faced, the controversial nature of a particular issue, and, in part, because of the make-up of a given board at the time.

Early in the 1990s, the prospect of large hog farms very close by became a real concern. The threat was removed largely due to the efforts of Dennis Roberts with a petition signed by hundreds of residents, which he sent to our legislative representatives. It proved to be an awakening to the few who saw it as a lesson learned: that Seven Lakes is not an island unto itself, that emerging issues and events "beyond the gates" do, affect — positively or negatively — life "within the gates."

Filling The Void

The same few saw a critical void. They recognized there was a lack of attention (certainly a low priority) to issues and events beyond the gates, to external matters.

In 1997, a small group of far-sighted residents and business people formed the Seven Lakes Civic Group. Among the founders were Jimmy Carpenter, Becky Gilmore, Chuck Levinger, and the first president, Paul Parks. More often than not — but especially in recent years — our board has included members of the landowners and Business Guild boards.

The Civic Group is, and always has been, focused on external

matters with but one overarching goal: to favorably influence outcomes of issues and opportunities arising beyond the gates that could impact any of the many facets of what is generally referred to as the "quality of life" for our residents and business owners. It has been our policy not to interfere in internal matters.

To achieve our goal, it has been critically important that the decision-makers — the county commissioners, County Manager, Planning and Community Development, Public Utilities and NCDOT — understand that

the Seven Lakes community is far larger than eight of the county's eleven municipalities and that we represent a significant voting bloc. I believe we have, over time, established a good relationship with these decision-makers. We keep abreast of what is happening or could happen in Moore County.

As opportunities have been identified, we volunteer to participate in county initiatives such as the County-wide Transportation Committee (roads), the first Small Area Plan (Area "A"), the Summit on Alternative Sources

of Revenue, and the current Water Supply & Wastewater Treatment Summit.

Civic Group efforts have included working (albeit unsuccessfully) to have the new West End Post Office located in Seven Lakes, with NCDOT on the traffic signals at Love Grove Road (school children safety), at the NC 211/Seven Lakes Drive/Lake-way Drive intersection (safety, convenience), and with the Business Guild to turn over the village roads to NCDOT. And these are just a few of the more visible efforts among many through the

years on behalf of the community.

Over the past eighteen months or so, increasing the community's water supply has been the Civic Group's Number One priority. As you may recall, the McGill report of November 2007 singled out our potable water supply as the most immediate County need. Increasing the volume of the supply and simultaneously eliminating the risk to our supply, with its single supply line and two-pump booster station, are significant concerns.

(See "Civic Group," p. 23)

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Woodland Circle project falls behind schedule

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Construction work on the Woodland Circle Extension project has fallen fifteen days behind schedule, reported Tom Collins at the Foxfire Village Council meeting on Tuesday, August 11. The problem was a delayed delivery of culvert crossing materials necessary for the wetlands areas.

Ninety percent of the storm culvert is already installed and Collins said the contractor believes he can pick up the schedule once the materials arrive on August 15. "I will hold back on final discussions until we find out how he responds after receiving the culverts," Collins said. "I am keeping a close eye on it."

He also reported the Village received an inspection report from the Department of Environmental Water Quality noting "slight damage" caused by sediment entering the natural water course at several crossings.

Collins refuted the report and said that no citation was issued.

"The contractor has done a great job in protecting the wetlands. Not a drop of silt has gotten in to the wetlands and there are erosion devices in place," Collins said.

Mayor Erickson reports health concern

In August, Mayor George Erickson underwent successful cornea transplant surgery: that was the good news.

"Tests I took in June confirm that I have breast cancer," Erickson said.

Erickson said he will undergo surgery and a six-week recuperation period and does not intend to resign.

"By sharing this publicly, I want to raise awareness of the disease. There is a misconception to view breast cancer as just a women's health problem," he said.

"We as a society can not give up in our efforts to find ways to cure cancer."

High Water Reading

An excessively high water bill and meter reading prompted a complaint from a Village resident, reported Councilman Ed Lauer.

The meter in question jumped from a normal reading level of 4,000 to 6,000 gallons a month to 64,000.

"The Village has done everything possible to find what may have caused this. We have tested the meter, spoken with the metering company, and will be meeting with them tomorrow," Lauer said. "All we know is the meter registered that amount of water was passed through."

After discussion of whether air pressure or the Woodland Circle Extension project could be to blame for the high reading, Collins recommended that no changes be made to the meter

until the contractor resumes work.

"Monitor it for three days. If the meter is screwed up, it'll happen again," said Collins.

If there was a leak rather than construction causing the problem, a loss of that much water would be visible argued Collins.

Lauer asked Dick Christman to carefully monitor the meter for appropriate levels the next time water is used on the Woodland Circle construction site. Per contract, Foxfire provides water needed for compacting the soil at a cost \$6 per 2,000 gallon load.

Finance

Property tax bills are complete and will be mailed within the week, reported Finance Officer Leslie Frusco. However, unpaid property taxes for the last fiscal year total \$21,000 with the majority delinquent from one property owner.

"Negotiations have been very successful and I have every rea-

son to believe the balance will be paid by end of September," Frusco said. "This will leave a balance of \$422 in unpaid taxes."

The General Fund was reported at \$392,250 with \$22,000 in Stonehill Pines consulting funds and \$27,000 in Powell Bill funds. The Water Fund stands at \$225,396 plus \$135,194 held in (See "Foxfire," p. 20)



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Improved scores at 19 of 22 Moore schools

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Nineteen of the twenty-two Moore County Schools improved academic performance during the 2008-2009 year — including West End Elementary, which regained classification as a 'School of Distinction.'

Based on Academic Yearly Progress [AYP] testing conducted each Spring, Academy Heights Elementary and West Pine Middle School climbed to the highest level, obtaining 'Honors School of Excellence' proficiency, reported Drew Maerz, Director of Testing and Assessment, at the Board of Education monthly meeting on Monday, August 10.

Budget Update

Moore schools will operate under a \$3 million deficit in state funding this year including a \$1.9 million reduction couched in discretionary funding, said Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser.

"Based on what we can determine, we will look to allocate additional teaching positions to the schools," Purser said.

In addition, Federal stimulus funding will allow the county to hire additional teacher assistants for a two-year period.

Mike Griffin, Chief Finance Officer, reported that \$2,093,418 in stimulus funds received last year was deferred for use in the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

Flu Plan

Moore County health officials are preparing for a flu season comparable to the 1957 epidemic with 70,000 expected flu deaths nationwide, announced Deputy Superintendent Dr. Larry Upchurch.

"Working with the Health Department, we are preparing handouts for parents to understand the symptoms of flu. If a child comes to school with a fever they will be sent home,"

Upchurch said. "We want sick kids at home and well kids at school — only with parents help can we do this."

The H1N1 Swine flu vaccine will be available in mid-October or early-November and will be prioritized [in descending order] to pregnant women, caregivers of children under six months of age, healthcare workers, children between six months and twenty-four years, and adults between nineteen and sixty-four years with chronic diseases.

National Exemplary School Safety Award

Moore County Schools Special Police — better known as School Resource Officers — were one of ten police agencies nationwide

and the only one in North Carolina recently honored with the National Exemplary School Safety Award by the School Safety Advocacy Council.

Agencies were evaluated for training provided to schools for

crisis management, use of technology, background and experience of officers, interaction of officers with students, collaboration with the community, and other areas vital to student, staff, and school safety.

EMS Phone Book update

It is time to update the Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Book. This is voluntary on your part.

If you are not listed in the telephone book, please go to the Seven Lakes North/South Landowner's Office or the Seven Lakes West Landowner's Office and fill out a ticket which they have on their display

table. All changes need to be received by December 1, 2009.

In order for the telephone book to be successful, maximum participation from the residents of Seven Lakes is necessary.

Please help and make sure your information is correct!



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Planning Board zones Robbins Friendly Mart

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Calling discussion of beer sales “a moot point,” Moore County Planning Director Joey Raczkowski recommended approval of a staff request to rezone the Robbins Friendly Mart as Rural Business District. “The ABC [Alcohol Beverage Control Commission] permit has been approved and is simply waiting for zoning approval,” Raczkowski said.

Robbins Friendly Mart, a gas and convenience store located on a 1.48 tract at the corner of Hwy 705 at Rt. 24/27, was located within the corporate limits of the Town of Robbins when county-wide zoning was adopted in 1999. In July, the NC General Assembly ratified Senate Bill 215 that de-annexed the property – essentially leaving it ‘unzoned.’

Responding to an adjacent business owner’s question, County Planner Tim Garner said all other area properties and businesses would remain within the satellite corporate limits of Robbins.

On a motion by Member Dave Kinney, the application was unan-

imously approved during the Moore County Planning Board meeting on Thursday, August 6.

Wireless Communications Facilities

Minimal but significant changes are in the works for the Moore County Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance, reported Raczkowski.

In January 2009, Atlantic Technology Consultants was hired to review the existing ordinance and to make recommendations concerning the location and height of future towers and to create a format that will assist staff in tracking changes, FCC regulations, and planning for future growth.

The consultant determined that thirteen specific areas within the county have incomplete coverage with the existing wireless infrastructure. However, they anticipate most future needs can be met through the use of co-locations. By sharing space on existing towers, co-location would also reduce the need for new, free-standing towers, explained Raczkowski.

