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Volume 25 Number 9

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

March 5, 2010

## SLLA Board approves FY-2010-2011 budget

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

With a unanimous nod of approval, the Seven Lakes Landowners [SLLA] Association Board of Directors passed a \$1.3 million budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 during the Association's Wednesday, February 24 Open Meeting.

Presenting a budget overview, Treasurer Denny Galford said the FY2010-2011 is basically the

same as the current year's operating budget with a few adjustments — mostly reflecting the increased costs associated with the Talis Management Group contract. The \$1.3 million total represents a cost of \$2.43 per day per household.

Galford said the budget process started in October with assistance from former assistant community manager, Chad Beane, and the initial budget

proposal was presented by outgoing community manager, Dalton Fulcher, in December. However, at that time the Board knew some revisions to the professional services expenditures would be necessary; and those changes were reported at the February 15 work session.

For clarity, the Finance Committee opted to break down the budget's professional services expenditure line item into three

subcategories; \$11,407 to general salary-related expenses such as workmen's compensation and taxes, \$140,000 to Talis Management, and a \$50,332 consulting fee to Fulcher.

A copy of the approved budget will be mailed in early March along with the annual dues packet and annual meeting ballot. The SLLA Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 28, at 3:00 pm at West End Elementary

gymnasium. For those opting to vote in person, registration begins at 2:30 pm.

### Transparency concerns

During the budget presentation and again during the Finance report, Galford defended his financial reporting policy.

"There has been quite a bit of discussion . . . about transparency, and that has a direct impact on the budget — whether or not your Board is doing something sneaky or behind the scenes," said Galford. "Let me clarify. There are two-page [monthly] financial statements available upon request and, to every meeting, I bring invoices that were paid that month."

Galford said the Finance Committee's policy is to review all financial documentation and  
(See "SLLA" p.15)

## Speed & money in Seven Lakes West

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Speed and money was what the crowd wanted to talk about at the Tuesday, February 23 evening Work Session of the Seven Lake West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

And a much smaller crowd it was than at the January meeting, which featured both a presentation on the budget and the introduction of Board candidates. January's meeting attracted a couple hundred landowners; the February attendance was down to a couple dozen.

### Speed

Longleaf resident Wendy Fisher rose during Public Comment to renew her plea for a permanent fix for the chronic speeding problem on Longleaf Drive — by using speed tables, if necessary. Rebutting a letter to the editor by Ron Weber published

in the February 19 edition of *The Times*, Fisher explained that speed tables are neither speed bumps nor speed humps, but rather raised areas engineered to allow vehicles to maintain the stated speed but not exceed it.

Reading from a prepared statement, Fisher said, "If you are unfamiliar with speed tables, please take the time to educate yourself before dismissing the idea out of hand. You would be able to travel Longleaf unimpeded at the speed limit with no damage to your vehicle." [For the full text of Fisher's response, see her letter on page 24.]

She expressed skepticism that speed enforcement by Sheriff's officers could be effective in correcting the problem.

Earlier in the meeting, Security Director John Hoffmann confirmed that he has begun gathering information on speed tables: "cost, effectiveness, studies, anything I can find."

Hoffmann said he had used the Association's radar gun to do a spot check of speeding on three separate occasions. Clocking 450 vehicles, he found that thirty percent were traveling six or more miles over the speed

limit, while just under ten percent were traveling ten or more miles over the limit. One car was observed doing 50 miles per hour in the 35 MPH zone.

Morning rush hour is the key  
(See "Westside," p. 12)

## Commissioners keep options open on water

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Moore County's Board of Commissioners are keeping their options open on water. During their Monday, March 1 regular meeting, the Board agreed to participate in a preliminary engineering study on the water intake and treatment plant at a defunct WestPoint Stevens textile plant near Wagram in Scotland County.

That's the same plant the Village of Pinehurst was trying to buy last year, until that effort ran into a roadblock thrown up by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners, who had to approve the sale, but apparently couldn't get comfortable with the idea of a Moore County town buying a water plant in their backyard.

State Representative Jamie Boles hosted a regional summit

on the opportunity presented by the Wagram plant in January, bringing together officials from Moore, Scotland, Robeson, and Hoke counties, as well as the Little River Council of Governments [LRCOG] — a regional association of local governments that agreed to coordinate further investigations.

On Monday night, County Manager Cary McSwain asked  
(See "Commissioners," p. 19)

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# Biz Guild sets April date for Chili Cook Off

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Things are heating up for the Third Annual Seven Lakes Business Guild Chili Cook Off to be held Saturday, April 17 at the corner of Trade and Grant Streets in the business village. The crock pots will start bubbling at 11:00 am and everyone is invited to 'come get their spicy on!'

This crowd-pleasing event for all ages is a red hot opportunity for businesses and local clubs to get out there to greet, meet, and compete. Proceeds will be used for village road maintenance projects.

Do you have what it takes?

Teams can be an individual or family, a club, group, or a business.



*Virginia Horner is ready to defend her 'Best Overall' award at the Chili Cook Off on Saturday, April 17.*

Celebrity judges will be on-hand to award prizes for the Best Decorated Booth, Best Overall Chili 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and the People's Choice award. Sponsors are also needed for kid-friendly activities and a bounce house.

A ten foot by ten foot Chili Cook-Off booth is free to Business Guild members and only \$35 for all others; and everyone must pay a \$20 chili fee to compete. Electricity is provided, but teams should bring their own crock, supplies, table, and tent if desired.

Chili can't be defined – at least not easily. It can be hot or not, meat-filled or vegetarian fare, with beans or without. However no matter what's in your pot, each team should prepare a

minimum of three gallons of it – though past experience suggests five gallons of chili is a safer bet to satisfy all those hungry taste-testers. The event will run until 2 pm or when the chili is gone!

To register your team or for more information about sponsorship, please contact Judy McNeil or Kim Tew at Jubilee Screen Printing, 673-4240 or drop them a line at kim@jubileescreenprint.com

## 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@sevenlakestimes.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Mar. 19	Mar. 12
Apr. 2	Mar. 26
Apr. 16	Apr. 9
Apr. 30	Apr. 23
May 14	May 7
May 28	May 21
June 11	June 4
June 25	June 18
July 9*	July 1*
July 23	July 16
Aug. 6	July 30
Aug. 20	Aug. 13
Sept. 3	Aug. 27
Sept. 17	Sept. 10
Oct. 1	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 8
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3
Dec. 22*	Dec. 16*

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

## Pest-y problem at Dollar General

The recent closing of Seven Lakes' Dollar General store for more than two weeks, with no explanation, may have prompted more calls to The Times' offices — and more wild rumors — than anything that's happened 'round here since the beavers started showing up in Seven Lakes West.

A spokeswoman at Dollar General's corporate office in Goodlettsville, TN, delicately explained that the store had a "pest problem." The pests in question were reportedly mice, but the problem is all cleared up now, according to the folks in Goodlettsville.

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# Alina Cochran settling in as SLLA Manager

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Taking a view of the big picture and then tackling one concern at a time is how new community manager, Alina Cochran, describes her immediate priorities. In place for just over a month, she said there is much work to be done but is confident that the team concept of Talis Management will successfully meet those needs.

"Our offices are built as a team and that is our approach on working with the [Seven Lakes Landowners Association] Board and the homeowners to address the current issues and make the community a better place to live in."

She continued, "In this business you have to be a people-person but, on the other hand, you have to be detail-oriented. This job involves multitasking because there is always something else going in. It is about prioritizing."

A certified manager with a degree in Management Infor-

mation Systems, Cochran most recently managed Carolina Lakes – a 1,400 lot, gated community near Sanford.

Prior to hiring Talis, Carolina Lakes maintained a self-staffed office of three part-timers working directly under their board. Cochran said she started from scratch instituting standard vendor policies and then oversaw two major projects; demolition and replacement of their gate-



Alina Cochran

house, and replacement of the main dam valve – a project that is nearly complete at this time.

"We started off with bids to build a coffer dam [a temporary structure] but it turned out to be too expensive and there were other concerns over things like fish-kill and replenishing the lake," said Cochran. "Using divers was not considered in the beginning because of anticipated high costs but, that was not the case and is ultimately how we implemented."

With this proven track-record of ensuring a smooth management transition, Talis looked again to Cochran's expertise after the SLLA Board hired the firm to replace longtime manager, Dalton Fulcher.

"Talis felt I would be a good fit for Seven Lakes," she said. "I look forward to making positive changes and working with the Board for the benefit of the community. I am very excited to be here."

Cochran said she has been working on maintenance issues

that need improvement, appearance concerns, and some unfinished projects that have been brought to her attention.

"My priority is establishing procedure on how things are to be handled and then I will make my recommendation to the Board for consideration," she said.

Cochran relocated to the United States ten years ago from Romania. She currently lives in Pittsboro and said she enjoys the daily commute to Seven Lakes in one of her most-prized possessions, her red Corvette. Cochran said she also likes spending time with family and

friends, traveling, and photography. In just a few short years, she has already visited forty states, many National Parks, and Canada, Mexico, The Bahamas.

"I've traveled throughout the United States and am glad to call North Carolina home."

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## In memory

**Mark Thomas Fleming**, 55, of Seven Lakes, died February 23, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Fleming was born in Rockville Center, NY, the son of the late James Fleming and Anne Collins Fleming. He grew up on Long Island, NY, and moved to the Seven Lakes West area in 1988.

A service was held Thursday, February 25 at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. The Rev. Won Namkoong officiated. Burial will be private at a later date.

He is survived by his wife Mary Lou Fleming and daughter, Colleen of Seven Lakes; his father and mother-in-law, Fred and Dorothy Seufert of Seven Lakes; his four brothers, John Fleming of New York; Matthew Fleming of Nevada; Christopher Fleming of Georgia; Colin Fleming of New York; and his sister, Maureen Fleming of New York.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Mark Fleming to: The American Cancer Society, 8300 Health Park Ste. 10, Raleigh, NC 27615 or FirstQuit Program, Attn: Chris Miller, 30 Page Drive Circle Center Bldg, PO Box 3000, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

**Gordon Melvin Goudey**, 87, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday February 21, at home.

Mr. Goudey was born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of the late Avar P. Goudey and Minnie Kantro Goudey. He graduated from Arcadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, received a Masters from New York University, was a Professor of Math, an avid model airplane club member, and a member of US Army Air force during W.W.II.

The family moved to Seven Lakes in 1989.

A memorial service was held Friday, February 26 at West End Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Larry Lyons officiated.

He is survived by his wife of fifty seven years, Bette Thomas Goudey; son, George Thomas Goudey of Mebane; daughter, Lorna Goudey Hodge of Raleigh; two grandsons; and his brother Alan Goudey of Glen Rock, NJ.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Gordon Goudey to: First Health Hospice and Palliative Care at 150 Applecross Road Pinehurst, NC 28374.



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122 Fox Run - New Listing  
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Lot 2065 - Sold  
467 Longleaf - Sold

# Food Pantry serves hundreds each month

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

"Every time we open our doors, we sign up someone new," said Frank Feggeler, coordinator of the West End United Methodist Church [WEUMC] Food Pantry. "We get families and seniors, all ages and situations."

Organized in 1992 and affiliated with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, the Food Pantry currently serves, on average, 240-250 local families. Distribution days are every other Wednesday from 8:00 am until 11:00 am, unless they run out of food.

