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Volume 25 Number 16

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

June 11, 2010

Incorporation forum packs the house

by Greg Hankins Times Editor

Skeptical.

The more than two hundred

Seven Lakes area citizens who attended a presentation on incorporating Seven Lakes without the gates on Tuesday night

were skeptical: skeptical that a police force could provide better security than gates, skeptical that the proposed town could really count on shared tax rev-

enues from the state, skeptical town taxes wouldn't rise rapidly, skeptical that dropping the gates wouldn't hurt property values.

strong support to ridicule, as more than twenty speakers rose to ask questions or make statements during the June 1 meet-

ing, held in the Great Room of the Westside Park Community Center.

A brochure summarizing the Study

Group's recommendations was inserted into copies of the May 28 edition of The Seven Lakes Times, generating plenty of community interest in the subject.

brochure and their full report at www.sevenlakestimes.net.] Seven Lakes, Together.

The task of summarizing the Study Group's report fell to The

[You can download a copy of the

Reverend Don Welch, a longtime resident of Seven Lakes North, who began by emphasizing the phrase chosen as the title of their brochure: "Seven Lakes. Together."

(See "Forum," p. 27)

"We hope that folks will see this as a way to create a wonderful village here." Reverend Don Welch,

Seven Lakes Community Study Group

The crowd was skeptical, but the reaction of individual speakers to recommendations prepared by the Seven Lakes Community Study Group ranged from

Drive to create town may hit legal pothole on West Side

by Greg Hankins Times Editor

Want to drop the gates, incorporate, and win state funds to repave Seven Lakes West's aging roads?

Get ready for a long, hard slog.

That appears to be the inevitable conclusion of legal research conducted by Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Legal Director Ed Silberhorn and presented during the Westside Board's Tuesday, June 8, Work Session.

The North Carolina Planned Community Act [NCPCA], Silberhorn found, appears to require that any dedication of Westside streets to a newly-incorporated

done only with the written approval of eighty percent of all SLWLA members. That's eighty percent of all landowners; not eighty percent of those who

> West Side Landowners Meeting

choose to vote in a referendum.

Not since the successful effort to consolidate the various Westside landowners associations has the community faced such a high approval hurdle, and accomplishing that merger took

town of Seven Lakes could be the concerted effort of dozens of volunteers working over a period of months to drum up votes.

It was the merger agreement itself that placed SLWLA under the authority of the NCPCA,

> Chapter 47F of the NC General Statutes.

> Silberhorn's research found that NCGS 47F-3-102 gives the Association the right to buy, own, and sell both

real and personal property, but also stipulates that SLWLA may either sell or "encumber" common property only under the provisions of NCGS 47F-3-112.

NCGS-47F-3-112 in turn lays (See "Westside" p. 19)

You've got talent!



Riley Nicholson & Zoe Richardson of McLendon Hills wowed the crowd at the WEE Talent Show on Thursday, June 3. Over one hundred students participated in one of the forty acts performed including singers, dancers, musicians, comedy and magic.

The Times, PO Box 468, West End, NC 27376 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Seven Lakes Times NEWS June 11, 2010

Sheriff nabs two in Peking Wok hold-up

An anonymous tip led to the arrest of one adult and one juvenile in connection with a May 10 armed robbery at the Peking Wok restaurant in Seven Lakes

Plaza Shopping center.

Two armed, African American males robbed the store owner and an employee at gunpoint, taking cash, cell phones, and a

An anonymous tip led investigators to 3680 NC Highway 211, just across form the entrance to McLendon Hills, where they found marijuana plants and drug paraphernalia.

Sheriff's officer arrested Jaron Lamar Baldwin, 19 years old, 3680 NC Highway 211, West End and charged him with three counts of felony robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony manufacturing schedule XI controlled substance, felony possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver marijuana, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Baldwin was placed in the Moore County Detention Center under a \$200,000 secured bond pending a June 17 court date.

Two arrested in West End thefts

Sheriff's officer charged a West End man with a string of thefts from West End businesses the same day they were report-

Christopher Edward Puckett, 25, of 105 Christopher Lane in West End was charged with

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
June 25 July 9* July 23 Aug. 6 Aug. 20 Sept. 3 Sept. 17 Oct. 1 Oct. 15 Oct. 29 Nov. 12 Nov. 23* Dec. 10 Dec. 22*	June 18 July 1* July 16 July 30 Aug. 13 Aug. 27 Sept. 10 Sept. 24 Oct. 8 Oct. 22 Nov. 5 Nov. 18* Dec. 3 Dec. 16*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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eleven counts of felony breaking and entering a motor vehicle and eleven counts of misdemeanor larceny in connection with items taken from Medlevanna's, Cagle's Auto Repair, and Mark's "The Shop" on Friday, May 21.