As proposed by Atlantic, the

maximum allowable height for non-concealed, new towers in Rural Agricultural and Rural Business Districts is 195 feet – five feet below the requirement for aviation safety lights. The height limitation of 150 feet will remain for all other zoning districts.

The proposed maximum allowable height for concealed towers is 80 feet. Concealed towers are permitted within all zoning districts

and can not visually impact the area. Examples included wireless towers hidden within a church steeple, water tower, or artificial pine tree.

Other Business

In August, the Moore County Planning Board also:

Approved a conditional use permit request for an accessory dwelling unit on a five acre tract

in Vass zoned Rural Equestrian [RE]. The proposed location met all setback and lot size requirements.

Approved text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to allow accessory buildings, including detached garages, to be located in the front, side, or rear of the primary residence provided setback requirements are met.

Communities in Schools Fundraisers

Communities in Schools is holding its annual major fundraiser in August. There are 3 fun events tied to this fundraiser.

Wednesday August 26 – “Meet the Beast” Cocktail Party Fundraiser from 5 - 7 pm at the home of Allan and Lesley Bradley – Chattan House, 3 Maples Lane, Pinehurst. Elliott’s on Linden will be providing the hors d’oeuvres and wine. Sean “The Beast” Fister will be joining this event, along with community leaders who will be speaking about the importance of mentoring.

Music will be provided by The Rooster’s Wife. 100-125 people are expected to attend the cocktail party. The cost is \$50 per person.

Thursday August 27 – ‘Fore’ Kids Sake Golf Tournament with celebrity long drive world champion Sean “The Beast” Fister – 9 am.

Shotgun start at Pinehurst No. 8 followed by a long drive event on the 17th hole of No. 8 after the tournament concludes. Cost is \$200 per player and includes lunch, player gift pack, tournament round, awards reception and prizes. Sponsor packages are also available.

Thursday August 27 – ‘Fore’ Kids Sake “Beast Ball” Raffle Long Drive Event featuring National Long Drive Champion Sean “The Beast” Fister. 500 Golf Balls will be sold for \$20 each, 25 balls will be randomly selected and “The Beast” will drive the balls down hole #17 at Pinehurst No. 8 at 2 pm. The top 3 drives will fabulous prizes! The public is invited to watch “The Beast” Ball Drive at 2 pm.

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In memory of . . .

Freda E. Zwart, 88 of Seven Lakes, formally of Middletown, NY died at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Saturday, August 15.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 21, at 11 am at the Harmony Baptist Church with the Rev. Mason Whitley officiating. A reception at Circleville Presbyterian Church will immediately follow the service. Burial will be private family only at a later date in Circleville Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Circleville, NY.

Mrs. Zwart was the daughter of the the Melvin Travis and Laura Christiana.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard R. Zwart, Jr.; a granddaughter, Jacqueline Susan Zwart; and a great-granddaughter Tabitha Hope Zwart.

Survivors include three sons, Donald Zwart of Middletown, NY; Kenneth Zwart of Winchester, CT; and Ronald Zwart of Seven Lakes; two daughters, Betty Rose of Clayton, NY and Joan Van DerMeulen of Seven Lakes; a sister, Doris Hoyt of Middletown, NY; eleven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to: Harmony Baptist Church, Rt 211 East, Middletown, NY 10940.

Family served by Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes.

John Andrew Greenfield, 43, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, August 15, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Greenfield Greenfield was born in Yonkers, NY, and the son of John Charles Greenfield and Veronica Maleska Greenfield.

Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday August 19, at Our Lady of The Americas Catholic Church in Candor. The Rev. Ricardo Sanchez officiated. Rite

of Committal will be at a later date.

Mr. Greenfield is survived by his parents John and Veronica Greenfield of Seven Lakes, three sisters, Theresa O'Gorman of Seven Lakes, Judith O'Rourke of Altamont, NY; Jean Bourque of Voorheesville, NY.

Memorials can be made to the Monarch Vocational Workshop at 214 North Elm St. Asheboro, NC 27205 or Kingswood Nursing Facility at 915 Pee Dee Road Aberdeen, NC 28315.

Family served by Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes.

Dudley Ely Rowland, Jr., 77 of Rome, NY and Seven Lakes, died Friday, August 14 at Rome hospital from complications of a stroke.

Mr. Rowland, known as Gig, was born in Rome, NY, the son of the late Dudley Ely Rowland and Hazel Wiggins Rowland. He graduated from Colgate University in 1953, served in the US Army before joining the James W. Packer Insurance Agency, which later became Rowland, Bellinger and Comstock Agency and is now Brown & Brown Insurance.

Mr. Rowland was involved in civic activities in many organizations. He was president of the Rome YMCA and led a merger with the Community Center and the YMCA forming the Rome Family Y.

He was also past president of the Rome Rotary Club, past president of the Rome Club, past commodore of the Lake Delta Yacht Club and was a member of the Lake Delta Yacht Club, Teugaga Country Club, and the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 21 at the Zion Episcopal Church, Rome, NY.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Yarcy Rowland.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Ginny; daughters Kim Rowland Trepiak of Rome; Leslie Rowland of Clinton, NY; sons Dudley (Dusty) E. Rowland III of

Seattle, WA; Bradley J. Rowland of Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, WA; seven grandchildren and also three great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rome Family Y

in Rome, NY or the Rescue Mission of Rome.

Arrangements by Strong and Burns Funeral Home, Rome, NY.

(Continued on page 8)



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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Lucille Boyce Saunders, 73 of West End died on Saturday, August 8, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

She was a native of Moore County, the daughter of the late Thomas A. Gibson and Bertha Saunders Gibson. She was a member of Middle Cross Baptist Church of West End. She had retired from J.P. Stevens in Aberdeen.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 12 at Middle Cross Baptist Church in West End. The Rev. David Reynolds and Rev. Robbie Gibson officiated. Burial followed at West End Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by three sisters: Vera Gibson, Mary Sineath, and Betty Gibson and one brother, Nathaniel Lowell Gibson.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, William Herbert Saunders of West End; a son, Herbert Farrell Saunders of West End; a brother, Thomas Gibson of West End; three sisters: Edna Dunn, and Hazel Saunders both of West End; and Brenda Ritter of Jackson Springs and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Middle Cross Baptist Church, 440 Lucas Rd., West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

J. Joseph Mikula, known to his friends as Jay, died August 6 at the age of 82.

Mr. Mikula died at his home, from pancreatic cancer. A Memorial Mass was held at Our Lady

of the Americas on Tuesday, August 11.

He was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He attended Cornell University and graduated from Rutgers College. He was a veteran of the US Armed Forces, serving as an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers, from 1945-1947.

He retired as Vice President in Marketing & Sales Promotion from The Equitable Life Assurance Company, NYC, was a Certified Life Underwriter and an adjunct professor at The American College of Life Underwriters, where he taught Economics & Accounting.

He was active in his local community, a member of both the Planning and Zoning boards of Middletown, New Jersey, the town in which he raised his fam-

ily. In 1988, he and wife, Betsy moved to Seven Lakes. He was a member of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Board, serving as President from 1993-1994, Chairman of the Architectural Review Board, a member of the Legal Committee and an active Member of Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church. Jay and Betsy were happily married for fifty-eight years.

He is survived by his wife and best friend, Betsy; his sister, Martha; six children: Richard, Douglas, David, Jay, Betsy and Susan; and thirteen grandchildren. Memorial donations be made to Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church at 298 Farmers Market Rd Biscoe, NC 27209-9782.

Walter H. Francis, 89, of Galloway Ridge, Fearington, NC and formerly of Seven Lakes died on August 5, after a long illness.

He was born in Jersey City, NJ and spent his childhood in Bloomfield, NJ. He served in the US Navy during WW II and at the close of the war he returned to New York to attend New York University to earn a degree in business administration. He worked at American

Telephone and Telegraph for thirty-four years.

When he retired, Mr. Francis and his wife, Eleanore moved to Seven Lakes and lived there for twenty-four years.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanore; brother, Edward Francis of Peabody, MA; sister, Doris Gerber of Columbus, MS; son, Philip Francis of Ridgeway, NJ; and daughter, Beverly of Metuchen, NJ.

No local services are planned.


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Feeling Good is the Fun of It!

'The Olde Boarding House' opens Saturday

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Harriet Wicker is the Sandhills' undisputed Queen of Junk. And her domain is about to get quite a bit larger.

The center of Wicker's shabby chic queendom is Medleyanna's, her shop on NC Highway 211 in West End, just past the stoplight, if you're coming from Seven Lakes. The 2,800 square foot building is stuffed to the gills with vintage and reproduction furniture and furnishings, linens and quilts, candles and primitives, and all manner of . . . well . . . junk. Needful junk.

And now that little shop is about to get a great big brother, when, on Saturday, August 22, Wicker hosts a Grand Opening — and First Annual Tomato Sandwich Day — at "The Olde Boarding House," a Medleyanna's annex housed in an enormous white structure located just back of the shop.

Wicker told *The Times* that the big old house, which dates to roughly 1900, was in fact West End's boarding house, and originally sat on the corner of NC 211 and NC 73, until it was rolled back off its foundation to make room for another business. Freshly painted and spruced up, it will add another 4,000 square feet of showroom, storage, and learning space to Medleyanna's.

"Learning space" because Wicker plans to host a variety of classes and workshops aimed at

her fellow "junkers." Plans include workshops on fall perennials, container gardening, stenciling, floor cloths, butterfly gardens, distressing furniture, and mosaic tile bowling balls.