"Some come in only once or twice and others we see more frequently," said Feggeler. "We are a faith-based operation serving local families. If folks come in and say they need food, fine. We're here to help"

A standard box includes Ramen noodles and pasta, dried cereal and crackers, beans, canned soups and vegetables, coffee, fruit drinks, and cheese, bread, yogurt, and frozen meat, if available. Sometimes, they'll even have a birthday cake ready to go, Feggeler said.

"We don't pretend that what we're giving will sustain a family for two weeks but it helps,"

he explained. "And we never know what we're going to have, especially for produce. Sometimes we'll have peppers and, once, we had a whole big bin of sweet potatoes."

The majority of funding for the Food Pantry comes through the WEUMC parish and is the church's largest outreach ministry; however, additional support is received from Roseland UMC and local groups such as Women of Seven Lakes and the Seven

Lakes Kiwanis Club, as well as food drives from Todd Pusser's annual pumpkin carving benefit and West End Elementary.

While food donations are welcome, financial gifts can be better utilized through large, lower-priced orders, Feggeler said. Most of the box contents are purchased from or donated by Food Lion in Seven Lakes or through the Sandhills Food Bank branch in Southern Pines.

(See "Pantry," p. 12)



Frank Feggeler and Bob Haan at the Food Pantry.

## TOTT benefits Pantry

All proceeds from the Women of Seven Lakes 'Taste of the Town' event on Monday, March 22 will benefit the WEUMC Food Pantry. Tickets are \$20 and in limited supply.

The Taste of the Town begins at 4:00 pm with a 'sold-out' Wine Tasting, provided by Sandhills Winery, followed by the main TOT event from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Westside Park Community Center, with food provided by Nina's, Olive Garden, Corfu Taverna, Outback Steakhouse, Thai Basil, Mag-

nolia's, Broad Street Bakery and more.

Raffle tickets to benefit WEUMC Food Pantry are also available for \$1 each or six for \$5.

Winners may receive one of many gift certificates donated by local eateries – both fine dining and casual. You do not need to be present to win.

For raffle tickets, call Deanna Petrie at 673-4295.

For TOT tickets, call Lois Ann Eisel at 400-3094.



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# SLLA Candidates face the voters at forum

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

The full slate of six candidates running for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board met with voters on Wednesday, February 24, at a Candidates' Night Forum moderated by Greg Hankins, editor and publisher of *The Times*, with assistance from volunteer ushers Pat Weber and George Stahl, and timekeepers JoAn Moses and Bill Yarish.

Each candidate had an initial six-minute period to introduce themselves and their backgrounds, and to address what they see as the community's highest priorities and how their own skills could assist in resolving those concerns. Following their opening statements, each responded to questions from the audience.

[More information and interviews with each candidate were published in *The Times* of February 19, which can be found online at [www.sevenlakes-times.net](http://www.sevenlakes-times.net)]

**Don Truesdell** said his number one priority was to reestablish a standing Lakes and Dams Committee to maintain ongoing and proactive maintenance. A former director and chairman of Lakes & Dams, he said he has remained active with the Maintenance Committee and that he

strongly supports keeping an in-house maintenance staff. He said the Association must enforce existing rules and regulations to ensure the best appearance possible to compete with new subdivisions planned for the surrounding area.

"The expertise I bring is continuity . . . While Talis Management Group has an outstanding record, they are starting from ground zero," said Truesdell. "My expertise is that I have an intimate knowledge of the community, infrastructure, personnel, and budgets."

**Bud Shaver** is the only incumbent candidate, running for reelection after serving the past two years as director of maintenance.

"Two years ago, I decided to run because I was sick and tired of the fighting on the Board and everything being published in *The Times*. I wanted to straighten out management and facilitate Dalton's departure — those goals have been met." He continued, "For the future, I know what the problems are and am well-aware of the needs. I want to help Alina [Cochran] succeed and make sure what we get done what we have proposed to do with Talis."

**Melinda Scott** said her priorities are not necessarily the same as others, thus, she rec-

ommends organizing a diverse focus group that could identify needs and update the community survey. Scott also said there was room for improving communication between the Board and the community and suggested a new system of logging-in, tracking, and responding to requests.

Scott said the Board needed an objective "accountability structure" to articulate the Board's policies and goals and evaluate expectations of new management.

"We must have the ability to determine if we are meeting needs and problem-solving . . . the Board must resolve or at least clarify the issue and respond in a consistent manner," said Scott. "We need to work as a unit to come in with clear, concise goals."

**Bob Racine** said he believed the major concern of most res-

idents is money.

"The Board in the past has wasted money and some projects have never been finished," said Racine. "We must complete those before we even consider new ones."

Racine also cautioned against a "keeping up with the Jones" approach to competing new residential developments.

"There is a certain charm and uniqueness of Seven Lakes. It is the only place like it in the area — yet our beaches, which should be a hallmark, have grass growing in the sand," he said, arguing that better maintenance of existing facilities was preferable to spending money for additional new landscaping.

Better communication and response to the community is also needed, Racine said.

"Residents have the right to give input on matters, including the budget, and before the deal

is done — not after," he said.

Racine said his professional experience of ten years as a town moderator and eight years working with budgets would be of great benefit to the community.

**Chuck Mims** said the Board must develop and maintain a well-defined long range plan that addresses improving and replacing infrastructure, a capital improvement plan, and an emergency action plan.

"With all the projects coming in — such as the widening of Highway 211 and new housing — Seven Lakes must become a leader," said Mims. "We have to be a part of what is going on. We must have input; this affects the value of our homes and lives. We have to have a voice in that."

A retired chief of police, Mims said the Board's role is to make and enforce policy, fairly and evenly, to every homeowner. He

(See "Candidates," p. 7)



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# Candidates

(Continued from page 6)

said Board members must be ready and willing to make tough decisions and be accessible to constituents.

"The Board must look at the entire picture, not just a small piece," said Mims.

**Charlie Hannel**, a resident of Seven Lakes since 1992, said that openness, or rather a lack thereof, between the Board and the people of the community was the biggest problem.

"Seven Lakes is beautiful place to live and everyone seems to get

along, except when they don't know what is going on," said Hannel. "Complaints go in to the Board, but we're never told what is happening with them. Communication has to go both ways."

Hannel said his professional experience included working with a variety of people and staying within an allotted budget.

"If you don't plan for things then you can't form a budget. People should know what those plans are and not just say, 'we're

doing this because it has to be done,'" Hannel said.

## Audience Questions

The candidates were given two minutes to respond to written questions submitted by the audience.

## Question 1: Does the Board provide the membership with adequate financial information and reporting?

Mims said the Board should communicate more clearly and suggested a quarterly statement, "If they collect a dollar they we need to know how they

spent that dollar."

Scott responded that in her professional life she routinely worked with extremely large budgets and that every piece of information, income and expenditures, were made available to everyone.

"You have to have the ability to show residents where your money is going," said Scott. "The Board has an obligation to provide as much information as feasible."

Shaver said he anticipated a change in financial reporting with Talis taking over management and as information was

transferred on to their accounting systems.

"On budgets, the question of transparency to me is timing. As a director, I do not want to be questioned on something I haven't seen or approved," Shaver said.

Hannel said better communication of the budget and items included was needed, "I, for one, would like to know what the budget is, before it is shoved down my throat."

Racine responded that the current financial reporting distributed at meetings was diffi-

(See "Candidates," p. 8)

## \$80K for courts? No sir.

During the Candidate's Night Forum on Wednesday, February 24, Bob Racine said he opposed spending \$80,000 to resurface the community tennis courts, arguing that the current surface is beautiful to look at and appropriate for recreational play.

Following the evening's discussions, Director Sally Kindsvatter asked to respond to his comment.

She stated that the \$80,000 figure was an estimate and that the Board had immediately agreed that funding was unavailable. No motion was made and there was no further discussion.

"It was a mention," said Kindsvatter. "It was never before the Board as a serious question."

Kindsvatter serves as chair of an ad hoc committee creat-

ed several months ago, by the SLLA Board, to consider options on improving play on the community tennis courts.

Suggested items for their agenda have included whether or not to remove the current surface and renovate or repave the existing court, and also to consider the informal proposal offered by Seven Lakes Country Club to lease or possibly purchase the Club's under-utilized but higher quality, Hard Tru courts.

The \$80,000 bid mentioned by Kindsvatter was reported during the December 16 Open Meeting; however, without funding, the Board agreed to table further discussion and decisions until Talis Management was seated, had a chance to consider the options, and then make their recommendation for the tennis courts.



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# Candidates

(Continued from page 7)  
cult to review.

"On the budget, I still find it unbelievable that we haven't had a public hearing. How do we get our thoughts and desires to the Board?"

Truesdell said that current financial reporting included an email distribution of the budget, profit and loss statement, and Bylaws changes. He said most of this information was available on the website, in hard copy at the SLLA office, and in *The Times'* meeting coverage.

"It's easy to criticize, but more difficult to become involved. The board has done as well as they can to put out financial information to residents," said Truesdell.

## Question 2: Do you currently serve on any SLLA committees and do you regularly attend meetings of the Association?

Racine is an alternate member of the Judicial Committee and said that he does regularly attend both meetings and work sessions of the Board.

Shaver is a current member of the SLLA Board and directs the Maintenance Committee.

"I learned a long time ago that you don't micromanage and, for the future, I am looking at our Long Range Plan."

Hannel said as a recent retiree that he has not had a lot of time to volunteer.

"That is one of the reasons I'm running — to see what our community is doing," said Hannel.

Truesdell serves on the Maintenance Committee and previously served four years as a member of the Board, two of those years as president.

Scott is a member of the Architectural Review Board, serving as their "research analyst." She said she started attending Board meetings a few months when she saw issues not being addressed.

Mims said he moved to Seven Lakes last year and has not joined a committee, but that he does attend meetings and work sessions.

## Question 3: Seven Lakes has a lot of committees. Do you think meetings of these committees should be open to the public?

Shaver said that meetings of the Maintenance Committee were open to anyone who was interested. He said if discussion was needed on a sensitive area — in particular, competitive bids from contractors — then he would call a closed session.

Hannel, Scott, and Mims all agreed that committee meetings should be open with the exception of when sensitive items, including personnel or private concerns, are under discussion.

Racine said that meeting agen-

das must be published prior to any meeting — including committees.

"We should know what is going to be discussed. I don't have to time to go to every meeting; but, if the agenda was on the internet, then we could see what is on the agenda and decide whether to attend," Racine said.

Truesdell said, to his knowledge, meetings of committees have never been closed.

"The Bylaws justifies a few reasons why the Board can close a meeting. If those areas of interest come up in committee meetings, then the chair should have the same right. Other than that, meetings should be open to the public."

## Question 4: Should hiring of the management company lessen the responsibilities or the workload of Board directors?

Scott said the role of SLLA Board was changing, "Prior to the contract with Talis, we had Board members creating policy and also responsible for implementing." She continued, "With Talis . . . we have to determine if the company is doing the job that you have identified in your policies."

Hannel said the Board used to tell the manager what was going on. He said with new management, the Board would still be in a position to tell the manager

what they want done and then see to it that it gets done.

Truesdell said it is the Board's responsibility to transmit policy. He said to be effective, a director must be intimately familiar with the details of the Association, "So they won't just be a rubber stamp."

Racine said the Board must set policy and guidelines — "The buck stops here" — but also must not micromanage.