The stolen items were recovered from 251 Sleighbell Lane, near Cameron.

Officers charged Kristy Jean Kimball, 31, of that address wirh with eleven counts of felony breaking and entering a motor vehicle and eleven counts of Moore County Detention Center misdemeanor larceny in connection with the same thefts from West End businesses.

In the course of their invetigations, officers linked Puckett and Kimball to an April 26 theft of four firearms from a residence on Vass-Carthage Road.

Both were charged on May 26 with breaking and entering, larceny of a firearm, possession of a stolen firearm, and possession of a firearm by a felon. Both were placed in the awaiting a June 3 court date. Puckett's secured bond was set at \$250,000; Kimball's, at \$10,000.

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Developer era ends for Seven Lakes West

by Greg Hankins Times Editor

Seven Lakes West will no longer have a developer, under the terms of a settlement agreed to by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] and Lakeside Development LLC.

Westside Legal Director Ed Silberhorn announced during the SLWLA Board's June 7 Work Session that the final touches had been put on an agreement settling a lawsuit the Association had filed against Lakeside for failing to pay its share of gate security.

"The developer has kindly and in good faith agreed to a major change," Silberhorn told his fellow Directors. "The developer will no longer have any developer rights with respect to lots he does not own."

In addition, the terms of the agreement call for Lakeside to convey to the Association the gatehouse and the acreage surrounding it, which means the Association will now own Lakeway Drive all the way to its intersection with NC Hwy 211, controlling for the first time in its history the front door to the community.

In practical terms, Lakeside's giving up of developer rights means gives the Association's Architectural Review Committee [ARC] near total oversight of construction within the community, without the prospect of being over-ridden by the developer.

Silberhorn said Lakeside will continue to have the right to grant variances on the fifty-five undeveloped lots it owns, subject to the ARC standard that variances may be granted only in unique and unusual circumstances.

The agreement also provides for cooperation from Lakeside in the eventual reconfiguration and beautification of the front entrance area. "The developer has worked hand and glove with us in the spirit of the Lakeway project," Silberhorn said. Any streets owned by Lakeside will be turned over to the Association.

The Association is giving up the past due contributions to the cost of gate security, as well as future payments into 2013. Silberhorn estimated the value of those concessions to be \$35,000

and noted Lakeside had estimated the value of the gatehouse and associated acreage to be \$180,000.

After 2013, Lakeside will make

security payments based on the number of "developer" lots the company still owns.

"This is crazy positive for our community, from an ARC stand-

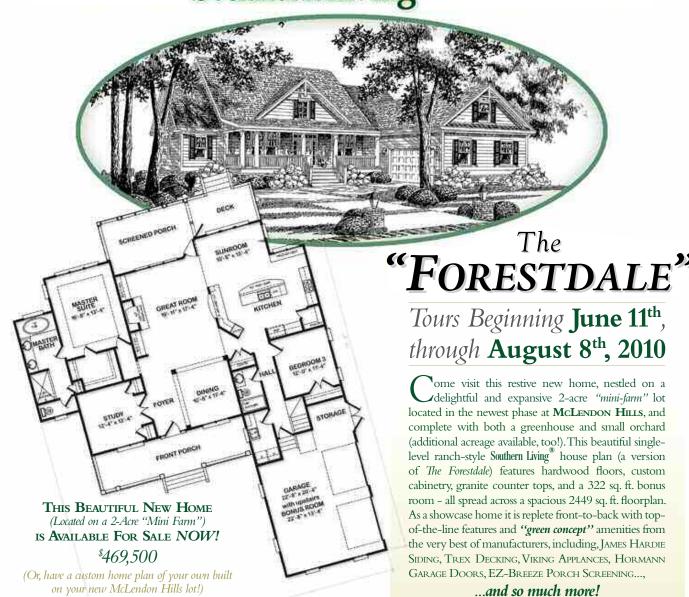
point," Director Adam Wimberly said.

The Board approved the settlement agreement and dismissal of the lawsuit on a motion from Treasurer Joe Sikes after further discussion in executive session.