Like any respectable boarding house, The Olde Boarding House boasts a great big front porch, and Wicker has plans for that space as well, including a free

Saturday night concert series throughout September featuring bluegrass and traditional music. Local favorites "The April Fools" are already scheduled for Saturday, September 26.

Also in the works are several contests that will offer customers a chance to show off their creativity. "I Bought it at Medleyanna's," has customers send

in photos of their decorating feats using items purchased at the shop. Wicker is now cooking up "Show Me Your Bottle Tree," and "Why I Need to Go Junkin'" The prize for the latter is a trip for two accompanying Wicker to the massive antique market in Liberty, NC.


Queen Harriet and her able Prince Consort, husband Jerry

Wicker, clearly enjoy the "junk" business, scouring the surrounding counties for auctions and estate sales, often buying the entire contents of a home in a private sale. But these "professional junkers," as Harriet puts it, are in it for more than the fun.

"We believe in using the good up in everything," Wicker told (See "Boarding House," p. 15)




Harriet Wicker will soon offer customers even more junk! At The Olde Boarding House



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Local group plans to have national impact

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

It was the health care debate that got Pinehurst resident John Skvarla thinking about what's wrong with Washington, DC.

It's not the current health care debate — but the one back in the Clinton Administration — that showed Skvarla how entrenched Senators and Congressman become beholden to special interests and, instead of governing well, spent their time and efforts on getting themselves re-elected, so they can continue to enjoy the rewards and trappings of power.

Skvarla's solution was simple, and not particularly original: term limits. Plenty of folks have been working for decades to try to pressure legislators to pass term limit laws that would throw those very same legislators out of office after a few years. Not surprisingly, it's a tough sell.

Then, a few months ago, Skvarla hit on a novel idea. That idea has spawned a fledgling non-profit with big ambitions: to return to the Jeffersonian ideal

of the citizen legislator, by persuading candidates to pledge voluntarily limit their terms and asking them to secure that pledge with a bond that represents a substantial chunk of their net worth.



John E. Skvarla

"Bonded Term Limits" is shorthand for the idea, and the Alliance for Bonded Term Limits is the non-profit that Skvarla and fellow Pinehurstian Walter Bull have set up to further the

cause.

To understand their passion for the idea, we need to rewind the clock a bit, to 1994.

Fighting HillaryCare

Skvarla, an attorney by training, is currently CEO of Restoration Systems, LLC, a company that does environmental restoration and mitigation projects throughout the Southeast, restoring steams and wetlands. But in the early 1990s he was building a chain of physical therapy centers in the Carolinas and Virginia. So, he was deeply involved in health care just at the point that President Bill Clinton attempted to overhaul the US health care system in an effort led by First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Looking at the proposed legislation, Skvarla felt the approach was completely wrongheaded. In a "fit of pique" he wrote a book critical of the plan called "The People's Prescription for What Really Ails America's Health Care System." The book was published and led to appearances on more than 350 radio

and TV talk shows. That in turn lead to calls from Senators and Representatives.

Because such elected officials don't place their own phone calls, Skvarla wound up talking with Capitol Hill staffers while waiting for the lawmakers to come to the phone. He discovered that most of the staffers had worked on the Hill for fifteen or twenty years, working with Senators and House members, both Democrat and Republican.

Skvarla told *The Times*, "I asked them, 'In your 15-20 years, have you ever seen or observed, a starry-eyed young world-beater elected to Congress?' Most had seen dozens of them."

The next question was a showstopper: "How long does it take that starry-eyed young world-beater to look at the hundred-foot Rotunda, the forty-foot marble columns, the mahogany desks, the paintings on the walls, the antique Oriental carpets, the plush pile carpet on the floor, the four-inch mahogany doors — how long does it take that star-

ry-eyed young world beater to realize they will do and say anything to stay in this place forever, because the trappings of this power are so much more grandious than anything they ever imagined it could be?"

"The initial reaction was chuckle followed by a dead silence," Skvarla said. After the silence, about eighty percent of the Capitol Hill staffers said it took about two weeks.

"They get up there and in two weeks have become so imbibed with the grandeur of the Palace of Versailles that they will do and say anything to stay there forever," Skvarla told *The Times*. The result is policies and legislation designed to placate various constituencies and special interest groups.

"The reality, if you step back, is that there are common sense solutions to all of these challenges facing the country. There are easily solutions to these things. We could make two or three adjustments to the tax code to make the purchase of

(See "Term Limits," p. 19)

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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 31 Split Pea with Ham Soup Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥ | 1 Gazpacho ♥ Chicken Marsala Dinner ♥ | 2 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Vegetable Manicotti Dinner ♥ | 3 Mushroom Bisque ♥ Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥ | 4 CLOSED |
| 7 CLOSED | 8 Asparagus Vichyssoise ♥ Chicken Pot Pie Dinner | 9 Goldie's Chili Eggplant Parmesan Dinner | 10 Vegetable Soup ♥ Bourbon Salmon Dinner ♥ | 11 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Stroganoff Dinner |
| 14 Chicken Corn Chowder Salisbury Steak Dinner | 15 Split Pea with Ham Soup Chicken Enchiladas Dinner ♥ | 16 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Pot Roast Dinner | 17 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner | 18 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Chicken Paprikash Dinner |
| 21 Lentil Soup Bombay Shrimp Curry Dinner | 22 Mexican Meatball Soup ♥ Chicken Divan Dinner | 23 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner | 24 Chicken Dumpling Soup Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner | 25 New England Clam Chowder Pork with Apples Dinner |
| 28 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Shepherd's Pie Dinner | 29 Creamy Chicken Vegetable Soup ♥ Chicken Parmesan Dinner | 30 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner | Many Other Menu Selections Available! Monday – Friday 11:00 am – 6:30 pm We are happy to accept your cash or check for payment. | |

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Jim Dodson kicks off WSL Season

Join local author Jim Dodson for an entertaining afternoon of golf stories and lessons in life on Thursday, September 3 at 2:00 pm at West Side Park Community Center. Dodson will discuss his most recent book, "A Son of the Game," at the Women of Seven Lakes Fall kick-off meeting and everyone is invited – men too!

The Women of Seven Lakes will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary this year with this and many other fresh, new programs.

In October, the Women welcome Moore County Planning Chair Nancy Roy Fiorillo for an up-to-date report on growth and development in this section of the county and also some unique insights into the game of Bridge.

As a co-founder of the Sandhills Bridge Studio and an instructor on cruise ships, Fiorillo has plenty of tall tales and fun stories to share.

Come see what we are all about! Visitors and guests are always welcome for meetings and events. For more information, please call President Laura Douglass at 673-1817 or VP Membership Betty Parker at 673-1959.

Kiwanians meet Dr. Renée Cowan



Dr. Renée Cowan

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis hosted a talk by Dr. Renée Cowan of the Seven Lakes Chiropractic Clinic on Tuesday, August 11.

Dr. Cowan is new to Seven Lakes after practicing in Colorado and Southern Pines for the last several years. She is a qualified Chiropractor and Kinesthiologist, having also worked as a massage therapist for ten years.

She made two major points, and built her talk around them:

1. Your quality of life is based on being able to move.
2. An important part being able to move well is to be able to

manipulate the 639 muscles and 206 bones in our bodies to ensure that one's movement is of A-one quality.

She explained how Chiropractic medicine, combined with several other practices, some utilizing special equipment that she has available, can be very helpful in relieving pain and assisting people to be able to move more effectively.

Her services are covered by Medicare and she currently has room for new patients.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors are always welcome.

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Futbol club teaches soccer to younger set

Sandhills Futbol Club (SFC) is ready to start their soccer season in Seven Lakes. Using the academy style training program that is proven highly successful world wide, SFC will be teaching

the youth of Seven Lakes with their qualified staff.

Beginning Saturday, September 12 at 9:00 am the 4 and 5 year olds will step onto the pitch and begin their first training ses-

sion followed by the 5 and 6 year olds at 10:15 am.

Sandhills Futbol Club will train 8 and 9 year olds at Pinecrest High School two days a week in the Advanced Development Program, ADP, and will play their matches on Saturdays in Seven Lakes at 11:30 am.

During the six weeks of training, Sandhills Futbol Club will coach each session using upper level soccer players who have all played at the college level or above. Each is a veteran coach, trained extensively in the academy style. SFC coaches use a standard curriculum and adhere to a progression of soccer, edu-

cation, building on basic skills so that the foundations of soccer become natural behavior to each player.

Each session will begin with a SFC Head Instructor teaching the basic moves: dribbling, passing, and the fundamentals of the game. Halfway through the session the players will be divided up into small sided teams for games. Each week the players will be able to experience the challenges of the game of soccer with different players.

Sandhills Futbol Club recognizes the importance of recreational soccer but also understands the need to teach the

foundations of soccer properly. This soccer training allows SFC to teach the foundations of soccer while getting kids fit and having fun.

Please visit the Sandhills Futbol Club web site: www.sandhillsfc.com for registration forms. SFC has recreation programming for 4 to 7 year olds and an Advanced Development Program for 8 and 9 year olds.

Registration forms can also be found in the Seven Lakes mail houses and in a variety of Seven Lakes businesses including The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe.