Mims said it is the Board's position to oversee and the manager's position to implement policies fairly across the Board.

Shaver said the Board sets policy, adopts standard operating procedures, sets savings plans, establishes appropriate staffing levels, and that he expected management to spend time both in and out of the office. "Management sets objectives and the Board sets priorities,"

said Shaver.

## Question 5: A tongue-in-cheek question recognizing that disagreements are often played out in meetings as well as the newspaper, "As a Board member, can you play well with others?"

Mims said directors have to learn and be able to handle being on the top and the bottom. "Working with members is extremely critical — the community must be foremost in mind and what they are trying to accomplish. Arguments are not a way to handle issues."

Truesdell responded that Robert's Rules of Order are very clear and state that the majority rule and respect the rights of the minority.

Hannel said that there is no 'I' in team. "If you are going to be

(See "Candidates," p. 10)

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# Candidates

(Continued from page 8)

on a team than you must be a player. You're going to have to bend a little."

Shaver said his leadership style is not 'my way or the high-way.'

"The bottom line is; what is the best decision for the Association? You may not always agree, but you have to ask the question, 'Is that a good decision?' and accept it," said Shaver.

Racine said, as a town moderator, he took a lot of abuse.

"I found I would get more by working with people and seeking a consensus than by trying to bully," said Racine. "We come to the meeting, get the facts laid out, majority rules, and we move on to the next subject."

Scott said a Board must use a set protocol of controlled discussions and that, as a professional, she had worked on many committees and always started meetings with the same phrase, "You can't always get what you want. You can't always please everyone all the time."

"You start give and take and have to listen carefully and respect the position of an adversary," said Scott. "Once you start to realize that every point of view has merit, you are able to open yourself up more to different positions and allows for compromise leading to a more positive outcome."

## Question 6: What is the best way to handle short-term violations and enforcement of rules and regulations?

Racine said of his experience serving on the Judicial Committee that sometimes, rather than penalize a violation, it is better to assist the homeowner with ideas or suggest ways they can come back into compliance. "Enforce rules in a helpful manner, not belligerence. Go about it peacefully and get the point across."

Hannel said the current policy of sending a letter noting the violation has worked well for the community.

Shaver noted that law enforcement can be used for illegal acts and said a known juvenile vandal had been suspended from using community amenities. He said those notified of violations that refused compliance, were turned over for judicial review.

Scott said notification of minor violations should start with a conversation. "Many individuals cited didn't do it [violation] on purpose. I feel the majority of problems could be handled informally through conversation. If that is not successful, then you have no other option than to go through a formal process."

Truesdell said Seven Lakes, as a gated private community, must enforce rules and give seven days written notice of a violation with the option to appeal, before a penalty can be exacted. He said many unkempt yard violations are the result of absentee homeowners and suggested working out a way to maintain the lot and charge the owner.

Mims said that all rules and regulations must be enforced fairly and evenly.

"You can't let one slide and place a harsh action on someone else. We need to make sure our members are well aware of the rules and the actions that will take place," said Mims. "We have to be fair and that starts and ends the same with each individual."

## Question 7: Dogs running loose are a chronic problem. What should the Association do to control dogs?

Hannel said that both Seven Lakes and North Carolina have leash laws.

"If a dog is running loose, then we should call the dog catchers and we have a fenced in area by the maintenance building to hold the animal," said Hannel. "If it happens more than once, there should be a penalty."

Shaver responded that both maintenance and security staff actively pick up loose dogs; however, he said that a large majority of dogs come from outside of Seven Lakes.

"This is a constant problem. We pick them up, we call the owners, they come and get them or we turn them over to the county."

Truesdell said that it was difficult to enforce community leash laws for dogs from outside Seven Lakes. "This is an ongoing problem and I wish we had a better answer."

Mims said that Seven Lakes residents pay county taxes and should call on animal enforcement — including to train the

(See "Candidates," p. 11)

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## Candidates

(Continued from page 10)

staff on how to safely handle loose dogs.

Scott said it's a simple fact that dogs want to run free and often escape from homes and yards at will.

"Here in Seven Lakes we have a requirement that dogs be licensed. Security and maintenance staff must make the decision if the dog looks friendly enough to capture and then can look at the tag," said Scott. "If it is not a safe situation, then call Animal Control."

Racine said his own leashed pets have been attacked many times by loose dogs.

"Dog owners should be able to pay the small fee to register and tag their dogs. We have a lot of kids around here and dogs — even just being playful — can cause problems."

### Question 8: What do you think about incorporation for the Seven Lakes area?

Truesdell said that, during his term as SLLA President, he visited Chapel Hill to investigate incorporation and that he does not believe it would be a viable option. He said that state law prohibits spending money in a restricted-access facility — "Which means we would have to give up the gates."

He said if the Association could transfer the burden of the maintenance of infrastructure then it would be worth consid-

ering, but that the twenty-six miles of SLLA roads do not meet state standards.

Shaver said that Seven Lakes is currently part of the Pinehurst precinct for county districting, but that he anticipates a change in the lines following the 2010 Census, which will put the community into the Robbins precinct.

"We'll then be in position to pick our own representatives to the Board of Commissioners," said Shaver, noting that he does believe incorporation of Seven Lakes will happen anytime soon.

Scott said she is not willing to share amenities.

"We bought here because we wanted the lakes, stables, golf and tennis. To even think about opening lakes to outside play — especially during the busy Summer months! . . . I am absolutely opposed."

Racine said that he does not want to see what happened in Pinewild with Pinehurst's forced annexation.

"I would like to keep our own community and roads and gate," said Racine.

Mims responded that you must look at the value of the dollar spent. "I'm not sure if we'd gain a lot of benefit. I feel we can manage just as we are."

Hannel said he is not in favor of incorporation.

"I moved here because it was a gated community. Our lakes, our road. I would like to keep it that way."

## Incorporation = no gates? No Ma'am.

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Whether or not to incorporate the Greater Seven Lakes area has become an increasingly urgent question following the legal conclusion to the forced annexation of Pinewild and the recently signed annexation agreement between the Villages of Foxfire and Pinehurst.

During the recent Seven Lakes Landowners Association Candidates' Night Forum, a question about incorporation opened the floodgates for a torrent of misinformed statements based on the wrongheaded notion that incorporation would require removing the gates from private communities in the area.

That's just not the case. Moore County is already home to a number of private, gated communities that lie within incorporated municipalities, including Country Club of North Carolina, Fairwoods on Seven, National Golf Club, and, very soon, Pinewild Country Club of Pinehurst, among others.

Incorporated towns and villages receive various streams of tax revenue from the state. Such public revenues generally cannot be used for expenditures on private holdings — which would include all roads, parks, dams, and other common areas within a gated community.

Thus, if the citizens of the Greater Seven Lakes area did opt

to incorporate, each gated community would have to make an individual decision whether to retain or remove their gates.

Keeping the gates in place is a viable option, but it would mean that homeowners would pay both city taxes, for amenities and services within the corporate limits, and landowners dues, to fund the internal amenities of their association, including pools, lakes and dams, and roads.

An incorporated municipality is typically governed by a mayor and town council and may employ a municipal police department that enforces state law — including speeding violations — on public and some private roads; however, only private security officers or community staff could enforce association-based rules and regulations.

For more information, *The Times* recommends a review of the UNC-School of Government

publication "Incorporation of a North Carolina Town" which states, in part, "Citizens who are considering incorporation for their community must weigh the advantages and disadvantages as they apply to the particular circumstances of that community. How serious is the need for new services? How much will those services cost? Are there alternative ways of getting those services? Will zoning be a protection against bad choices by neighbors or an undesirable restriction on property rights? How likely is annexation by a nearby city in the future?"

*The Times* has posted a copy of the UNC report on our website at [sevenlakes.net](http://sevenlakes.net). Look for "Incorporation" on the top menu.

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## Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)

problem area, Hoffmann said, noting "the closer it gets to the school bell, the faster they come."

"Eight in ten are moms with kids in the car," he added.

Hoffmann said he would distributed the results of his speed survey to Board members to allow them to draw their own conclusions.

Hoffmann said he had contacted the Sheriff's office to request speed enforcement in the community immediately after first learning of Fisher's concerns during the February 9 Work Session.

"Since then we have had no

less than five deputies in, and they have been issuing some tickets," Hoffmann said, noting that one motorist was ticketed for doing 56 mph. "We can expect significant enforcement activity for the next two to three weeks, he added.

### Money

Also speaking during the Public Comment period of the meeting, Jim Barrett asked that the Board review a revision of the Budget Revision Package he had presented to Treasurer Kathy Kirst earlier in the month. Barrett contends that a dues increase of twenty-five percent in FY 2010-

2011 plus a four percent increase the following year can meet the Association's needs for reserves. [See a letter from Barrett on page 29.]

Treasurer Kirst said she had analyzed Barrett's original proposal and found it came up wanting in terms of replenishing reserves.

"The mortgage and mortgage interest are a set number," Kirst said. "The amount we had to replenish for contingency reserves is a set number. It has to be done. The road reserve number is a significant amount. I used the same numbers that you did. I'm not coming up with any kind of coverage — but with deficits. I am not coming up with sufficient reserves that we are going to have -- even the roads, and that is a significant concern of mine. Some of these things are huge problems."

Barrett reiterated his request that the Board meet with him to review his proposal, touching off a back-and-forth that

quickly grew testy with Board members rebutting Barrett's points and Barrett interrupting their rebuttals.

"We started this in August," President Ron Shepard said. "We looked at all these numbers. Our numbers, we feel, are a lot more legitimate than yours. When the vote comes back, if it is voted down, we start over. At

this point, we are not going to go back in. We have done our job and done it in a consistent manner."

Tom Dibella, a frequent attendee at Board Work Sessions, asked that at least the Finance Committee take a look at Barrett's numbers.

After ascertaining from the

(See "Westside," p. 14)

## Pantry

(Continued from page 5)

"We watch the ads and see what's on sale," he said. "Every week we place an order, but what we have to give out is based on what we can find at a good price."

Feggeler said selections at the main Food Bank have diminished over the last three or four years, as donations have decreased, forcing the WEUMC Pantry to shop more heavily at Food Lion.

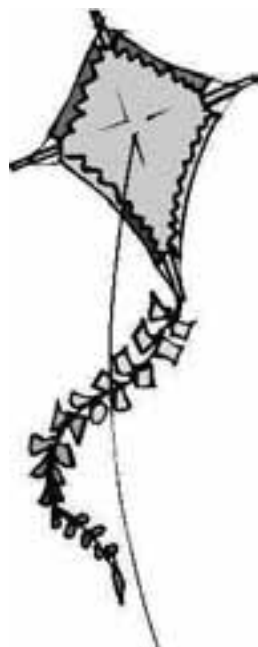
Alongside Feggeler, the Food Pantry is served by a dedicated team of four local volunteers — Bob Haan, Pete Sonderfan, Bill

Carl, and Keith Wood — who shop and collect food on an alternating schedule. Distribution days are assisted by a larger group of volunteers who pack the boxes, assembly-line style. More volunteers are welcome and you do not need to be a member of the church to help or receive assistance.

"One of our biggest priorities in life should be to feed our neighbors: no one should go hungry," said Pantry volunteer, Carmela Chase. "There are people all over the world who are hungry. At least we can feed our neighbors."