(See "SLWLA," p. 13)



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Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 **NEWS**

No tax increase for Foxfire . . . for now

by Laura Douglass Times Reporter

Foxfire Village taxes will not increase if the Council approves the proposed \$1,077,310 Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget as presented by Finance Director Leslie Frusco before a packed Town Hall on Tuesday, June 8. However, Frusco warned that ultimately a future tax increase will be required to maintain existing services and facilities.

"It is a double-edged sword," she said, responding to resident Ed Spaulding's concern that future tax increases could make Foxfire less desirable to potential new residents. "There are things this Village will ulti-

mately need...If streets go into disrepair, the pool in disrepair, these are assets owned by the Village. If they are not main-

tained, people will not want to move out here. Just because we don't have an increase this year in order to maintain what we have, that doesn't mean one won't be needed in the future."

Foxfire Village has the second lowest tax rate in Moore County; however, debt service on the \$2.6 million dollar Woodland Circle road extension project that is nearly complete is a primary concern, especially in light of the current economy.

As proposed, the budget does include \$18,000 for a part-time police officer position to supplement the existing two-man force, a proposed addition to the budget made possible only because the vacant Planning and Zoning position has not been filled.

Compared to other local municipalities, Councilwoman Page Coker said Foxfire has a population of 700-800 residents and two full-time officers with a third part-time proposed; Taylortown has 883 residents and three fulltime and three part-time officers, Pinebluff has 1,000 residents and four full-time and 2 part-time officers, Robbins has 1,200 residents and three fulltime and three part-time officers, Vass has 800 residents and three full-time officers; Cameron has 169 residents and one full-time officer.

Frusco projected a total property valuation of Foxfire Village estimated at \$156,800,000 valuation - representing a \$5.04 million increase over the prior year. The proposed budget also anticipates a two percent increase in beer and wine tax, a 2.5% increase in telecommunications taxes, and a seven percent increase in projected Powell Bill funds, which is based on population and street mileage. With bankruptcy proceedings underway at the Foxfire Golf & Country Club, the proposed budget does not include any Club revenue or funding.

Overall administrative expenses are projected to decrease by

Foxfire Council

Meeting

eight percent, with a 78% decrease in Planning & Zoning due to the Council's desire to not fill the vacant position.

As proposed, these funds would instead be used to hire a parttime police officer, to hire an outside planning consultant, and to satisfy additional new, personnel-related increases to retirement and health insurance rates.

The proposed public safety budget includes a ten percent increase and includes a police chief, one fulltime officer, one K9 officer, and one part-time officer.

The use of accumulated Powell Bill funds increase the proposed streets and roads budget by 37%; and Frusco anticipated a four percent increase to the pool and park budget for chemical supplies and pool repairs.

Following a Public Hearing of the budget and a roundtable discussion, the Council postponed approval and called a Work Session on Friday, June 11 at 2:00 pm. A budget adoption meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June

Finance

Frusco reported the General Fund at \$631,449; with \$42,303 in Powell Bill funds and \$20,974 in the Stonehill Pines account. In addition, there are \$897,415 in loan proceeds for Woodland Circle not disbursed.

(See "Foxfire," p. 26)

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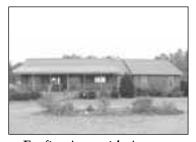
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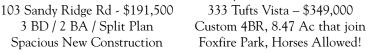
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County tightens spending by \$4 million plus

by Greg Hankins Times Editor

Sometimes the quarrel is not about where you're going, but about how you're going to get there.

Such seemed to be the case for the Moore County Board of Commissioners Monday Night, June 7, when an motion from Commissioner Nick Picerno to approve a dozen or so adjustments to the County Manager's budget derailed Chairman Tim Lea's plan to work through the changes one-by-one.

The quarrel that resulted threatened to overshadow what may be the more significant story: that the Commissioners were involved in the county's budget process far earlier and at a far more detailed level than they have been in the past — and the result was a more than \$4 million reduction in budgeted county expenses compared to Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Picerno was the Board's pointman on the budget, and came armed Monday night with a sheet of recommended adjustments.

Most of the proposed changes had been discussed in previous Board meetings and work sessions; however, Picerno provided his list to the Commissioners shortly before Monday's meeting began.

"The intent was to be as transparent as we possibly could be," Chairman Lea said, explaining the rationale for going one-by-one through the line items.

"It's not about transparency," Picerno countered. "I'll provide the transparency. This is transparent in that I am going to detail every revenue and expense change."