On the ball — A young futboler enjoys learning the game



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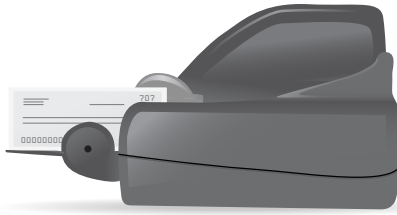
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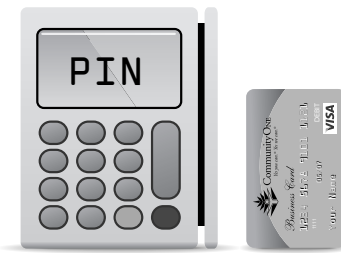
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Ptaks renew vows



The Ptak Family welcomes you to rejoice with them in their recent renewal of their marriage vows, celebrating 27 years together.

Mike and Shirley Ptak renewed their vows in North Myrtle Beach on Sunday, August 2, with friends and family. It is the beginning of a new marriage for them, not just renewing commitments. In the journey of enjoying the smooth times and overcoming the rough times of life, each keeping their eyes on God has been key to pressing through trials together. Though storms may come, they do end, and joy comes in the morning.

Mike and Shirley are the owners of Bright Meadow Christian Preschool and Kool Kids After School Care & Summer Camp in Seven Lakes.

WSL needs handy volunteers

Women volunteers are needed to assist with a Habitat for Humanity 'Women Build' home in Carthage this Fall. To help raise funds for this worthy project the Women of Seven Lakes are sponsoring a half-day work session on Saturday, October 10 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Fifteen to thirty volunteers are needed. You do not need any

construction experience or special tools to be involved, just a willingness to work to give this family the support and opportunity to have a home that otherwise would not be possible. Only through your efforts can this dream be a reality for this family. Lunch will be provided by Panera Bread and there is no cost to volunteer.

If you would like to participate, please email Rosemary Weber at rweber129@gmail.com as soon as possible.

If you would like to provide a financial contribution or volunteer in another capacity with Habitat for Humanity of North Carolina Sandhills, please visit www.habitat.org or call 295-1934.



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Weymouth photo exhibit opens Sunday

An exhibit of photographs taken at Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities, its interiors, gardens, and meadows opens Sunday, August 30 with a reception, from 3 - 5 pm, in the St. Andrews Room.

The exhibit will have more than 26 photos taken by 20 members of the Sandhills Photography Club. "Weymouth through the Lens" gives a birdseye view of the former James and Katharine Boyd home that

is the heart of Southern Pines' history and culture.

"Members of the Sandhills Photography Club who took these photographs went out to Weymouth for a 'scavenger hunt' in search of specific subject

matter," said Betty Hendrix, a spokeswoman for the club. "Members did lots of searching and shooting during the past couple of months and some of them met at Sandhills Community College to review and critique

what they had found," she said.

The photography exhibit is open through October, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 2 pm, at 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. For information, call (910) 692-6261.

Boarding house

(Continued from page 9)

The Times. "We don't throw anything away."

"There is history in this junk," she continued. "And if we don't use it and keep it out of the landfills, our kids will wind up paying for it."

It was 1997 when Wicker first turned that philosophy into a business, opening Medleyanna's in a small outbuilding behind her home on Doubs Chapel Road.

In 2001, seeking more customers, she rented a ten-by-ten space in her current building in West End. A year later, she expanded to fill half of the shop. In 2007, Medleyanna's grew

again to fill the entire building.

Now seven-to-ten truckloads of merchandise move through the building every week, and Medleyanna's draws customers — including other dealers — from all over the Southeast.

"I knew we were on a roll when husbands started coming in and asking for gift certificates for their wives," Wicker told *The Times*. "Husbands hate me," she jokes. "They don't want to turn me loose with their wives!"

Wicker's own husband, Jerry, is an integral part of the Medleyanna's operation and, as Harriet likes to say, they are happy to "exploit" their grandchildren. The Shop is named for two grand-

daughters: Medley and Andiana. They sell Andianna's Friend Pottery, Mason's Plain Jar Candles, and Riley's Soaps; and the shop boasts an "Allie Belle's Room."

Other folks who have played a key role in the development of The Olde Boarding House include jack-of-all-trades Junior Sheffield and well-known muralists and furniture painters Jeanie and Roger Stevenson.

The Olde Boarding House Opens this Saturday, August 22, with the First Annual Tomato Sandwich Day celebration from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. "Come on out and have a free tomato sandwich with iced tea!" Wicker said.

Medleyanna's and The Olde Boarding House are located on NC Highway 211 in West End, near the traffic light at the intersection with NC Highway 73. The shop is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 1:00 pm to

4:00 pm; Thursday and Friday 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Saturday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; and most Sundays. The phone number is 673-JUNK (5865).

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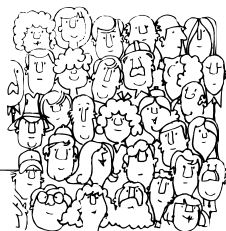
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED** – 8 am - 1:30 pm, Certification fee \$55. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Southern Pines..
- **Sustainable Agriculture** – A series of field trips presented by Moore County Cooperative Extension. Visit the Carboro Farmers' Market and experience the potential of a vibrant, diverse farmers' market. For fee and time, call Extension office 947-3188.
- **Planning For Your Pets/Animals In A Disaster** – 2 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College, the County Animal Response Team (CART) will host an invaluable event for those owning or caring for pets and/or domesticated animals in Moore County. Free showing of award-winning documentary, "Katrina Tails" will be followed by a presentation and discussion about Moore County's newly revised Animal Response Plan. 910-947-2858 for more details.
- **Pinestock Music Festival** – 5 - 9 pm. One-day benefit concert on empty lot behind Southern Pines Post Office, corner of Bennett St. and New York Ave., Bring blankets or chairs to sit on. Beverages & food available to purchase. Concert free, a donation to the Boys and Girls Club encouraged.
- **Beach Party Seven Lakes Country Club** – Everyone is invited! Cocktails in paradise at 5:30 pm, at 6:30 pm a delicious buffet. Dancing and entertainment at 7:00 pm. Chad Sain providing the music. Member pricing, including tip, tax and entertainment is \$24, non-members \$29. Cash Bar.

Reservations 673-1100. Casual and cool dress is recommended. Hosts Bud & Edie Darragh & Ray & Donna McClung.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- **After The Fire** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve. It may be hot, but there are some very cool things to see especially in areas that



What's When Calendar

have been recently burned. Learn firsthand the crucial role fire plays in maintaining the longleaf pine forest. Hike. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, binoculars, water. Meet at the park office. 910-692-2167.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Wildlife biologist and photographer Brady Beck presentation on his recent trip to Delaware Bay, to discuss the

shorebird species, the red knot, and horseshoe crabs abound. Visitors welcome! Call 910-692-2167.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis** – Noon at Seven Lakes Country Club.
- **Join the Band** – 3:30 pm, at the Senior Enrichment Center. Fill your life with music, new friends, fun, and accomplishment. Anyone can learn to play music at a level that will bring a sense of accomplishment and ability to perform in a new group. Organizational

meeting for those interested in being a member. 910-215-0900 or call 673-1381 or 673-4099 or 673-1462.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- **Play for Pink** – 8:30 am Shotgun start, Pink Ribbon Day Golf Tournament, Foxfire, West Course, Captain's Choice Format. Entry fee \$20 Donation or more. Make your checks payable to: FLGA (ref: Komen for the cure) \$20 Cart Fee for non-members pay at the Pro



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- **Plant Clinic Battleground Bug** – 2 to 4 pm. Late summer is when bugs mount their major offensive; fall army worms advance, stinging insects attack, grubs grip the grass and vegetable gardens become a bug smorgasbord. Learn how to fight back with help from Taylor Williams, Moore County Extension Agent. At the Agriculture Building, 707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage, 947-3188.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. First Health Moore Regional Hospital, Conference Room, Page Road, Pinehurst. Appt. Call 715-1478.
- **"Meet the Beast" Cocktail Party Fundraiser** – 5 to 7 pm, Communities in Schools annual fundraiser. At the home of Allan and Lesley Bradley – Chattan House, 3 Maples Lane, Pinehurst. Elliott's on Linden providing hors d'oeuvres & wine. Sean "The Beast" Fisher will be joining this event, along with community leaders. Cost is \$50/person. Andi Korte - Executive Director Communities In Schools 910-295-1072.

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- **Standard First Aid** – 6 - 9 pm. Certification Fee \$35. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Southern Pines.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- **Communities in Schools Fundraiser 'Fore' Kids Sake Golf Tournament** – 9 am, Shotgun start at Pinehurst No. 8 with celebrity long drive world champion Sean "The Beast" Fister. Cost for tournament play is \$200 per player and includes lunch, player gift pack, tournament round, awards reception and prizes. Sponsor packages available. Contact Andi Korte - Executive Director Communities In Schools, 910-295-1072
- **Communities in Schools 'Fore' Kids Sake "Beast Ball" Raffle Long Drive** – 2 pm, event features National Long Drive Champion Sean "The Beast" Fister 500 Golf Balls will be sold for \$20 each, 25 balls will be randomly selected and "The Beast" will drive the balls down hole #17 at Pinehurst No. 8. Top 3 drives will win fabulous prizes! Andi Korte - Executive Director Communities In Schools at

910-295-1072.