## ANNUAL KITE DAY

ROSELAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



will be having their annual **KITE DAY** on  
Saturday, March 13th  
11am – 2pm  
at 1603 Rose Ridge Rd.  
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For more information  
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but as for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

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# "World Famous" Traveling Buy Show is Coming

**Cash in your attic?** This week visitors will cash in on antiques, gold, silver, coins, and collectibles - many in for a surprise!

By Anne-Marie Thompson  
The Great Treasure Hunt STAFF WRITER

Could thousands of dollars be collecting dust in your closet or attic? Bring your valuables on down to the Great Treasure Hunt Antique and Collectible Buy Show in Pinehurst and leave with cash in hand! The Treasure Hunters are located at the Comfort Inn from Tuesday until Saturday to pump money back into the rapidly declining economy.

With unemployment reaching 11.1% in North Carolina, there is no doubt that Pinehurst locals are

in need of fast cash. The Treasure Hunters will



The Treasure Hunters will be set up at the Comfort Inn Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

make an offer for anything of value, so come down to the Comfort Inn for a free appraisal.

"We will sort through boxes of collectibles and bags of coins and jewelry if you let us," says Treasure Hunter Kenny Davis, but that is not all they buy. They have purchased anything from comic books and tin toys to basketball jerseys and rare vintage guitars.

The easiest way to know what coins are of value, the Treasure Hunters explain, is to look at the date. U.S. coins made before 1965 are valuable because of their

high silver content, and they can be worth more if they happen to be a rare date.

The Treasure Hunters can test precious metals on site, as well. If there is any doubt of the carat content, the experts will be able to find out within minutes. They will buy broken chains, earring studs, diamonds, class rings, and much, much more. Nothing is too big or too small.

While the Treasure Hunters cannot purchase everything brought in, they welcome anyone and everyone to come by with

their items.

The Treasure Hunters will be set up at the Comfort Inn Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., so stop by for a free appraisal.

"Every person out there has something we would have interest in"

- Team member Chris Wagner

For more information visit their website: [WeBuyTreasure.com](http://WeBuyTreasure.com).

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**We represent some of the world's top memorabilia antique collectors**

The Great Treasure Hunt Antique and Collectible Buy Show represents top buyers of antiques and collectibles. These resources allow the Treasure Hunters to pay the highest amount possible to their sellers. The company bases their offers on today's going rates, so you can be sure you are getting the most for your valuables.

Given the circumstances in

today's economy, the Treasure Hunters are willing to meet sellers privately to ensure the safety of their goods. Their purchases are always professional, fair, and discreet.



**\$100,000 Mandolin found in Pennsylvania**

On the Treasure Hunters' last trip to Pottsville, PA, they discovered an unexpected gem. Treasure Hunter Will Whitaker reports, "I couldn't believe we had come across a Gibson F-5 because they are so rare!" With a speedy call to Kenny Davis, the Treasure Hunters quickly learned of the mandolin's authenticity. It was genuine. The seller made a very

large profit on the mandolin and left the show with a great deal of cash in hand.



**Single Mom Sells Her Old Gold and Starts Business**

Jane Mitchell from Northampton, Massachusetts came in to the Great Treasure Hunt Antique and Collectible Buy Show in need of extra cash. She brought her out-of-style gold jewelry and



some broken chains. "I didn't think they would be worth much, but I'm starting my own business from home, so every little bit counts."

The little bit she hoped for ballooned to an even \$2000, which was more than enough cushion for her new catering business. The Treasure Hunters turned her unwanted jewelry into much needed cash in less than 15 minutes.

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# Westside meeting

(Continued from page 12)

Treasurer that the Finance Committee had reviewed Barrett's original proposal, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn that the Board could not review revision after revision "on a day-to-day basis."

## Other Business

In other Business during the February 23 Work Session the SLWLA Board:

- Approved a modification of the West Side Park mortgage with First Bank that extends the loan another five years at the same interest rate: the prime rate plus one-half point, with a floor of five percent and a ceiling of eight percent. Treasurer Kirst reported that she had contacted other banks, but only First Bank was willing to do the loan modification, rather than writing a new loan, which the Association cannot do under the provisions of the Planned Community Act.
- Approved on second reading a revision to the rules and regulations to make it clear

that manufactured homes are not allowed in Seven Lakes West.

- Heard from Adam Wimberly that three Architectural Review items that were slated to come before the SLWLA Judicial Panel had been resolved, two before any hearing was held and the other by action of the Panel.
- Heard from Chairwoman Karen Milligan a call for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for next year, as well as a request for additional volunteers to serve on the Community Activities Committee. Those interested in serving on either should phone Milligan directly.
- Heard from Security Director Hoffmann that he has drafted a snow, sleet, and ice response plan that will be circulated to all Board members for comment. Hoffmann noted that inclement weather had delayed work on lightning mitigation at the back gate.
- Learned that Hoffmann has

identified and will be working with an expert on security cameras to determine what is needed to provide license plate recognition at the front and back gates. "I will not spend any new money on any new cameras unless they have demonstrated that they work in our setting," Hoffmann said.

- Heard from Director Mick Herdrich that trees and brush continue to be cleared from the pond dams and that Engineer Dan Marks is developing a

plan for any needed remediation of those dams.

- Heard from Director Goodman that the work of the landscaping committee and entries planning committee is moving forward. Goodman noted that he and Ray MacKay are working with a contractor to fine tune the approach to repairing deteriorating culverts under Longleaf and other streets.
- Learned that the Greater Seven lakes Community Council had sent a letter to the

Moore County Board of Commissioners requesting "a seat at the table" when the county board meets with area municipalities.

- Heard from Milligan that the second installment in the Westside's series of financial workshops will be held on Thursday, March 11, beginning at 7:00 pm. The focus will be on family finances and how young families can get started establishing a financial plan.



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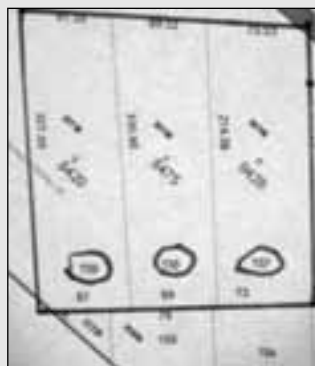


**109 TIMBER RIDGE COURT**  
Stately 4 BR on Private Timber Ridge Court in 7 Lakes West  
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**137 LONGLEAF DRIVE**  
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**113 LONGLEAF DRIVE**  
4 BR, 3 Bath with Bonus  
Seven Lakes West  
**\$348,900**



**277 MACDOUGALL DRIVE**  
Prime Commercial Property with extra lot available  
~~\$279,000~~ **\$249,000**



**LOT 51 PHASE IV**  
Morganwood Lot  
5.5 Acres (4 Bedroom Perc)  
~~\$128,000~~ **\$120,000**



**110 LONGLEAF COURT**  
3BR, 2BA close to front gate  
Some exterior maintenance provided . . . . . **\$289,500**

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105-107 Longleaf . . . . .	Double lot . . . . .	\$80,000
547 Longleaf . . . . .		\$45,000
101 Myrick Court . . . . .		\$51,000
539 Longleaf . . . . .		\$45,000
112 Wertz Drive . . . . .	Lake View . . . . .	\$75,000
545-543 Longleaf . . . . .	Double lot . . . . .	\$85,500
533 Longleaf . . . . .		\$45,000
102 Yorkshire . . . . .	Golf View . . . . .	REDUCED to \$25,000
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115 Berwick Ave. Lot 2351 . . . . .	Golf front . . . . .	\$37,500
148 Cambridge, Lot 2350 . . . . .	Golf front . . . . .	\$42,500
20 Pine Tree Court Foxfire . . . . .	Golf front . . . . .	\$55,000
138 Beacon Ridge Drive . . . . .	Golf Front . . . . .	\$59,500

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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

publish minutes of their meetings, which include a summary of all items discussed. Invoices and other financial information is then submitted and approved by the Board before being disseminated to the general membership. Finance Committee meetings are closed, Galford explained, because large dollar items and alternatives are discussed.

"If all these options were discussed openly, we'd be answering questions of transparency every day and never get down to the nitty-gritty of what we are trying to do," said Galford. "Every financial request is answered, though they may not like the answer."

He encouraged any member with a question about SLLA finances to contact him.

"The Finance Committee has to do a better job of selling what we are doing, because I am very proud of what we are doing," Galford said.

## Finance

Galford reported that the Finance Committee received a

unique request for information regarding the recent curbing replacement project at the main parking lot.

He said that the curbing project had been under discussion for six months in the Maintenance Committee with consideration given to expansion joints, strength of asphalt, backfilling, and whether to install the curbing before or after paving the lot. However, Galford said, the project took on urgency after the existing rotted timbers became a safety issue.

In total, three bids were received, including two for concrete curbing and an in-house bid to replace the wood timbers. Galford said much of the detailed discussion of specifications had been verbal.

"We have to live with it, but I do hope new management will help us with more written contract information," he said.

Galford also reported the transition inventory was complete and would be turned over to Talis — "so they know what they are responsible for," he said.

## By-Laws 6.1.1 & 6.1.2

An amendment to By-law 6.1.1, basically a descriptive guideline for the SLLA system of governance, was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

However, a motion to approve the related amendment of By-law 6.1.2, which presented a detailed organizational chart outlining Board and management responsibilities, died without a second — or an explanation.

During member comments, SLLA Board-candidate Melinda Scott expressed concern that the organizational chart appeared to be more of a job description.

"Once you put this into the By-laws you are setting in stone that this is what the directors and manager do," cautioned Scott. "We need ebb and flow as

new things need to be addressed."

## Geese – foul fowl?

The SLLA Board has come under fire recently for their failure to respond in a timely manner to a resident's report on the impact of Canada geese in the community.

Keyser apologized for not following up on the concern and said that the priority over the past few months had been completing the management search.

Zielsdorf said with Talis in place, members could expect a more proactive and timely response.

"Concerns should first go to the manager. If you do not get a response in a reasonable period, then contact the Board, but

start with the manager. They are paid to know how to handle these situations," said Zielsdorf.

Director Bud Shaver agreed that geese were destroying yards and beaches and suggested working with Seven Lakes Country Club to resolve the problem.

## Road Paving

A survey of roads in Seven Lakes North and South was completed by Fulcher and presented to the Road Paving Committee.

Galford said a primary concern will be repairing the dip on Fire-tree Lane near Echo Dam — anticipated to be a major expense. Other priorities include the roads at Dogwood and Lanchashire, where tree roots and

(See "SLLA," p. 18)

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The event is educational in nature and will feature a general discussion of why invest, where to invest, and developing strategies. No company-specific products will be discussed.