Picerno pointed out that there was no guarantee that moving through the proposed adjustments, and voting on each separately, would in the end produce the balanced budget required by law. His list, he said, when incorporated into the budget ordinance, would produce a balanced budget, he said.

In addition to having the Board vote on the dozen or so minor adjustments to the County Manager's proposed budget, Lea had planned to have separate votes on the county allocations for Moore County Schools and Sandhills Community College, neither of which will receive as

much money from the county as they requested.

The planned process also included a separate vote on a \$28,000 expense for services to be provided by Southern Software, a company that Picerno

founded and on whose Board he sits. Commissioner Larry Caddell is the company's CEO. The company supports systems in a number of the county's departments, and two years ago donated a computer-aided dispatch sys-

tem to the 9-1-1 center. It was not clear from Monday night's debate why the \$28,000 expenditure was being singled out for a vote.

When it became clear that Picerno's omnibus had the support of Caddell and Commissioner Jimmie Melton and the budget would pass without item by item votes, Lea said, "when all the information has been mailed out, for someone to walk into the meeting at the last minute

(See "Commissioners," p. 18)



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Workshop and Reception RSVP by July 6

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Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 5:00 P.M.

Workshop and Dinner RSVP by July 6

Quail Haven Village

155 Blake Boulevard, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.

Wine and Cheese Reception RSVP by July 15

Seven Lakes Country Club

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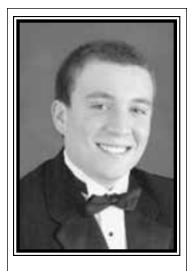


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6 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 NEWS

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!



Benjamin David Bleyer

Mt. Hebron High School Ellicott City, MD

Ben is the son of Dave and Cheri Bleyer of Ellicott City, MD and the grandson of Nancy Blythe of Seven Lakes.

He played on All-county and Mid-Atlantic All Star baseball teams. He earned an academic scholarship to Salisbury University, MD for Business/Sports Management.



Jessica Erin Nurnberg

Pinecrest High School Southern Pines, NC

Jessica is the daughter of Wayne and Marjorie Nurnberg of Seven Lakes. Her grandparents are LeRoy and Kathryn Nurnberg and Mary O'Connor.

Jessica will be attending Sandhills Community College in the Fall and transfer after two years.



Summer Ziad Hamzah

Terry Sanford Senior High School Fayetteville, NC

Summer is the daughter of Oz & Jakki Hamzah of Fayetteville. She was President of the International Thespian Honor Society & Drama Club, member of the Art Society & received the President's Volunteer Award. She will attend East Carolina University.



Jadyn Kai Salang

Pinecrest High School Southern Pines, NC

Kai is the daughter of Bobbie Salang, and the grand-daughter of Bob and Sally Salang of Seven Lakes North.

She was the Editor of the High School yearbook and a Varsity Cheerleader.

Kai will be attending North Carolina State, Raleigh in the Fall



Hannah W. Lyon

Davidson College Davidson, NC

Hannah is the daughter of Rev. Lawrence and Martha Lyon of Seven Lakes West.

She received a BA degree in Religion.

Hannah will be attending Stellenbosch University in South Africa to pursue a master's degree in divinity.

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Kim Williams is WEE's TA of the Year

by Laura Douglass Times Reporter

Kim Williams, a seven year veteran of the classroom was recently honored as the West End Elementary Teacher Assistant of the Year.

First working with Kindergartners, then with First and Second graders, Williams, a resident of Biscoe, said she was inspired to teach after her twin sons were born immature.

"I decided it would be wonderful to go to school with them when they started Kindergarten and I was fortunate to get a job," she explained.

"I love to watch the growth from the beginning of the school year to the end. They come in as Kindergartners and are so eager to learn to read," said Williams. "In first grade, they learn so much about writing and I just believe those two go together: reading and writing. It's exciting to see them progress."

As a teacher and a mother of three boys, Williams said she works hard to reinforce rules and manners.

"I understand boys' impulsive nature. All the boys are smart, it's just the nature of their personality, while the girls just want to be included."

Williams said daily lessons include working with small groups in math, with the lead teacher focusing on new skills and the assistant reinforcing those already learned.

"First grade is challenging and they must complete math and writing assessments, but they

do really well," she said. "If I see a kid struggling, I'm there to help them one-on-one."