- **Sunrise Theater** – movie "Chéri" (through Aug. 31) weekends 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, weekdays 7:30 pm. Art/Foreign, 110 min., R. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. (910) 692-3611.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza (next to Peking Wok, Seven Lakes Plaza).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

- **Seven Lakes Health & Fitness Center** – 10 am to noon. Free Hearing Screenings provided by Hearing Aid Specialist Val K. Scantlin. Free chair massage provided by Lorraine R. Scantlin of The Healing Place.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. Acorn Ridge Baptist Church, 288 Acorn Ridge Rd., Robbins. Appt. Call 464-3310.
- **Baby sitter Training** (ages 11-15) – 9 am - 4 pm. Fee \$30. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Southern Pines.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- **Woodcleavers and Yellowhammers** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature

Preserve. These are a couple of local names for two woodpeckers – the pileated woodpecker and the northern flicker. Eight species of woodpeckers occur in the Sandhills. 910-692-2167.

- **Weymouth Through The Lens Photo Exhibit Opens** – 3 - 5 p.m. in the St. Andrews Room, exhibit of photographs taken at Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities, Photos taken by members of the Sandhills Photography Club. Free exhibit thru October. Open Mon. – Fri., 10am - 2pm, 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. Program or membership info: (910) 692-6261.
- **Gospel Singing & Ice Cream Social** – 5:30 pm, Social. 7 pm, Singing starts. The Carpenter's Tools are the guest group. Event is sponsored by the Middle Cross Baptist Church Cancer Support Group. Free, Donations will be accepted to benefit Relay For Life. Contact Rev. David Reynolds at 910-947-2261. Middle Cross Baptist Church, 440 Lucas Road. West End.
- **The Rooster's Wife Concert Series** – welcomes Ameranouche & Bruce Piephoff to the Postmaster's House in Aberdeen. 5:30 pm. 204 E. South Street. \$9. 910-944-7502.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis** – Noon at Seven Lakes Country Club.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

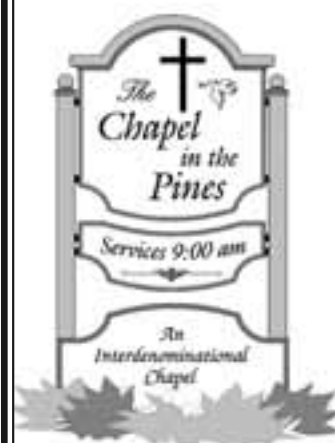
- **Project Linus** – blanket workshops will begin. Please continue making blankets for Moore County children in need. Project Linus delivers an average of 100+ blankets each month year round. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please call Pat Weber 673-1457.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza (next to Peking Wok, Seven Lakes Plaza).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- **Summer Concert Series** – 7 to 9 pm, at Johnson Point. "House Call" Free Admission. Bring drinks, coolers, snack, chairs, kids, and listen to some great music. Sponsored by Seven Lakes West Activities Committee.

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AUGUST ACTION

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Under Contract
183 Firetree - SOLD
148 Lancashire -
Under Contract
126 Hastings - Under Contract
Lot #131 - Under Contract

Term limits

(Continued from page 10)

health insurance deductible to the individual, and we would see a massive reduction in the number of uninsured Americans."

"We three people could solve the top ten problems facing the country right now," he argued. "What's in the way of that is these 535 people taking our money to buy votes to placate all these groups."

Term limits are the answer

Skvarla became convinced that the solution to entrenched politicians in Washington, DC is "taking the need to get re-elected off the table."

"If everybody up there could have this next legislative session with no thought of needing to be re-elected, you would see massive common sense coming out of the halls of Washington, DC."

"I have studied the issue of term limits for years," Skvarla said. "The majority of US voters — seventy to eighty percent — are in favor of term limits. But those who it most affects have to pass the law, and they don't want to do that."

The solution to that problem came to Skvarla when he was buying a performance bond for a construction project — an instrument from an insurance company that would pay compensation if the project weren't completed for some reason.

Skvarla realized that he could ask candidates to do the same thing — to pledge to serve only a limited time in office and put up a portion of their net worth as a guarantee.

He enlisted help of Bull and the two created the non-profit Alliance for Bonded Term Limits to forward the idea. The organization is a 501-C3 non-profit, so they can't advocate for a particular candidate — or tell candidates exactly what to do. But they can educate the public about the problems of entrenchment in Washington and explain to candidates how to secure their pledge to avoid becoming addicted to the trapping of power.

Ideally, Svarla and Bull would like to see candidates pledge to spend no more than six years in either the House or the Senate. If they leave one of those posts and decide to run for another

office, that's fine.

ABTL suggests that the performance bond should represent a substantial portion of the candidate's net worth — twenty-five or fifty percent. So a candidate worth \$2 million would put at risk \$500,000 to \$1 million to guarantee his prompt departure from "the Palace of Versailles."

The effort is non-partisan. "I don't care what they believe, as long as they are sincere in those beliefs," Skvarla said. "They can be a Marxist, a libertarian, a liberal, a conservative. Just show me, by binding their term limits, that they are committed to changing the way business is being done in Washington."

The organization is carrying forward its mission through a website at www.bondedtermlimits.org, which will feature a range of research aimed at exposing the problems with entrenched power in DC and describing how the bonded term limits process works.

Bull, the former publisher of *The Sandhills Pulse*, a newspaper that covered and commented on Moore County government, says the organization is looking for subscribers to its website and donors to the cause. Volunteers are also welcome.

ABTL has already attracted sign-ups from all over the country, Bull told *The Times*, noting that their first donor was from Massachusetts.

Subscribers, donors, and potential volunteers can contact ABTL through the website or by telephone at 910-420-2753.

"There is a chance that in lit-

tle old Moore County, North Carolina — if we get help — that we can change the face of politics in this country," Skvarla told *The Times*. "This could change the face of the 2010 mid-term elections."

"I believe in representative democracy," he said. "And we have lost that completely."

Disaster plans for pets

On Saturday, August 22, at 2 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College, the County Animal Response Team (CART) will be hosting an invaluable event for those owning or caring for pets and/or domesticated animals in Moore County.

A free showing of the award-winning documentary, "Katrina Tails" will be followed by a presentation and discussion about Moore County's newly revised Animal Response Plan to be executed during disasters.

Call 910-947-2858 for more details.

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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 4)
escrow for a new well.

Annual loan payments made in July include \$41,000 from the Water Fund and \$30,000 from the General Fund. Frusco reported a \$102,000 payment on the Woodland Circle Extension loan would be due in April 2010.

Public Safety

Four-wheelers and ATV-type vehicles are illegal on public streets in Foxfire and may not be used on private land without permission.

"We have had complaints and have sent letters advising people," Councilwoman Page Coker reported. "So not 'if' but 'when' the police catch you, they will confiscate the vehicle and you will be fined!"

Coker also reminded residents that golf carts operators must be at least sixteen years old and that Village Ordinances limit the length of parked trailers and campers.

Fence Permit Fee

At \$200, Foxfire charges a

significantly higher fee than neighboring communities for a fence and should be reduced, recommend Mayor George Erickson.

"Fees ranged from no charge to \$50 with \$35 the most prevalent among municipalities," he said.

During discussion, Collins quoted attorney Michael Brough who defined a fence as a structure longer than forty feet and higher than 24," which is designed to keep things in or things out. Fence permits are not required for decorative corners or similar applications.

Frusco argued the amount of time required to issue a permit, measure setbacks, and provide a final inspection should set the appropriate fee level.

"To simply say the fee sounds too high is wrong. If it takes an hour of an employee's time plus related benefits, the \$35 isn't going to cut it," said Frusco. "This is a source of revenue and as the Village grows this fee schedule will be an ever increasing source of revenue."

After discussion, the Council approved increasing the fence permit fee to \$100 with Coker opposed.

Planned Unit Development Fee

The Council also approved Collins recommendation to set a base fee for Planned Unit Development [PUD] requests at \$500, plus \$100 for each acre of the PUD amendment, plus required by the Foxfire Quality Assurance Team for review.

Collins reported the under the Stonehill Pines Master Plan, community subdivisions within the project will be proposed in sixty to eighty acre PUD 'pods.'

Planning & Zoning

Permits were issued in July for a custom home, an accessory building, and an enclosed patio, reported Zoning Administrator Mimi Ainsworth.

Planning Chair Craig Ramey said he will be presenting recommended changes to three

Zoning Ordinances and two to the Village Code.

Specifically the committee will be requesting new zoning designations to create three-acre estate tracts in the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] and recreational districts within the Village that will encompass the pool, park, and golf course areas.

"We want to protect the parks and golf course – to preserve it," Ramey said.

The Planning Board is also working towards a more thorough definition of agricultural use for keeping bees, chickens, and other domesticated animals.

Long Range Planning Committee

A seven to nine-member Long Range Planning Committee will be appointed in September, reported Frusco. The committee will convene later in the month to begin exploration of several key elements as prepared by the Council.

Other Business

In other business, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Increased the condo units flat fee water rate from \$18 to \$21.
- Learned the grant request to the NC Parks and Recreational Trust Fund [PARTF] will be heard on August 21.
- Heard from Councilman Vic Koos that the Village's landscape contractor was a week or two behind schedule due to a death in the family.