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**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

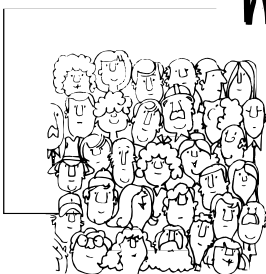
- **Spring Home and Garden Exposition** – Moore County Master Gardeners participating in the Moore County Builders Home and Garden Exposition at the Carolina Hotel. Gardening in the Sandhills presents special challenges as well as special opportunities. Stop by and talk to the Master Gardeners. Get your garden ready for Spring. Expo continues through Sun., March 7.
- **Christian Author Julie Barnhill Seminar** – 7 pm – 8:30 pm. Seminar is "You Go, Girlfriend." At Grace Church, Southern Pines. Fee \$15. Saturday's session \$25 & includes free entry to the Friday session. Advance tickets [www.sandhillsmops.com](http://www.sandhillsmops.com) or at Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Presented by Sandhills MOPS.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

- **Christian Author Julie Barnhill Seminar** – 9 am to noon. "One Tough Mother." Strategies

for the modern mother. Grace Church, Southern Pines. Fee Saturday \$25 and includes free entry to the Friday session. Advance tickets [www.sandhillsmops.com](http://www.sandhillsmops.com) or at Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

## What's When Calendar

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

- **Southside Baptist Church Revival Services** – 10 am, Sunday School; Evangelist Morris Gleiser will speak at the 11:00 am Worship service, and 7 pm service on Sunday, March 7. Revival will continue each night at 7 pm through Wednesday, March 10. A nursery will be provided for each of the services. The public is invited to attend these spe-

cial Revival services: Southside Baptist Church, 125 Cedar Creek Road, Biscoe. For information or directions call 428-9243 or Pastor Michael Lynn at 974-4723.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 7 pm, multi talented singer and musician Sara Grey and her son, Kieron Means, to perform at Poplar Knight Spot,

Aberdeen. As well as singing and playing superbly Sara is a fine story teller specializing in stories from New England. Soup and Songs, doors open 6 pm. Music at 7 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)944-7502

**MONDAY, MARCH 8**

- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, quarterly "Eating Meeting" at Kenny's Country Restaurant, US Hwy 1, opposite the Shell Station in Pine Bluff. Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal (including US Postal Service) active employees, retirees, spouses and surviving spouses to monthly meetings. Information Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.
- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Min. purchase \$15.00. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Call 910 974-3051.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9**

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center.
- **The Power of Email Marketing** – Lunchinar, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm, sponsored by Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Held at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Program presenter Anissa Freeman Starnes, Regional Development Director with Constant Contact. \$12 members, \$25 non-members. Pre-registration and payment required. Register [www.moorecountychamber.com](http://www.moorecountychamber.com), or (910) 692-3926.
- **Literacy Training** – 1 to 2 pm, Moore County Literacy Council twelve hour workshops for volunteers as adult tutors. Orientation today. Tutor Training held April 14, 15, 21, and 22, 1 pm to 4 pm each day.

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### 393 Longleaf Drive, SL West

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Call Faye Gibson ..... \$48,000

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- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – 3 pm, “Back to Basics” Guest speaker, Dick Kuehl, instructor in Continuing Education, Sandhills Community College. Presentation will focus on essential operations of defragmentation, cleaning out temporary files, temporary Internet files, cookies & registry cleaners.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 11

- **Help LaFave Twins Benefit & Auction** – 11:30 am. Benefit will help twin boys of Jeff and Jenny LaFave. Twins were born in Dec. 2009 at only 25 weeks and are at Duke University Medical Center. This Benefit is being held to offset rising medical bills. Event held at Fair Barn, Pinehurst, 11 am - 8 pm. Silent auction 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Live entertainment 6 pm - 8 pm. Jordan's Catering will provide the food. Cost/plate \$8. Dine-in & take-out available. Tickets, contact Kim Tew at Jubilee Screen Printing at 673-4240 or kim@jubileescreenprint.com
- **League of Women Voters “Lunch With Legends”** – Celebration of Women's History Month, the League of Women Voters of Moore County is presenting it's second annual “Lunch With Legends: Doors open at 11:30 am; lunch at noon, Whispering Pines

Country Club. “Special guests” will be Harriet Tubman; Alice Paul; and Margaret Chase Smith. Cash bar & valet parking available. Tickets \$30/person. Reservations & tickets – Ginger Finney 673-1330.

- **Moore County Republican Men's Club** – 12 pm (noon), Tim Lea, Chairman and District IV representative of the Moore County Board of Commissioners will be the speaker. Meeting at the Country Club of North Carolina. Interested persons contact Miles Baldwin at 295-1577.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, “Landscape Design for Small Spaces” at Seven Lakes North Side Clubhouse. Garden Club welcomes James Westman, Professor of Horticulture at Sandhills Community College. Professor Westman teaches the Arboriculture class at the college. Program will instruct the home gardener on landscaping in limited & small spaces, & landscaping in general. Public welcome.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 12

- **Fundraiser at WEUMC** – 6 pm. Don't miss “Italian Night” at West End United Methodist Church. Dinner hosted by the West End United Methodist Church Women. Menu includes lasagna, garlic bread, salad, & cake. Tickets \$8/person. Call Anneliese Feggeler 673-3734 for ticket information.

### MONDAY, MARCH 15

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session** – 8:30 am, Conference Room.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 16

- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – town managers of both Southern Pines and Pinehurst will speak. Reagan Parsons, town manager of Southern Pines and Andy Wilkison, the manager of the Village of Pinehurst. Topic is Long Range Planning. Lunch at Table on the Green Restaurant, Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Drive (off of Route 2) between Pinehurst and Southern Pines. Check-in 11:30 am, meeting 11:45. Public welcome. Lunch Charlotte Gallagher 910-244-9611. Cost \$12. Check, payable to LWVMC.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

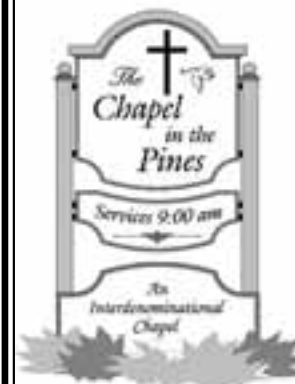
- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10 am to 3 pm, SL North Clubhouse. Making blankets, inspecting blankets & sewing labels on completed blankets. Introduction of new crafts and a copy of the 2010 schedule of events will be available. Drop by, check out Project Linus, bring a friend. Bring a snack. Pat Weber 673-1457.

- **Dearly Departed Debuts At Sunrise Theater** – “A drop dead funny play” presented by Moore OnStage: In the Baptist backwoods of the Bible belt, the beleaguered Turpin family proves that living and dying in the south are seldom tidy and always hilarious. At the Sunrise Theater for five performances, March 17-20 at 7:30 pm & March 21 at 2 pm. (Wednesday, March 17, will be buy one ticket, get one free night.) Everyone will love *Dearly Departed*. \$20 tickets reserved Moore OnStage at 910-692-7118, MC or Visa.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 18

- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 4:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Trish Harris, Associate Professor of Human Service Technology & Psychology, SCC presents “Who Is Riding That Motorcycle?” Seven Lakers & guests invited. Bill Mamel 673-8970. Next Forum: Thursday, April 15, 4 pm. Tentative title: Guilty! How are the consequences for committing a criminal act determined?
- \* **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5 to 8 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza next to Peking Wok.

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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 15)

spider crack damage is extensive.

"We will need to know the costs on those before we can make a recommendation on moving ahead with major repaving," Galford said, noting that he is looking forward to input and evaluation from the new community manager, Alina Cochran.

## Maintenance

Director Bud Shaver reported that the Maintenance Committee is working on long range planning, with a focus, in the coming year, of projected needs for equipment and building infrastructure.

The committee is also looking at the four areas of road with significant damage, as reported by Galford.

## Recreation

The Easter Bunny will deliver eggs and fun at Seven Lakes Northside Park on Saturday, April 3, at 11:00 am. Come join your friends and neighbors for punch and cookies party fol-

lowing the traditional egg hunt.

Volunteers are needed, said Director Keyser, to stuff candy eggs. If you can lend a hand, drop by the SLLA offices on Wednesday, March 24, between noon and 5:00 pm. Bunny helpers are also needed to serve punch and cookies on April 3.

Keyser also reported that the Recreation Committee, with members Jana Mims and Laura Douglass, discussed Summer Day Camp options, including staffing, and half-day versus full-day hours. More information will be announced soon.

The committee also discussed proposed improvements to Northside Park, in particular the addition of a basketball goal to the small paved half-court.

During the Wednesday, February 24 Open Meeting, the Board approved allowing the North Carolina Open Water Swim to be held on Lake Echo on June 4-5. The event regularly draws several hundred competitors to the two-day swim.

"This is good public relations for Seven Lakes and brings in a

lot of people," said President Randy Zielsdorf. He encouraged all residents to take the opportunity to watch the event for themselves.

## Security

Director Gary Caulk reported that security cameras installed at the gates two years ago were serving the community well and that thirty days periods of recorded data of incoming and outgoing traffic was stored.

"In the event of a break-in, we can review that information and send copies to the Sheriff's Office," said Caulk. "We can enhance the pictures and I'm very glad we have the cameras."

## Community Standards

Director Kent Droppers said the new Talis Management-based tracking system for violations will enable better tracking of community standards and bring compliance to a higher level.

He said the committee is actively pursuing new members and encouraged anyone with questions or interest to contact

him.

"Committee members attend a monthly meeting and travel a designated part of the community to make sure houses are up to standard," said Droppers. "Our procedure [for non-compliance] is a phone call by the manager to resolve the issue. If unsuccessful, then we send a letter and to Judicial."

## Other Business

In other business on Wednesday, February 24, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board:

- Heard from Zielsdorf that he has held three lengthy discussions with Alina Cochran and said he is very optimistic.

"Alina is proactive and I get solid answers to the questions I pose. We have bought into a team concept and she has any number of people that she can call on [for answers]."

- Heard from Director Sally Kindsvatter that the Architectural Review Board approved a fence, roof, windows and doors, a large addition, and discussed a non-compliance renovation project.



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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

the Commissioners to respond to a letter from LRCOG Executive Director Jim Perry, seeking the county's participation as a "core partner" in a consortium that would undertake a study of the Wagram plant. The Board voted unanimously to join in, so long as the study could be undertaken at no cost to the county. McSwain indicated grants were thought to be available to pay for the work.

Robbins Water back on the table?

Another option for expanding the county's water supply that has been on the drawing board for even longer than the Wagram plant is the currently inactive water treatment facility — and associated reservoir — in Robbins.

Both Pinehurst and the county, operating independently, explored last year the possibility of bringing that plant back online to provide treated water to the southern end of the county — an option that would benefit Robbins by allowing to once again produce its own water, instead of buying water from Montgomery County.

County officials held a number of meetings with the town, but seemed more interested in the prospect of building a new water plant on Bear Creek reservoir than in reactivating the dated Robbins plant. Both the village's and county's negotiations with Robbins ultimately fizzled out without reaching a resolution.

Monday night, Chairman Tim Lea said he had heard from Robbins Mayor Theron Bell that her council had reached consensus on how they wanted to move forward to reopen negotiations and were working on options for bringing both boards together in a joint meeting.

Commissioner Cindy Morgan

said she had also spoken with a member of the Robbins Council — who was less clear that a consensus had been reached among town officials.

"We are in a hold/wait mode," Lea said, "waiting for some dates so that we can put both boards in the same room at the same time."

In addition to trying to restart the Robbins negotiations, the county is also actively renegotiating water purchase contracts with Southern Pines and Aberdeen. McSwain said a draft contract with Southern Pines has been ironed out and would be forwarded to the Commissioners for their review before being placed on the Board's agenda.

Not discussed during Monday night's meeting was a water supply agreement between the developer of the proposed Pine Forest subdivision east of West End, which would put in place infrastructure to bring Montgomery County water down NC Highway 211, providing a much-needed second source of water for Seven Lakes.