"Give back" for Backpack

Chili's, on U.S. 15-501 in Southern Pines, is hosting a "give-back" night on Wednesday, June 23, in support of the BackPack Pals program for Moore County Public Schools children.

BackPack Pals, a program of Moore County Schools, was created to meet the needs of children known to have little or nothing to eat on the weekend. Children are selected from a variety of sources including teachers, teachers' assistants, counselors, nurses and administrators. Once selected, permission is obtained from the home.

Chili's is donating 10 percent of receipts placed in the donation bowl located at the front door of the restaurant to help with this program.

Come support the endeavor.



WEE Teacher Assistant of the Year Kim Williams





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125 N Trade Street Seven Lakes Village 8 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 BUSINESS

Sandhills Winery moves to 7 Lakes Drive

by Laura Douglass Times Reporter

'Wow,' is the simplest and most appropriate way to describe the stunning renovation of the Sandhills Winery new location on Seven Lakes Drive.

Following a ten-week major reconstruction, the stand-alone brick and glass office building has been completely transformed by the wine retailer, and now includes a dance floor, fourteenseat wine bar, and coming soon — an outdoor, covered courtyard patio with Wi-Fi.

"We want to be Cheers for Seven Lakes, where everyone knows your name and you're glad you came," said owner, Leslie Rose. "And now with our new space, we see ourselves as an event place too."

Winners of the 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year Award, sponsored by the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Sandhills Winery has been a great success and addition to the community since first opening their doors not quite a year and a half ago. With their new, larger location, Rose and her husband, Bob, are looking forward to hosting local talent for live evening performances.

The Roses and their customers will celebrate the new shop with a Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, June 19, featuring a free beer tasting from 2:00 pm 'til 3:00 pm and a free wine tasting from 3:00 pm 'til 5:00 pm. Music, door prizes, activities for the kids and some special sales are

Seven Lakes West Offers Summer Arts & Crafts Classes for Kids

Seven Lakes West Events will be hosting its Kids Summer Arts and Crafts classes at the Westside Park Community Center Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, classes begin Tuesday, July 6, 1 to 3 pm. The classes, taught by Linda Rosskamp, are open to children four and older.

Preregistration is required, and brochures with a full schedule are available now at the Seven Lakes West Community Center Office. also on tap for the celebration.

'Wine Down Thursday' tastings will continue from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, featuring six wines for tasting paired with delicious foods prepared by Goldie's Gourmet. Cost is \$10 per person and

reservations are strongly encouraged. The new Wine Bar will be open Fridays, all-day.

"My focus has been to create a place where people can enjoy themselves. Seven Lakes is a 'One Degree' separation place:

Leslie Rose shows off the new location for Sandhills Winery, on Seven Lakes Drive near Food Lion.



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you may not know someone but you probably know someone that they do," said Rose. "Sandhills Winery is a place for people to come together."

In addition to stocking hundreds of varieties of wine, from the casual bottle priced at \$3.99 to connoisseur wines for the finest table, Sandhills Winery offers wine party accessories and gift baskets starting at \$30. A ten percent discount is offered for cases and the Winery will special order any favorite —

whether you need wine for two, twenty, or two hundred.

Sandhills Winery is open for business, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. During regular hours, contact the Winery at 673-2949, and for after-hours Wine Emergencies, call 315-8035.

For more information and a calendar of upcoming events and wine tastings, please visit www.sandhillswinery.com

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from June 13th to June 20th for maintenance and repairs.

The Club will reopen Monday June 21st.

The Pool will remain closed until June 27th, reopening June 28th.

Thanks. Wayne & Marjorie



673-1180

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Four Girl Scouts earn their Gold Awards

by Laura Douglass Times Reporter

For every one hundred young women who join Girl Scouts, only four will earn the highest rank - the Girl Scout Gold Award.

On Saturday, June 5, Paige Baker, Shanele Frech, Colleen Fleming, and Tiffany Samon representing West End Girl Scout Troop 1325 reached this pinnacle of scouting achievement.

"The girls have worked long and hard to reach this goal. It has been a joy to watch them grow into the young women that they have become," said Troop Leader Sandy Baker, explaining how the girls initiated their service projects three years ago.

Paige Baker, a member of Troop 1325 for twelve years, established four campsites at the West End UMC Scout Lodge, clearing trees and installing picnic tables, fire rings, and birdhouses at each site, and also labeling foliage and trees for identification. In addition to scouting, she is a member of the Pinecrest High School Chorale Program Chamber Ensemble and is the daughter of Sandy and Ron Baker. She plans to attend Sandhills Community College before transferring to Appalachian State.