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| 134 Cambridge Lane | SL South (Golf Front) | \$40,000 |
| 105 Yearington Ct. | SL West | \$45,000 |
| 102 Parker Ct. | SL West | \$47,500 |
| Lot 16, 17, 18 Falls Dr. | Cedar Lane (West End Area) | \$50,000 ea. |
| 134 Smathers Dr. | SL West | \$55,000 |
| 239 Longleaf Dr. | SL West | \$55,000 |
| 148 Otter Drive | SL West | \$65,000 |
| 105 Edwards Ct. | SL West | \$74,000 |
| Carriage Park Drive | Quiet wooded street with 3/4 acre lots | \$75,000 |
| Lot #'s 8003, 8004, 8027, 8028, 8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039 | | |
| 124 Andrews Dr. | SL West (Water View) | \$84,900 |
| Carriage Park Drive | Quiet wooded street with 1+ acre lots | \$85,000 |
| Lot #'s 8031, 8035 | | |
| 210 Morgan Trail Ct | 6+ Acres | \$129,000 |
| 360 McLendon Hills Drive | McLendon Hills (Water Front) | \$335,000 |
| 119 Callis Circle | SL West (Water Front) | \$350,000 |
| 156 Swaringen Drive | SL West (Water Front) | \$370,000 |
| Meredith Lane | Arbor Creek Lots 8, 9 | \$78,750 |
| Meredith Lane | Arbor Creek Lots 12 & 14 | \$235,000 |



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Nothing like the Cape for a little perspective

'Like sands through the hourglass so are the days of our lives.'

A better person might channel Socrates or another great philosopher for the occasion, but I can't help myself when that corny theme song flits across my mind as I wander along the Carolina seashore.

Odd and misshapen, here and there I admire the eroding remnants of once soaring towers, fortified walls, and deep castle moats. My favorites are the huge, sculptured magnum opus-like

efforts that attest to hours spent in the sun — bucket and trowel in hand. Like crop circles or some other ancient form of alien communication, each has an imaginary story to share.

However, as the sun sets, size really doesn't matter, as the hungry ocean drags these weak and transient human structures back into her fold. The relentless tide is all-consuming and those foolish masterpieces quickly crumble.

Ten years ago, a few wise men on Cape Hatteras decided

to save the lighthouse from a similar watery grave.

Like all barrier islands, here too the sands shifted

with time exposing the rock foundation of this historic spire. Supported by countless steel girders and slide rule calculations, the lighthouse was slowly pulled to safety, and now rests some 1,300 feet from



the shoreline.

In true 'Clark Griswold' vacation-mode, Darling Hubby and I

Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

trudged the kids 257 iron steps up to the top before visiting the on-site museum.

Wicked cynics both, we laughed out loud upon learning that local government officials had originally sued the Park Service to stop this rescue effort.

It was strangely familiar and reassuring to hear how their big decision took the civil out of the civic — not so unlike our own political landscape: or in Thomas Jefferson's words, a little rebellion now and then is a good thing.

Feelings

Satisfying, reaffirming, calming.

There are some of the feelings we experience when we reflect

on the good things that have come our way over the course of our lives. Family. Friends. Achievements. And each new day, with its opportunities.

Then there's the assurance that the sun is there whether seen or not. As is the kindness of your neighbor in numerous ways.

And how about the aroma of the first sip of coffee that emerges from

that brand new jar? Or the continuing good health of the cat that crosses your lawn almost daily between two and four o'clock in the afternoon.

There's another side to life. That's turning your thoughts to others, especially those who are physically hurting, or lonely. Just your knock on the door can show that caring thoughts are there and might even contribute on the path to recovery.

Yes, God put us here to make the best of our lives and to help others as well.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Brobsts say thanks for the help

Dear Editor:

It's been eight months this week that Dennis became so deathly ill.

I would never have imagined how the people of Seven Lakes could provide me with such support over these last months. I could not possibly thank everyone enough who: fed me, walked my dogs, watched my house,

phoned, wrote and most of all prayed for Dennis' recovery.

Dennis is now healthy and swiftly getting back to his "normal" activities. Not a day goes by that I don't appreciate the love and caring of this community.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Brobst
Seven Lakes West

BRCC Women Golf for the Cure

Women of Beacon Ridge Country Club are invited to participate in the 2009 Komen for the Cure Tournament at Beacon Ridge Country Club.

This year the event will be on Monday, September 14, with sign in at 8:30 am and shot gun play at 9:00 am. Registration is limited to 44 players, so sign up in the ladies' locker room at Beacon Ridge Country Club as soon as possible.

Registration fee is \$20, payable at time of sign-up. All checks should be made out to Susan G. Komen for The

Cure. Those women who do not want to play golf, but would like to attend the luncheon, should also sign up in locker room.

In conjunction with the tournament, there will be a fund raiser raffle with the prizes on display in the pro shop in late August. Anyone can purchase raffle tickets.

All proceeds benefit the NC Triangle affiliate of Susan G. Komen for The Cure to help with the fight against breast cancer in the region.

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Civic Group

(Continued from page 3)

The *Seven Lakes Times* and *The Pilot* have been thoroughly covering the issue. The Civic Group is on record with the appropriate decision-makers with a recommendation to quickly move forward with a line from Montgomery County. The rationale behind this recommendation is that a quick agreement with Montgomery County is more likely than is one with Robbins and could be operational three to five years sooner. Robbins, with their reservoir and access to Deep River's surface water, represents a very attractive larger source for the longer term.

The Time For A Change Has Come

Over the past few years, a growing number of landowner and Business Guild board members have become interested in the external matters that impact our community.

Late last year, Fred Young hosted, and Don Welch and Dudley Crawford — starting with a blank sheet of paper — led a small group of interested residents in open discussion starting with the kind of community Seven Lakes could become — the ideal, the dream (if you don't or can't or won't dream it, it will never happen).

Subsequent discussions throughout the Spring, each with an increasing number of participants, focused on the "what" — those attributes that might

define the ideal community, the dream. During these discussions, Don and Dudley worked to focus on the "what," avoiding the "how" as in how best to achieve the ideal, which was to come later.

I heard two conclusions emerge by consensus from these meetings. First, unity among the "parts" of the community is absolutely essential to achieving a desirable, viable "whole." Second, absent incorporation, a formally-elected governance system should be created.

I see unity as largely an internal, within the gates and village, matter. To effectively influence the outcomes of external matters, unity must clearly exist, that a consensus has been reached on matters of importance. Justice Potter Stewart, when asked "how do you define pornography?" responded with "I may not be able to define it, but I know it when I see it!" That seems equally applicable to "unity."

Moving on to the "how," the idea of a Greater Seven Lakes Community Council was conceived. The council would consist of the elected presidents of the landowners associations and the Business Guild. And McLendon Hills would be included.

Note that the landowner associations and Business Guild boards of directors are elected by their constituents, whereas the Civic Group Board consists of volunteer appointees among whom

have been members of the elected boards.

Only after the council gets organized, sets an agenda and becomes more involved in external matters, it seems logical that the Seven Lakes Civic Group be dissolved.

Getting Personal

For the past three or so years, Jane and I have been planning for our "later years." In late August, we will be leaving Seven Lakes. We will be close enough that we won't be leaving our friends of eighteen years.

It is purely a coincidence that we are leaving at the time the Seven Lakes Civic Group has had its season, has served its purpose.

But before the Civic Group dissolves, it is important that the GSLCC is well-organized so as to not re-create a void. Until then, the Civic Group will carry on with Dennis Roberts as its President.

It has been a most rewarding experience and a privilege to have served as president of the Civic Group for ten years. I've benefitted greatly from associating with the thirty-five fine women and men who, at one time or another, served on the board.

I have also benefitted from working with the Business Guild — particularly Phil Cook, Les Murray, Randy Merritt, and Rick

Harris. As successful businessmen dedicated to a bright future for the village — in fact, for the whole community — they often bring a different and valuable perspective to the table.

My very special thanks to our current board members: Phil Cook, Pud Kent, Ray MacKay, Carolyn Mealing, JoAn Moses, DeWitt Petterson, Dennis Roberts, and Don Truesdell. You

have each contributed in fulfilling our purpose. You have worked diligently and effectively toward the betterment of our community. And our community should thank you too.

As our activities transition to the GSLCC, I hope each of you will, as individuals, continue to contribute your hearts and minds, your experience to the viability of our wonderful community.

Gospel Sing at Middle Cross

Middle Cross Baptist Church Cancer Support Group is hosting a Gospel Singing And Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 30, featuring "The Carpenter's Tools." The Social begins at 5:30 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. Singing will start at 7 pm. The event is free, although donations will be accepted to benefit Relay For Life. For information call 910-947-2261.

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

When a builder applies for a permit to build a 3,000 square foot home, that area is multiplied by \$70 per square foot, generating an estimated construction cost of \$210,000. At the new permit cost of \$3.50 per thousand, that yields a building permit cost of \$735.

Under the old fee structure, which was last changed in 2005, the estimated construction costs, figured at the lower \$60 rate, would have been \$180,000. Multiplying that by a \$3 per thousand rate would have generated a permit fee of \$540.

At a time when the building industry has been hit hard by the economic downturn and near collapse of the credit markets, that \$195 increase in the cost of a building permit didn't sit too well with area builders. And they evi-

dently let their commissioners know about it.

After Planning Director Joey Raczkowski assured the Board that the loss of revenue would not cripple his department, the Commissioners voted unanimously to roll back the permit fee structure to 2005 levels. They also authorized a refund to those builders who had paid the new fee between July 1 and August 17 — which was expected to subtract approximately \$2,000 from county coffers.

Mobile Homes & Mulch Defined

Raczkowski brought the Board several recommended changes to the Zoning Ordinance, all of which were approved, after a public hearing at which no member of the public spoke.