Consideration of that agreement was tabled a month ago, pending work by McSwain and County Attorney Misty Leland to ensure developer MHK Ventures would pay the full \$3 million cost of the water project.

Leland told *The Times* prior to Monday's meeting that the contract negotiations are moving forward and indicated she expect-

ed the matter would soon be resolved.

Recycling grant application approved

Chad Beane, who served as Assistant Community Manager of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association before leaving to take the position of Solid Waste Manager for Moore County, made his first appearance before the Commissioners Monday night, asking for approval to apply for a state grant to purchase a plastics compactor.

The county currently transports one container filled with recyclable plastics each week from each of its seven convenience centers to a recycling facility near Wagram. The new compactor would allow plastics from all seven sites to be compressed, allowing for only one trip to Wagram each week, saving both diesel fuel and employee time.

If the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources approves the county's grant application, the \$17,000 unit can be purchased with an expendi-

ture of only \$3,400 in county funds, Beane explained. Commissioner Nick Picerno noted that 32 gallons of diesel fuel consumed per week amounts to \$5,000 in a year — so fuel savings alone should recoup the county's expenditure in the first year the unit is in operation.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the grant application.

Literacy Council reports

The Commissioners heard during Monday's meeting an update on the activities of the Moore County Literacy Council, which received \$7,600 in county funding last year.

"As you consider your budget, we want to make sure you know who we are and what we are doing," Council President Susan Sherard told the Board.

She explained that the council's mission is to eradicate illit-

(See "Commissioners," p. 20)

reach a goal!

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to be taken

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 19)

eracy in the county, a goal which it pursues primarily through one-on-one tutoring, teaching adults to read. Adults who cannot read "fall through the cracks," Sherard said, noting that they cannot re-enroll in K-12 public schools and cannot be admitted to Sandhills Community College.

Twenty-two percent of Moore County adults need basic literacy help, she said. The Council has 125 volunteer tutors and two paid staff members. More than sixty percent of its \$104,000 annual budget comes from fundraising and contributions. Last year, its tutors were matched with 160 adult pupils and contributed 525 total work days.

The Council has recently expanded its operations to include four tutor-pupil pairs in Carthage, meeting at the Moore County Library. Sherard said she is actively seeking tutors to serve the northern end of the county.

The Board voted to accept Sherard's presentation and roll the Council's request for funding into the regular annual budgeting process.

## Other Business

In other business during Monday night's meeting the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Authorized the Moore County Day Reporting Center to apply for a \$100,000 grant that will help support its programs, which offer an alternative to incarceration for some offenders.
- Authorized Youth Services to apply for a \$104,000 grant to support its programs aimed at juvenile crime prevention, including teen court, victim restitution, and psychological evaluation programs.
- Tabled a request from Public Safety to award a \$182,000 contract for a system that would standardize fire and EMS reporting across all the departments in the county. Each of the Commissioners expressed support for the request, but Commissioner Nick Picerno wanted to make sure two points in the contract were clarified.
- Approved an \$86,000 contract with Hobbs-Upchurch and Associates for the design of a sewer system to serve

ATEX Technologies, a manufacturer located near Pinebluff with a failed septic system that is preventing the expansion of their plant. The expansion of the county's sewer system, which will also serve residents of the Town of Pinebluff, is being funded largely through a federal Community Development Block Grant and a grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center.

- Called a public hearing for March 15 on a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant application that will allow the county to provide potable water and fire flow to another Pinebluff manufacturer, Manning & Company.
- Voted to consider during the FY 2010-2011 budget process a request for \$16,000 in funding needed to complete the Moore County Veterans Memorial in Carthage.

- Heard from Commissioner Larry Caddell that grants from the US Department of Agriculture and the NC Rural Economic Development Center

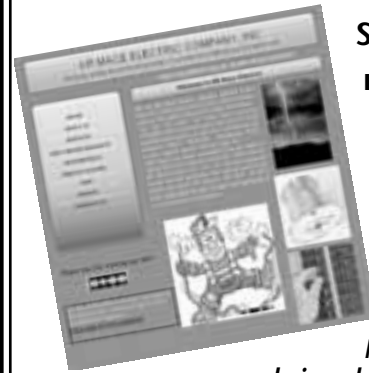
appear to be in place to fund a project that will connect the Vass sewer system to the county's wastewater treatment plant in Addor.

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# Life is always way weirder on the web

Snownam!  
Snowpocalypse!  
Snowmageddon!  
Snowsuvius!

If nothing else, this past season's unseasonably-harsh weather has produced an amusing new Winter vocabulary: words forged by the traumatized.

Storms begot blizzards and stirred the East Coast media into an icy froth with each competing to produce the most ridiculous meteorology report.

My favorite? A born and raised Baltimore hon [that's local slang for 'honey'], I have to go with the hometown meltdown.

"Oh boy . . . Our paralyzing, crippling, record-breaking storm comes today! Twenty-two inch-

es....SNOW and drift, SNOW and drift!"

Hmm, it loses something in the translation to print.

The good news for us — not so much for weatherman Jim Kosek — is the internet never forgets. Next time you're feeling down about that skimpy slab of slush that passes for a snowfall in the Sandhills, head over to [www.break.com/index/meteorologist-freaks-out-over-blizzard.html](http://www.break.com/index/meteorologist-freaks-out-over-blizzard.html)

See, just another oddball example of the amazing and occasionally frightening things you can find posted for posterity on the web these days.

Having a bad hair day? Your mood and 'do' are sure to improve

after a few minutes visiting the Feature Creature at [www.peopleofwalmart.com](http://www.peopleofwalmart.com)

You just can't make this stuff up! Trust me, I'm a

journalist [read: preferred career for the mathematically-challenged].

In fact, between YouTube

Snuggie infomercials, those so-called reality TV shows, and the endless stream of bizarre footage culled from security cameras and cell phones, I've decided I feel pretty darn good about myself.

Maybe that's the whole point of all that drivell — and why we can't look away?

Are your kids running ram-

closet. I mean, doesn't everyone still have a pair of parachute pants or acid-washed jeans buried somewhere deep in the drawer?

Mail piling up on the counter and you're feeling a bit disorganized? Strap on your seatbelt, you'll need it to view 'Hoarders.' Too shocking to be funny, but it sure makes my mile high stack of laundry look like a molehill.

And when you find yourself griping because it hasn't broken fifty degrees and your golf clubs are chilly, it's time to head over to 'Storm Stories.'

Tonight at 8 pm, Snowtal Melt-down — get ready for the ride of your life!

## Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

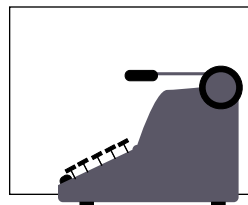


# Let's save the West Side July 4 fireworks

I recently approached the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors about the elimination of the budget for the community's annual 4th of July fireworks display. I asked that they put half the cost (\$7000) of the fireworks display back in the budget, hoping that I could raise the other half through donations and a raffle. They agreed.

Please note, that the agreement was that the Board will match contributions dollar for dollar. For example, If we were to raise \$5000, that is all the Board would match. Community Manager Joan Frost is work-

ing with two pyrotechnic vendors to get a contract by the end of March, in hopes of reducing the cost of the fireworks.



## Your Turn

Claire Czupryna  
Seven Lakes West

Speaking for myself and many of the folks from the area I serve as an Area Representative (Area #31), we would hate to change the dynamics of our 4th of July celebrations. This is the biggest

event that happens on the lake all year. Family and friends come to Seven Lakes West for all the backyard barbecues, games, swimming, boating and the conclusion of a great day with fireworks.

I, and others who have contacted me, would like to

keep this tradition alive and well. This is my proposal to get the funding necessary for half the cost of the fireworks:

1. Donations. There are many people that have approached me about donating money to fund the fireworks. As of Tuesday, March 2, I have \$800 in hand and pledges for another \$325.
2. Having a Raffle to help fund the fireworks. (There will be more details about the Raffle coming out shortly. Watch the mailhouse for posters.)

If you'd like to donate, you can contact me via my phone (910-673-2736) or e-mail me at [cczupryna@nc.rrcom](mailto:cczupryna@nc.rrcom).

I can come to your home to pick up a donations; I can meet you at the Community Center or

you can come to my home at 106 Douglas Drive or mail a donation to me at 3367 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

Checks should be made payable to SLWLA with "fireworks fund" written in the memo line on the check

All donations will be put in an envelope with the donor's name, address, telephone number and donation amount on it.

For any cash donations, the

envelope will be sealed and both the donor and I will sign the envelope.

All donation envelopes will be taken to the Community Center and locked in CAS' safe. If for some reason we can't raise enough money, then these envelopes will be returned to the donor by me.

Please join us in the effort to save the West Side Fourth of July Fireworks display!

## Times implements new policy on length of letters

Letters to the Editor are an essential part of the mission of *The Seven Lakes Times*. We believe strongly in fostering debate on issues important to our community.

For years, we have pursued that mission with a very generous policy that imposed no length limit on letters.

All good things, as they say, must eventually come to an end.

The volume and length of letters we now receive is pushing other content of equal inter-

est to our readers off the pages of *The Times*.

Beginning with our next issue, we will no longer accept letters longer than 300 words — and that, by newspaper standards, is a generous limit.

At the discretion of the editor, letters that exceed 300 words will be either returned to the author for trimming or expertly trimmed by our crack editorial staff.

So keep those cards and letters coming, but, please, mind the length.

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Laura Douglass, Reporter

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

# Melinda Scott has much to offer as Director

Dear Editor:

I am submitting the following letter of recommendation on behalf of Melinda Scott as a candidate for a position on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

I have known Melinda since she moved here three years ago. Besides being a terrific tennis player, she is smart, assertive

and great with people.

As a Seven Lakes Landowner Board member, I understand the challenges she will face on the Board, and I know she will be a great addition.

She has served on the Architectural Review Board for a year and understands how committees of the board function.

She is our research analyst

and if she doesn't know the answer, she knows where to find it.

Melinda served as a state investigator and as the state's chief compliance officer for the New Jersey Department of Education. She has experience in policy making and implementation. She routinely addressed issues raised by local school

boards, state superintendents, and parents.

She is a problem solver and believes in the team approach, which included input from her staff and colleagues. In her capacity of an administrator, she became an expert in record keeping, documentation, and communication — responding

to letters, e-mails, and phone calls.

I believe Melinda Scott has all the necessary characteristics and experience to make an excellent board member and will represent Seven Lakes in a very positive way.

Sally Kindsvatter  
Seven Lakes South

## Taking a bugs-eye view

Have you ever tried to roll a flat rock up a hill?

Or thought about the barrenness of perpetual self-centeredness versus the beauty of an open-minded approach to understanding the universality of mankind?



Mason's  
Musings

Mason Gould

Sometimes, the practicalities of life are a bit like that. It seems that some forms of mental gravity can hold us down, seemingly never to leave.

But those moods can disappear and life opens its arms and provides new opportunities to achieve, to love, to give thanks, for the gift of life.

Yes, your favorite little waterfall, half hidden within the woods, is still there, beckoning you to re-assemble, open your

pores to its cleansing grace, re-tune your priorities, and take a new breath.

What is truly worthwhile?

Where are the beacons whom God has nudged you to measure yourself against?

If you have found even one, like someone with a natural tact who can easily summon up forgiveness and instinctively treat others with respect, consider yourself truly blessed.