Colleen Fleming, who is also a twelve-year member of Troop 1325, collected and filled 250 backpacks with school supplies for needy children at West End Elementary, filled boxes with additional supplies for teachers, and provided afterschool tutoring. She is the first chair cellist with the Pinecrest Orchestra, a member of the National Honor Society, and plans to major in biology at NC State. She is the daughter of Mark and Mary Lou Fleming.

Shanele Frech developed and taught a cooking and safety

class for ten local 'latch key' children, aged ten to twelve. A member of Troop 1325 for eight years, her curriculum included planning and cooking nutritious meals and also safety instruction in the kitchen, on the telephone, and at the door. She will attend Sandhills Community College and is the daughter of Diane Frech.

Tiffany Samon was inspired by a church-based mission trip. For her Gold Award project, she collected school supplies, clothing, Girl Scout Cookies, and learning tools for teachers for an orphanage in Kenya. She has been a member of Troop 1325 for nine years and also plans to attend Sandhills Community College. Samon is the daughter of Alex and Alice Alston.

"Scouting enables young women everywhere to achieve and excel. It's a wonderful program," said Baker. "It offers them the chance to explore and experience a world that creates leaders and scouting has enabled me to be such a part of my daughter and her friend's lives. I've

been able to help mold them into future leaders. We've had such a good time. It was bittersweet to reach the end - the Gold Award."



Girl Scout Gold Award recipients Shanele Frech, Colleen Fleming, Tiffany Samon, Paige Baker

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Seven Lakes Times BUSINESS June 11, 2010

Jubilee Screen Print celebrates 20 years

by Laura Douglass Times Reporter

"If you can put your name on it, we can do it," said Judy McNeill of Jubilee Screen Print.

A single press and one dryer were the only equipment in place when Judy and Bill McNeill opened Jubilee for business twenty years ago in the Seven Lakes Business Village. With assistance from their adult children Kim Tew and Matt McNeill, the family now manages a 3,500 square foot workshop with four presses, two dryers, three embroidery machines, and two special machines just for hats.

"We decided screen printing would be a good opportunity, bought our equipment and got started," explained Judy. "But all I have to say is 'The Lord looks out for fools.' It took us all day to print our first ten shirts!"

A native of Moore County, Bill grew up in Aberdeen and then Pennsylvania, where he met Judy. The couple decided to return to North Carolina, settling first in the Candor area. They choose Seven Lakes for its central business location allowing easy service to Montgomery and Moore Counties, and later moved to Seven Lakes South in 1999. As founding members of the Seven Lakes Business Guild, both Bill and Judy have held leadership positions, Bill as a Past President and Judy as the Guild Secretary for the last eight

Now twenty years in business, Jubilee is a top quality production house for customers throughout the area, offering a plethora of items that can be individual-

"We do what the customer wants and work hard to ensure

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Screen printing work in its simplest form is a one-color logo on a T-shirt, to its most complex being a six-color design, with a dozen shirts as the minimum order. Commonly, screen printed shirts are ordered for special events, such as 1,700 shirts for the recent Vince Gill benefit concert, or for sports teams, businesses, family reunions, or special activities such as Vacation Bible Schools. In addition, Jubilee's embroi-

quality work at a fair price," said dery services can reproduce artwork or custom-design a logo with no minimum order.

> "Baby blankets, towels, most anything made of material - if we can load it on the machine, we can probably embroider it," said Judy. "They make great gifts."

> Jubilee Screen Print is located on Grant Street in the Business Village. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information or to place an order, call 673-4240, or email judy@jubileescreenprint.com.



Judy & Bill McNeill of Jubilee Screen Print

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Young artist's murals brighten up WEE



Mural Artist Anabel Harper and WEE Art Teacher Jill Hartsell in front of one of Anabel's murals.

The newly renovated playground at West End Elementary [WEE] has a new colorful entrance thanks to the artistic skill and vision of First grader Anabel Harper.

Her colorful picture of young girls jumping rope was selected by Art Teacher Jill Hartsell as the winner of a PTA-sponsored art contest and now brightens the side of a storage building at the playground. Anabel also added a vibrant scene of rainbows, flowers, and birds to another side of the building, one that faces the main student walking path.