The first set of amendments

were aimed at bringing county ordinances into line with a recent appeals court ruling that counties may not regulate the placement of manufactured homes based on the age or value of the home. Many counties use their zoning ordinances to discourage the use of mobile homes manufactured prior to the establishment of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] standards for their construction.

The amendments offered by Raczkowski aimed at striking that sort of restriction from the county's ordinances, in order to bring them into line with the court's decision. They also appropriated the term "mobile home" to refer to these pre-1976 homes, reserving the term "manufactured home" for those of more

recent vintage. The county continues to prohibit the movement of the pre-1976 mobile homes into the county from elsewhere.

In a separate action, the board added definitions for "mulch" and "mulching business" to the Zoning Ordinance, making the latter a use permitted by right in the county's industrial zoning districts. These amendments were an attempt to carve out a place, in the zoning ordinance, for the T.H. Blue mulch operation on Flowers Road in Eagle Springs — a business that predates the creation of the Zoning Ordinance.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, August 17 meeting, the Commissioners:

- Authorized the acceptance of a \$109,000 grant from the Corporation for National Service by the county's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program [R.S.V.P.]. The grant will be spread over the next three years. In 2008, RSVP volunteers contributed 56,000 hours of service, RSVP Director Shiela Klein told the Board, a resource worth more than \$1.1 million.
- Waived all county permit fees for the Robbins Farmers Day events.
- Reappointed Martha Zucchini and Peter Madsen to the Library Board of Trustees.
- Appointed Hugh Bingham and Bill Bateman to the Airport Authority.

WEE PTA Plans Fundraising Yard Sale

How would you like to get rid of unwanted items around the house and help raise money for the West End Elementary School playground?

The West End Elementary PTA will be hosting a fundraising yard sale Saturday, September 12, starting at 7:00 am on the school grounds.

Sellers that are interested in participating will need to purchase a 10x18 space for \$20 to set up their items for

sale.

If you are unable to set up and sale, but would like to donate your items to be sold, the WEE PTA will have a space for this as well.

Contact Kay Miller 673-2932 or Sue Povish 400-5062 to purchase a space or to make arrangements to donate your items. All proceeds from the sale of spaces will go to improve the school playground.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

Droppers reported during the Work Session that twenty-one resumes were received in response to an advertisement for Community Manager posted on the Community Associations Institute [CAI] website.

"At least a dozen meet our requirements," Droppers said. "I will go through and try to get the number down to six-to-ten of the cream of the crop."

In related discussion, Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane said he is scheduled to take the CMCA [Certified Manager of Community Associations] exam on August 25. Board members have said Beane will be considered for the position of SLLA Manager. CMCA accreditation is one of the job criteria as listed by the Board and is also anticipated to become a requirement for all Community Managers under proposed North Carolina legislation.

Droppers said he would forward copies of the resumes to the Board, along with a spreadsheet summarizing the top three management company choices.

President Randy Zielsdorf thanked him for his work: "This was a big job. Kent has done a wonderful job."

Board hashes over security issues

Describing it as a "hot button" issue for the entire area, Zielsdorf opened a round table discussion on security.

Director Sally Kindsvatter said the current system of Roving Patrol was ineffective. "It just doesn't seem to be an efficient use of time and money to have them drive around twice a day. On weekends, they should be at Sequoia [Point] all day, especially on holidays."

Kindsvatter also argued that more aggressive citations and fines for violations were necessary. "We need to investigate whether we do or do not have the authority to fine people! There is some confusion with the Planned Community Act -- I suggest we have Hunter Stovall explain it to us."

"It is also confusing to have two different security groups [Roving Patrol and SFI]," Kindsvatter said. "I would feel better with only one group handling security."

Community Manager Dalton

Fulcher explained that Roving Patrol was handled by in-house personnel because SFI, the company contracted to man the gates, would not respond to dog calls -- either barking or running loose.

"We have done cost studies on security and it could all be done in-house for \$20,000 less, but there are advantages and disadvantages," Fulcher said.

However, Fulcher and Zielsdorf both argued against making any changes in the security contract until the new community manager or company is in place.

Security Director Gary Caulk reported Roving Patrol responded to sixty calls last month, found twenty-five doors unlocked, and cited ninety violations of rules. Sequoia Point is monitored by the Boat Patrol all-day Saturday and Sunday during the Summer.

"We have had a lot of changes in security in the last few months," said Fulcher. "Security is enforcing the Guest Pass policy at

Sequoia and that is making a big difference."

However Fulcher said he is not happy with the ongoing, high SFI staff turnover at the gates. "The quality of employees is just not that good. I'm not picking on this company, they all operate practically same -- but I would like to see better security at the gates," Fulcher said. "The gates do make a big difference -- it's a perception to people outside."

Mandatory Bar Codes?

Whether vehicle bar codes should be mandatory for Seven Lakes residents was a question that came up repeatedly during the roundtable discussion on security. Fulcher estimated approximately one third of landowners do not have bar code stickers. Landowners pay a one-time fee of \$15 for the sticker.

"This is something we need for security. Until we get everyone

in compliance, we will have a security problem," said Treasurer Denny Galford.

The Board seemed to be in agreement that a policy of mandatory bar codes was preferred, but whether the \$15 fee should be waived and whether to offer credits for stickers previously purchased split the Board.

"I hate to be nicked and dimed," Zielsdorf said. "Personally, I feel our dues should include

our mailbox fee and stickers."

Galford reminded the Board that dues cannot be raised without a vote of the membership but fees could be set as needed.

New mower needed

A key piece of Association equipment, a lawnmower with unique capabilities necessary to mow embankments, needs to be replaced, reported Main-

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

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GUI0408

SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 25)

tenance Supervisor Bob Darr.

"We have to either replace it, rent it, outsource it, or not do it [dam mowing]," Darr said.

Darr said the cost to outsource the work was comparable to purchasing a new mower [\$8,000], and that renting the equipment would cost \$1,400 a month. A used mower would be considered, but Darr said he had not seen any advertised with the needed capabilities. The previous mower, purchased used, was operable for several years.

"We're talking \$1,000 a year for the mower if it lasts eight years. You cannot go out and hire someone for that cost," said Galford.

However Droppers and Kindsvatter argued against purchasing new equipment at this time. "If we decide to outsource maintenance, then we have paid \$8,000 for two months," said Droppers. "We don't know where we're going [alluding to the ongoing decision moving forward with community management]."

Northsider Jim Allen weighed in, stating that the Maintenance Committee had considered several options but had not reached consensus on the best approach to proceed.

"In fairness, I think it is appropriate to leave the decision making up to Dalton [Fulcher] and Bob [Darr]. They are the experts," Allen said.

Fulcher reported the proposed mower has capabilities to mow other areas faster with less need for weed whacking. "It is more efficient equipment. If you don't purchase, will we get the job done? Yes, but it will not look as good and will take longer," Fulcher said.

However, Fulcher said he would recommend against the purchase if the Board didn't make a decision until next month. "If you wait, then we've lost a month and a half of mowing season."

After discussion, the Board agreed to vote on the mower at the next Open Meeting scheduled for August 26.

Cigarette Butts and Alcohol at Sequoia Point

Discarded cigarette butts and alcohol consumption at Sequoia Point continue to be a problem,

reported Director Bruce Keyser, Jr.

"I took my family there for four hours last Saturday. It was pleasant, clean, and friendly. Security was there the entire time. But the one thing was it seemed every person was smoking on the beach and had alcohol in their hand," Keyser said.

He said additional cigarette urns or containers were needed and recommended the Board reconsider a ban on smoking and alcohol "on the beach area," as originally proposed last year by Caulk.

Droppers agreed that installing more butt containers was needed. "We want people to know that if we can't get control of the situation at Sequoia, it [smoking] will be banned!" he said.

New process for lake water testing

Fulcher reported that the Association has hired Northsider Ron Erskine to perform regular, fre-

quent testing of lake water for E. coli bacteria.

"We are only testing the beach areas for now -- and also an area with a known septic problem," said Fulcher. "If he gets high readings, we'll contact the county and have a licensed company come in and retest."

In addition, the Association will continue twice annual licensed testing.

"Ron and I have not seen eye-to-eye on many things but what he's doing here is beneficial to the community. I feel comfortable that we're paying him, and he'll give us the information to work with. If he's satisfied with our procedures, I don't anticipate problems," Fulcher said.

Erskine said the test method uses a 96-holed plate that is incubated over a twenty-four hour period to determine total coliform and E. coli. "We tested thirty-four different locations last month and our lakes test very well except after a heavy rain,"

Erskine said.

Kindsvatter, a retired microbiologist, explained that E. coli found in the lakes is not the same as the bacteria in uncooked foods.

"This is normal E. coli that is found in our intestines, in all animals. The only way it can hurt people is if it is in the water and is swallowed."

Centralizing Communication

Referring to some criticism over the recent decision to channel Board-related email and other communication through the office, Zielsdorf said the decision was not meant to "put

us [the Board] behind a wall of secrecy. It was meant to delegate authority where it belongs."

"Most calls the Board receives should be directed to the Community Manager," Zielsdorf said. "We're trying to set up a system going into the new year where the Board operates for oversight only. If you don't like the response you're getting from the manager or it's not timely, you are welcome to contact any or all Board members."

SLCC Tennis Courts

There are nine tennis courts in Seven Lakes North; three at

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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Westside board

(Continued from page 7)

tough questions from Directors concerned about some aspects of the program.