As the pendulum swings in its pre-determined arc, carrying with the history of our existence, we know we must continue to look outward because that is where happiness lies.

Featured  
Homes



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# Speed tables are not bumps in the road

Dear Fellow West Siders,

Having recently given a voice to the touchy subject of speeding on Longleaf Drive, I would like to speak to the residents of the West Side.

Thank you to all of you who somehow manage to arrive at your destination by traveling at the posted speed limit. Your con-

siderate actions are noticed and appreciated.

In response to Ron Weber's letter in the last issue of *The Times*, I would like to start by saying that speed bumps were never the topic of discussion for precisely the safety reasons the author stated. I'm sure he's aware that speed bumps and speed tables

are two completely different things and spreading misinformation is nothing but inflammatory.

If he has no problem with speeders on his street he should count his blessings. If his neighbors suddenly decided to drive past his home at twenty miles over the speed limit, I believe he

would be the last person to suffer in silence. As for the folly of my purchasing a home on Longleaf, let's just say the condescending tone was appreciated.

How naïve of all those who bought or built a home on a private, residential 35 mph street in a desirable gated community to expect their neighbors and incoming trades to respect the law.

If any of you use heavily traveled NC Highway 5 or Morganton Rd. in Pinehurst I'm sure you know that the 35 mph speed limit is highly respected. Most of this is due to Pinehurst having a separate traffic department with officers whose sole duty is to enforce the law. We don't have the luxury of that kind of police presence.

We cannot expect the Sheriff's Department to spend all their time on the West Side when they have the rest of Moore County to cover. When the deputies are present speeding

may decrease for that specific time frame, but once they're gone it's back to the same old thing. We have been incredibly fortunate thus far to have not had a tragic consequence due to this ongoing thoughtless behavior. Do we need to wait until you, your child or your friend is on their way to the hospital or worse to pay attention?

If you are unfamiliar with speed tables, please take the time to educate yourself before dismissing the idea out of hand. You would be able to travel Longleaf unimpeded at the speed limit with no damage to your vehicle.

If you wish to continue speeding, please examine your motives and the potential consequences of your actions. If it will take speed tables to make this community the peaceful and safe haven it was intended to be — so be it. Thanks for listening.

Wendy Fisher  
Seven Lakes West

## Careful who you vote for

Dear Editor:

What's "silly" about this upcoming Seven Lakes Landowners Association election is that we have both Bud Shaver and Don Truesdell running for seats on the Board. These two buddies were part of the board that went behind closed doors and dealt away \$75,500 of our dues money. They did it under the table and tried to keep it hidden from the community.

First take a look at Shaver. What a spendthrift. He took a \$16,000 maintenance building and got the cost up to over \$40,000 by the time it was erected. No bids, no sound money management, just "Let's put it up and that's it." And what about new trucks? He spent over \$46,000 on new pickups when that expenditure could have been delayed.

Truesdell was in fact Association President during a tumultuous time. He brought it all on

himself with his flip-flopping on issues. He first asked and got from the board a unanimous vote to seek a Temporary Restraining Order against Seven Lakes Country Club's sale and probable development of the old driving range. At one point, he told me that he didn't feel "welcome in his own club." He then flip-flopped and worked out a deal that got him back into the Club's good graces. It included a ten-foot buffer along the old driving range, land for more parking at the south side mail house, and the Country Club was to write the restrictive covenants on the driving range. What happened to all this? Nothing, the landowners are

left holding the bag.

Voters, when you cast your ballot in March, why not vote for new people who will tell the truth and be more open and above board in representing the landowners? Why vote for two people who you know have dealt behind your back?

I wish candidates Mims, Hannel, Racine, and Scott the best of luck.

Steve Hudson  
Seven Lakes North

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# 'The rest of the story' on Lakes & Dams

Dear Editor:

Candidate Don Truesdell states in an interview with *The Times* that our lakes are so important that the Lakes & Dams Committee should be a standing committee rather than a subset of maintenance. Where was his interest in our dams when, as a board member in 2005, he was assigned the maintenance committee and dams were his mandate? The short answer is nowhere.

In 2007, Charlie Oliver spent hours reviewing the annual NCDENR (North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources) reports and only then did we discover how remiss we had been. Oliver's revelations led to the formation of our Lakes and Dams committee, the meetings of which I chaired and Truesdell, then our Board President attended. John Eddy of Eddy Engineering was retained, and his executive summary of October 12, 2007 was less than flattering when he wrote "our review of the Record

Documents indicates repairs and maintenance of the dams within Seven Lakes have generally been forced by state mandates."

In 2008, at Truesdell's urging, Randy Zielsdorf, our newly elected Board President, arbitrarily decided that, because we had described ourselves as a committee, we had to be chaired by a board member. He appointed Truesdell the chairman; and, that same evening, Truesdell telephoned me and said, "Ron, we don't get along; and, since I now chair the Lakes & Dams Committee, you're no longer on it." Ask him what happened next and why only one engineering firm chose to visit and quote on the remediation of our high hazard dams when several had expressed an interest in doing so.

In 2009, Truesdell, then no longer a board member, joined the maintenance committee and persuaded Zielsdorf to disband Lakes & Dams and make it a subset of maintenance so that he might continue to oversee the

dams. Now, but one short year later this "flip-flop artist" has the nerve to suggest that Lakes & Dams be elevated to a standing committee. Of course it should be. The Advocates wrote the newly elected board on March 27, 2009 and made this same suggestion. The courtesy of a reply was never received.

Random House has several definitions for the words "flip" and "flop" and none are flattering. The former represents a "loss of self-control" and the latter, "a total failure." There is no better way to describe Truesdell's past performance and little reason to expect an improvement. Just be mindful when casting your vote of Elmer Letterman's quotation "personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open."

As Paul Harvey, that famous newscaster of bygone years used to say, "now you know the rest of the story."

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

## Seven Lakes EMS Phone Book

The 2010 Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Directory is now available.

You can pick up your copy for only \$7 at the Northside Landowner's Office and the Westside Landowner's Office or at the Seven Lakes EMS Building.

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# Consider history when marking your ballot

Dear Editor:

Landowners of Seven Lakes North & South are electing three new board members to join the four existing directors who will complete the management transition to a professional management company. One of the candidates, Don Truesdell, has a history as a director that needs a thorough examination before being considered as someone worthy of your vote.

Truesdell openly discussed the failures of the former community manager and the need to replace him. Three years ago, Truesdell met with John Stone at CAS, a local management company. Yet, rather than move toward professional management for the community, Truesdell decided that he personally was the answer and became a fixture in the Landowner's office. He claimed that he needed to get the information on paper that Fulcher had in his head. Yet, when Fulcher retired over two years later, there are no documents that reflect that information.

Truesdell says that he has time to devote to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association board. The community has seen what happens when Truesdell spends time on Association business. Anyone with a memory does not want to return to those times.

Truesdell brokered an agreement regarding the use of the old driving range. This was done behind closed doors with the Seven Lakes Country Club, allowed for no public discussion, and was a complete reversal from his first stated position. Based on information I recently reviewed, Truesdell brokered this agreement with the Country Club when the opinion from the Association's lawyer said that existing covenants should apply to the land. As a Country Club member, Truesdell brokered the agreement while ignoring his obvious conflict of interest. Today, three years later, the community has received nothing from the club that was promised.

On another conflict of interest matter, he said that he had an opinion from a lawyer that stated that Gary Caulk did not have a conflict of interest serving on the Board, when his wife

worked directly for the manager the Board was suppose to oversee. Yet, when asked to show that opinion, Truesdell claimed lawyer/client confidentiality. Interesting that one time he would ignore the company lawyer and another time he would claim he has an opinion but not show it.

Truesdell served at least one

year as chairman of the maintenance committee. Following that, he was President of the Association. When Bud Shaver talks about what he has been able to achieve at maintenance, realize that Shaver should be commended for his efforts, but know that many of the problems that Shaver has solved were

ignored under Truesdell's watch. Go back and read old editions of *The Seven Lakes Times* and see how well Truesdell's leadership was received in the community. Respected citizens publicly asked for his resignation.

Everyone is entitled to an opinion but not their own set of facts. There are many examples where Truesdell confused his opinions with facts. It is widely thought that

Truesdell's misrepresentation of North Carolina labor laws lead to Fulcher getting his \$75,000 golden parachute. The community simply cannot afford any more of Truesdell's contributions as a well-intended amateur.

There are better choices when casting your vote. Do not vote for Don Truesdell.

D. Alan Shaw  
Seven Lakes South

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Tutor Training will be held April 14, 15, 21, and 22 from 1 to 4 pm each day.

Donations will be accepted to defray the cost of materials.

Please register by the week prior to the session. Registrations may be made by phone, (910)692-5954 or e-mail, pammclc@nc.rr.com. All sessions are held at the Emmanuel Youth House, 385 E. Indiana, Southern Pines.

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# Westside dues increase is irresponsible

Dear Editor:

The proposed dues increase is the most financially irresponsible move by any board in the history of Seven Lakes West. This is tax and spend philosophy at its very worst.

Security Director John Hoffmann has over \$61,000 worth of "nice to haves" in his 2010 capital budget — for example: another \$20,000 worth of gate camera upgrades. We already have over \$100,000 in cameras that do not get the job done. A contract has been signed with Land Design to provide a master plan for the main and east gates totaling \$18,000. Again, "nice to have." But new front and rear gates will cost about \$1 million dollars to build. We are in a recession.

It has been reported that SLWLA reserves are \$5,000,000 short of estimated future requirements for capital projects and are at their lowest levels in years. We just took out \$700,000 for the dam remediation; of course reserves are at their lowest levels in years. Road contingency reserves are already being built up to meet this need. Contingency reserves are budgeted every year — this is nothing new. Yes, the dam reserves have to be built back up — but not in one giant dues increase.

The December 11 board minutes report that "Estimates of additions to reserves were derived from an analysis by the long range planning committee in conjunction with the finance committee." This is just flat not the case, as I am on the long range planning committee. I have not missed a meeting and this has not been discussed. Long Range Planning spent over six months coming up with a long range financial plan that included an orderly six to seven percent increase in yearly dues to cover capital and capital maintenance projects. What happened to the Long Term Financial plan? Our

president recently indicated he knew nothing about it.

Board members say we have to compete with Pinewild, Forest

Creek, and other new developments on the horizon. We have West Side Park, Beacon Ridge Golf Course, Johnson Point with

Marina and recreation facilities, Morganton Woods for equestrian owners and undeveloped amenities on Pine Island — but most important, we have Lake Auman, arguably one of the nicest fresh water lakes on the east coast. These developments cannot compete with us — we have Lake Auman.

What impresses potential home buyers are our amenities but everyone is impressed by Lake Auman — this sells itself and we have the only one in town.

We, the membership, have to make our voices heard. Write to the board and ask that your let-

ters be included in the board minutes. Write to *The Seven Lakes Times*. Speak up at the bimonthly board meetings. Ask the hard financial questions. Require accountability. Our voices must be heard now — before the annual meeting vote on the budget. I believe the "No" vote must total greater than fifty percent of the total voting membership.

Let's make the Seven Lakes West TEA (Taxed Enough Already) voice heard loud and clear with a "No" vote on the 2010 budget.

Joel Martin  
Seven Lakes West

## 7 Lakes Forum: Profiling

The next Forum is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 4 pm, on the upper level of the West Side Park Community Center.

Most human beings seem to be able to differentiate and observe 'differences' in people, places, things and the like. However, for whatever reason, the perceptions or impressions do not remain neutral or objective, but appear to acquire an emotional 'bias'.

Trish Harris, Associate Professor of Human Service Technology and Psychology, Sand-

hills Community College, will address issues associated with differences as she presents the topic entitled Profiling and Stereotyping: Who Is Riding That Motorcycle? All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Bill Mamel 673-8970. Next Forum: Thursday, April 15, 4 pm. Tentative title: Guilty! How are the consequences for committing a criminal act determined?



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# Vote 'No' on the proposed dues increase

*Open Letter To Members of The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association*

At the February 23 work session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] board, we asked to present our Modified Budget Revision Package (details of which the Board has not seen), which shows that a 25 percent dues increase in FY 2010-2011 and another 4 percent increase in FY 2011-2012 will satisfy the present and future needs projected by the association.

(For more information on our package, read our letter published in the February 19 edition of the Seven Lakes Times, which is available at [www.seven-lakestimes.net](http://www.seven-lakestimes.net).)

The response was an abrupt "No" by the president — a response echoed by another board member. Both were very vocal, defensive, and emotional in their comments. The majority of the Board members had no comments. No vote was taken on our request.

An Association member rose to ask the Board that they listen to the presentation. He was met with a curt "Thank you for your comments."

The reaction of the leadership of the Board reminded one of a microcosm of Washington, DC.

The Board president asked one question — "Why wait until now to request a review of your package?" The short answer was that the financial data to develop our package only became available in January 2010. Also, the January financial data was available only after, not prior to, the Board's vote on the dues increase.

After further consideration, it is obvious that a stronger, more positive response is necessary. In situations such as this massive dues increase, Board conclusions and details should be presented to all members (resident and non-resident) with sufficient time to respond with their input. This should be done prior to a board vote. After the fact notification on major issues only causes bad feelings among members and defensive responses

by Board members. Obviously, this should be a policy only on major issues.

Please do the following:

- If you have not, please vote "No."
- If you have sent in a proxy, please send a letter to Ed Tuton, board secretary, indicating that he is to vote "No" on

the dues increase on the ballot.

- If you have voted "Yes," please request a new ballot to vote "No."

A non-vote is actually a "Yes" vote for the budget. According to the NC Planned Communities Act (of which we are members), fifty percent of our entire voting

membership is needed for a "No" vote.

If you have not voted in the past, it is imperative that you vote this time. Also, please contact at least twelve other members to vote "No." Please ask them to contact twelve or more and pass it on.

It is particularly important to the

success of a "No" vote, that any member (resident or non-resident) who has not voted in the past must vote this time.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact:

*Jim Barrett*  
Seven Lakes West  
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SEVEN LAKES SOUTH  
3 Bed, 2 Bath with Fantastic Golf Views!!  
All brick home with many recent updates, screened porch, bargain priced!  
**\$159,000**



**159 OWENS CIRCLE**

SEVEN LAKES WEST  
Best price on Lake Auman! Artfully renovated 3 Br+Bonus, granite, hardwoods, screened porch, custom cabinetry, hardboard siding, lots of storage!  
**\$375,000**



**137 OWENS CIRCLE**

SEVEN LAKES WEST  
Beautifully renovated waterfront home on Lake Auman!  
Priced to SELL at **\$500,000**



**171 W. DEVONSHIRE AVE**

SEVEN LAKES SOUTH  
4,000+ Square Foot  
Golf Front Home!  
**\$250,000**



**121 CALLIS CIRCLE**

SEVEN LAKES WEST  
Waterfront on Lake Auman with breathtaking views! 3 BR, 3.5 BA, several bonus rms, screened porch, spacious, lots of storage, many wonderful features!  
**\$599,000**



**117 VANORE RD., SL WEST**

Waterfront beauty on Lake Auman! Magnificent views from this 3 BR home with office, formal dining, bulkhead, timber-tech dock, many fine details! Heated & cooled oversized garage with bonus rm above. **\$899,000**



**120 WERTZ DR., 7 LAKES W**

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD WINNER!  
Designed & built with the finest attention to detail. Enjoy Lake Auman sunrise from almost every room! Spacious, open, light & bright with all the upgrades! **\$475,000**



**119 LONGLEAF DR., SL WEST**

Spacious home on over 1 acre, water view! 3 BR PLUS 2 multi-purpose rooms! Open floorplan, heated & cooled garage, wooded backyard & many wonderful features! Priced to sell at \$80/sq ft.!! **\$239,000**



**122 SMATHERS, SL WEST**

3 Br, 3.5 Ba plus bonus rm with full bath & 2 closets! Great entertaining space, large kitchen, open floorplan with lots of storage! Great location close to marina/beach. Reduced and priced to sell! **\$275,000**



**WATERFRONT ON LAKE AUMAN**

SEVEN LAKES WEST  
Character & Charm abound in this custom Bolton Builders home! 3 BR plus Bonus, open floor plan, boat lift, dock, many wonderful features! **\$765,000**

**Advertise in The Times**

**Seven Lakes Times**  
March 5, 2010

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## HELP WANTED

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES –**  
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## ANTIQUES/PRIMITIVES AND HOME FURNISHINGS

**MEDLEYANNA'S** – of West End. We sell your favorite and fun – Country Junk, Antiques, Primitives, Quilts, Shabby Chic, French Country, and many needful things. Call 673-JUNK (5865) or 947-3759, for Harriet or Jerry.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**SEVEN LAKES** – Small turn-key business for sale; great potential for growth; \$10,000. Call 910-673-3557.

## TAG SALES GARAGE SALES

**NICE TAG SALE SAT. MARCH 6** – 9 AM to 3 PM, Sun. Noon to 3 PM. 190 W. Devonshire, Seven Lakes South (Enter Gate Immediate R. onto Devonshire). Featured Items Include: Oak Dining Set w/Hutch & Server. Pair Leather Recliners, Carolina Rm, Sofa, Chairs, Tables, Bed Room Suite, Area Rugs, TVs, Pottery, Books, Kitchen & Garage Items & MORE! Call 215- 0487 or 673-2149 for more Info.

## FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**ADJUSTABLE BED FOR SALE** – Extra long full size 54" x 80" by Flex-a-Bed. Exc.cond.; bought 3 yrs ago for \$2200. Includes the optional side rails and one set of sheets. Exc. for the elderly or people with problems getting in or out of a normal bed. Also great for the everyday person, just for comfort. Call 910-253-6469.

**BEAUTIFUL BURNISHED OAK, LIGHTED CURIO CABINET** – glass 3 sides, reflecting mirror in back w/4 glass shelves. 78" high X 13" deep x 22" across front. \$225. 673-3766

## FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

**44" ROUND, BLOND WOOD PEDESTAL TABLE** – w/4 padded arm chairs on casters. Perfect for card games, nice enough to use as a small dinner table. \$125. 673-3766

**LIGHT OAK BEDROOM SET** – Queen Sleigh Bed w/box spring & mattress, dresser w/mirror, chest, two night tables, Like New \$1,100. (910)673-2196.

**THE CHAPEL IN THE PINES** – has Seven Lakes Cemetery plots and columbarium niches available. Please contact Bob Tourt at 673-8156 for information.

## FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS

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

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

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE LAND/LOTS

**NICE LARGE NORTH SIDE LOT** – on Sandspur, adjoins the Soccer Field (.65 acre). \$24,000. 910-690-9706.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE LAND/LOTS

**LAND FOR SALE BY OWNER** – Corner lot on Otter Drive and Sunset Point, Seven Lakes West. One lot off the water with a lake view. Compare on same road at \$135,000 and \$85,000 and neither on the same side of the road as the lake. Nice wooded lot with large trees. Tax value is \$60,000 from years back. Need to sell fast – Priced at \$49,000. Will take reasonable offers. Call 910-690-6491 or 910-673-7320. This is the bargain of the year.

**MOVE YOUR HORSES IN TODAY, BUILD TOMORROW!** – 5.02 improved acres with horse facilities in Seven Lakes West. \$129,500. 910-603-5936/5940.

**NICE LARGE NORTH SIDE LOT** – on Sandspur, adjoins the Soccer Field (.65 acre). \$24,000. 910-690-9706.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**LAKE ECHO RENTAL, 7LAKES N** – 3bd/3bth, basement, garage, beach, decks galore. \$1300/mth. **7 Lakes N. Rental**, 3bd/2bth, lg backyard, \$950/mth. 910-673-3663.

**SEVEN LAKES SOUTH** – 3BR/2BA. LR, DR, CR, Eat-in Kit.w/pantry, Lg. Lndry Rm, 2 car garage, oversize lot. \$1100/mo+utilities. Call 673-4090.

**AFFORDABLE CONDOS** – \$495 to \$1095. Pinehurst Rental Services 910-585-0363.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**7 LKS SOUTH TOWNHOUSE** – Immaculate Unfurnished, 3 Bedrooms Split Plan, 2 Baths, Lrg. Family Rm, Porch, Single Car Garage. Rent \$900. Call Chuck, (910) 673-1756.

**HIGH PROFILE LOCATION** – 720 sf & 740 sf offices, water included. Also 2nd floor office - space available. 910-673-4800.

## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**FOR SALE AT BARGAIN PRICE** – Seawatch Plantation, Myrtle Beach Deeded Timeshare. 203,000 Pts. can be used at **any** Fairfield/Marriott Timeshare Resort and/or can be transferred to an RCI Worldwide. Call 673-4090.

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

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**LOCAL RESIDENT:** I buy used cars & motorcycles call before u trade. Kirk 910-690-9299. *115 3/5*

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235 LINEBERRY ROAD \$169,900  
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## 7 LAKES NORTH WATERFRONT



177 FIRETREE LANE \$212,000  
3Bd/2Ba MLS#133858

## 7 LAKES NORTH WATERFRONT



103 DOGWOOD LN \$229,000  
3Bd/2Ba MLS#136125

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5 CUMMINGS COURT \$239,000  
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## 7 LAKES NORTH WATERFRONT



116 SUNSET WAY \$299,900  
3Bd/3.5Ba MLS#136793

## SEVEN LAKES WEST



148 MORRIS DRIVE \$364,000  
3Bd/2.5Ba MLS#135504



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*Your 7 Lakes Neighbor!*

## 188 Paula Court – Seven Lakes West



*March's Featured Home*  
**\$394,500 3Bd/2.5Ba with Bonus**

This all brick Beacon Ridge golf front home consists of over 2600 sq ft of quality living. Immaculately maintained, nice curb appeal, manicured lawn, landscaping lighting, irrigation, and rear yard water feature. Upgrades include high ceilings, hardwood floors, custom cabinetry, stainless appliances and backsplash, crown moldings, large screened porch, and other appointments too numerous to list.



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## 120 Sunset Way – Seven Lakes North



*March's Featured Home*  
**\$269,000 3Bd/2.5Ba Waterfront**

Featuring 2,500+ sq ft, this home is on one of the largest lakes in Seven Lakes. Plenty of room for families who like to entertain and enjoy activities like boating, swimming, fishing, golf, horseback riding, and a family barbeque. Many extras including lake front dock, irrigation system, tiered back yard, deck and patio with walkout. Lower floor sports a fourth bedroom and workshop.



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