Directors concerned about training of Patrol members

President Ron Shepard, for

instance, expressed concern that Neighborhood Watch patrols driving unmarked private cars around neighborhoods late at night might alarm residents rather than reassuring them. He also wanted to know what sort of training patrol participants would

be given.

"I don't want to jump into this until we have some real assurance that training is going to be done," Shepard said.

Hoffmann took considerable umbrage at Shepard's questions. "If we are going to go into

this, then I am going to withdraw my motion and withdraw the Neighborhood Watch program," Hoffmann said. "This is a matter of this Board either accepting or not accepting the risks of having us watching out for each other in the middle of the night.

They are not going to leave their vehicles. They are not going to confront people."

He later said he would train patrol volunteers — something called for in the National Sheriff's Association guidelines — and that "we have to assume that these responsible adults will act in accordance with that."

Hoffmann said he sensed a reluctance on the part of the Board "to adopt something that is proactive, that is preventative in nature, and that has some risk associated with it."

Patrols will use Association truck

In addition to his proposal that the Association adopt the National Sheriff's Association guidelines, Hoffmann had submitted a draft of Standard Operating Procedures [SOP] for use of the Association truck. After considerable discussion on the non-confrontational nature of any patrols, the need for training of volunteers,

(See "Westside," p. 28)

SLLA Work Session

Northside Park and six at the (Continued from page 26)

Seven Lakes Country Club Tennis Facility which is located near the Fitness Center. All are currently underplayed — though for different reasons.

The Northside Park courts have a newer but unpopular surfacing material and the fence need to be replaced. By contrast, the Country Club's courts have a high quality and well-maintained Hard-Tru clay surface. However, membership declined once courts were installed at West Side Park Community Center.

Kindsvatter proposed the Association should consider purchasing several of the Club's courts.

"Our landowner courts are

inadequate for anything but little kid tennis," charged Kindsvatter. "People don't play because the surface is not good."

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. said the Recreation Committee had discussed and decided against purchasing any of the Club's courts because of the high maintenance cost, estimated at \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. Instead the committee recommended selling the existing surface on-line, installing new fencing on two courts, and repurposing the third court as a new basketball court.

"We'd be better off to refinish the courts at Northside. It is not efficient cost-wise for us to maintain the Club's clay courts," Keyser said.

Fulcher reported the existing

courts at Northside Park had not been resurfaced in thirty years but were "rerubberized" every five years at a cost of \$10,000.

Droppers suggested it might be more cost-effective to lease two of the Club courts — paying them to maintain them.

After discussion, the Board agreed to table the decision until a formal lease proposal can be presented by the Club.

Other items

In other business Monday morning, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Deferred discussion on Deed Restrictions and dogs and cats running loose to the September Work Session.
- Heard from Zielsdorf that the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council would meet in the next few weeks with the Moore County Sheriff's Office to discuss the need for more routine, regular police patrols of the area.
- Agreed to provide a large SLLA mailbox at no charge to the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council.

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Westside board

(Continued from page 27)

and the problem of making sure patrol members are identifiable, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn modified the truck SOP to serve as guidelines for any Roving Patrol.

Those guidelines reinforce the "observing-and-reporting" nature of the patrols and make clear that possible crime and other suspicious behavior observed by patrol members will be reported to the Sheriff. They also make clear that any patrols will be conducted using the Association truck rather than private vehicles.

With the presentation of Silberhorn's modified SOP, the Board approved both that and the National Sheriff's Association guidelines, clearing the way for Neighborhood Watch to be implemented. The program, as outlined in the manual, goes well beyond volunteer patrols, offering a range of options for engaging neighbors in helping suppress crime.

Hoffmann has been seeking forty volunteers for the program; he told the Board on Tuesday that he had twenty-three and felt comfortable moving forward with that number.

Use of Off-Duty Officers encouraged

Hoffmann reported that he had used off-duty Sheriff's officers in patrols on five nights for four hours a night at a cost of \$600. The rate for off-duty officers is \$30 per hour.

Noting that he had brought in the officers after the recent boat theft and vandalism on Lake Auman, Hoffmann asked his fellow directors whether he should continue to use the deputies — or explore other options. The FY 2009-2010 budget includes \$5,000 for the purpose.

"If you have \$4400 left in the budget, divide it out and burn it," Secretary Ed Tuton told Hoffmann.

Other Directors agreed that the patrols should continue, targeting the summer months and holiday weekends, when most incidents of vandalism and other crime occur.

"If it costs \$1,000 per month, I'm for it," Director John Goodman said.

Hoffmann noted that the patrols had already resulted in citations for two young women caught

smoking marijuana in a car parked at the Community Center late one night.

Turning to other security matters, Hoffmann:

- Presented a draft Emergency Egress Plan, asking for input from Board members.
- Reported that \$1,150 will be spent to upgrade lighting and motions sensors at Johnson's Point.
- Reported that approximately \$10,000 will be required to repair the electronic systems at the back gate, which were damaged by a lightning strike.
- Suggested the need for a better-defined process for controlling the key and alarm system at the West Side Park Community Center when it is rented by residents or non-residents outside of business hours. Hoffmann and Community Manager Joan Frost were asked to develop a set of guidelines for presentation to

the Board at a future work session.

More publicity needed for Compliance efforts

Reacting to letters from residents complaining that Association rules aren't being enforced, Board members discussed ways to get the word out about enforcement activity.

"We're doing a great job on compliance, but the community apparently doesn't know it," Legal Director Silberhorn said.

"The way I have explained it is that folks see an ugly house or bad yard and figure the system is broken," Architectural Review Director Adam Wimberley said. "But we are looking at it on a much bigger scale." Responsibility for compliance was recently made part of Wimberley's portfolio.

"CAS finds problems when they do compliance runs," he continue. Those problems are

documented with photographs and then forwarded to Wimberley. "I went through fifty-five photos three weeks ago," he said. "Letters were sent." Problems that remain uncorrected are handled first by the Community Manager. If she meets with no success, they then move up to the Community Advocate, and, finally, to the Judicial Committee. In addition, specific problem areas — like unscreened propane tanks — are also being targeted, Wimberley said.

"I didn't even know all of this," Director John Goodman responded. He suggested that reporting at the monthly general meetings might help keep the mem-

bership informed about compliance activities.

"Maybe we need a monthly report that says, 'Here's how many letters went out, the number of responses, the number [of violations] taken care of,'" President Shepard said. "That way we could let people know that things are going on."

"There are other nuisance complaints that are handled directly by CAS," Silberhorn noted. "We probably ought to have a report on this, so that we can respond to complaints. I frankly think we are doing a great job, working very hard, but you don't get credit for it if no

(See "Westside," p. 29)

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Westside board

(Continued from page 28)
one knows it is happening.”

Repairs needed
to pond dams

At Infrastructure Director John Goodman’s request, the Board approved a \$5,000 contract with Engineer Dan Marks to develop plans for repairs needs to the dams of three community ponds. Trees and shrubs have taken root in the structures, threatening their integrity. Goodman said the Association will remove the plants, after obtaining approval from property owners. Then any additional work recommended by Marks will be undertaken.

Goodman noted that the corrugated steel outlet pipe that carries water from the lower Lakeway Mall pond to Lake Auman is corroded and will need to be replaced -- a job that will be complicated by the need to keep Longleaf Drive open during the repairs.

He explained that Marks had recommended one other urgent repair to that pond that neither he nor Lakes and Dam Director Mick Herdrich could quite decipher. The Board gave Goodman authority to call for an email vote on having that repair completed, once he was able to find out from Marks exactly what needed to be done.

Turning to other infrastructure issues, the Board authorized Goodman to identify and negotiate with a paving company to do some minor road patching needed in the community.

Upcoming
Community Activities

Director Karen Milligan highlighted upcoming Community Activities:

- September 4 - Free concert at Johnson’s Point.
- September 18 - Margaritaville Party.

She noted that the fall schedule would include classes in painting with watercolors, oils, and acrylics; tennis lessons; Tai Chi; yoga; and Cooking with Carmela.

Other Business

In other business, the SLWLA Board:

- Heard from Community Manager Joan Frost that there is now \$1,650 in the reward fund the Board established to help respond to the recent boat theft on Lake Auman and any similar incidents in the future.
- Deferred a decision to begin foreclosure procedures on ten lots for the collection of unpaid dues. Legal Director Silberhorn asked the Board to allow him to study the costs of the process and bring back a recommendation prior to a vote. Leins already placed on the lots mean the Association is in a position to collect back dues on the lots if and when they are sold, without incurring the expense of foreclosure.
- Heard from Director Hoffmann a list of several problems along Gateway Mall that need attention from the Beautification Committee, Noting that he ran for the Board promising support for that committee, Hoffmann said he would be encouraging the Board to “plus-up” its support for beautification come budget time.
- Discussed the possible safety hazard presented by an Association-owned radio tower that is currently used by Moore County for emergency communications. The Association had attempted to interest the County in swapping an obsolete well site for the tower property, but the county showed little interest in the offer. Director Hoffmann was asked to explore the potential for fencing the tower site, as well as for installing an anti-climb device on the tower itself.
- Deferred both the second reading of the Mandatory Septic Management plan and the first reading of the revised SLWLA Rules and Regulations until they could be posted on the Association website. The first reading of and public hearing on the revised rules will be held at a special meeting on Friday, August 21, at 8:00 am.
- Heard from Community Manager Joan Frost that hours of operation for the pool will be cut back as lifeguards return to high school and college.



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