Harper's murals are a bright and cheerful addition to The WEE playground which was completely renovated this year to accommodate relocated playsets for the preschool and K-2 students.

The daughter of Rebecca and Phillip Harper of Foxfire, Anabel was assisted in her painting project by her older sister, Jada, and her friend, Beronica Cruz.

Summer Fling Dance

Everyone's invited to a "Summer Fling Dance" on Saturday, June 19, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, a fabulous buffet at 6:30 pm, featuring Meatloaf, Sliced Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls/Butter Fruit, Ice Cream Bar, and Lemonade/Iced Tea station. Music & dancing at 7:00 pm by

Art Dearing of "Twin Spin" DJ Service.

The all- inclusive price for members is \$23 and non-members \$28 inclusive. Reservations may be made in person at the club or call 673-1100. You do not have to be a member to attend this fun event.

The dress code is cool and casual to welcome the coming of summer. Don't miss this evening of fun.

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Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 **NEWS**

In memory of

Walter Zwirblis, 86, of Seven Lakes West, died on Tuesday, May 25, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Zwirblis was born in Buffalo, NY and was raised in Plainfield and Irvington, NJ, where he graduated from high school. He received his college education at Duke University and Seton Hall University and his master's degree in business administration from New York University. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during W.W.II in the Pacific aboard USS Oglethorpe. He worked for many years as a statistician and quality control expert for New Jersey Bell Telephone and later taught statistics at Seton Hall University and other New Jersey Colleges. The family retired to Seven Lakes West in 1993 from Branchburg, NJ.

Burial will be at a later date at the Brigadier General William Doyle Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Dr. Joseph Pawlows-

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Rose (Morra) Zwirblis; two daughters, Susan Zwirblis of Cranston, RI and Lori Kennedy of Weehawken, NJ; a son, Alan Zwirblis of Dartmouth, MA; and his granddaughters and grandsons.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisted the family.

William "Bill" M. Walsh, Jr., 48, of Columbia, CT, died Sunday, May 23, at Hartford Hospi-

Mr. Walsh was born in Hartford, CT, the son of Joanne Gross Walsh of Pinehurst, and the late William M. Walsh, Sr.

He grew up in Glastonbury, CT, graduated from Glastonbury High School and was a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University. He had been employed for 25 years by Aetna Insurance Company as a systems programmer. He was active in several civic organizations and enjoyed sailing and fishing.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Penny Martin Walsh; daughter, Bethany Marie Walsh of the home; sister, Judy L. Blasko of Seven Lakes.

Funeral services were held Friday, May 28, at at D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, with burial at Columbia West Street Burying Grounds.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethany M. Walsh Educational Fund, c/o New Alliance Bank, 164 Middletown Road, P.O. Box 131, Columbia, CT 06237.

Norma C. McNamara, 81, of West End died Friday May 21, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. McNamara was born in Malcolm, Iowa to the late Darwin Smith and Edna Hubbard Smith.

A funeral service and burial in the Linwood Cemetery was held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa at a previous date and time.

Mrs. McNamara was a homemaker who enjoyed traveling with family most of her life. She was a former resident of Seven Lakes, a member of the West End United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Mcnamara was preceded in death by her husband James Thomas McNamara and her brother Norman Smith.

She is survived by a son, Jeffrey McNamara of Dingmans Ferry, PA; daughter, Judy Seldomridge of West End; sisters, Janet Beck of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Carolyn Carsello of Wisconsin Rapids WI; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Norma McNamara to the West End United Methodist Church, PO Box 276, West End, NC 27376

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.



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The above are choice lots and approved for septic.

SLWLA Meeting

(Continued from page 3)

Clubhouse Commons Files Suit Against SLWLA

"You get out of one, and you get right back into another," Silberhorn said, turning from the successfully settled suit against Lakeside to one filed against the Association by the owner of the Clubhouse Commons subdivision, located near the Beacon Ridge Country Club Villas.

Silberhorn explained that the Association had been trying for quite some time to negotiate an annexation agreement that would provide the future residents of Clubhouse Commons with access to Westside roads and amenities and the Association with oversight of architectural standards within the community, as well as dues.

He noted that the community is adjacent to Seven Lakes West, but does not lie within the boundaries of the original map of the community.

"We have not been successful bringing them in despite extensive compromise," Silberhorn said.

Clubhouse Commons LLC filed suit against the Association in April, seeking access to roads and amenities.

USPS Says No to Home Mail Delivery

Home delivery of mail is not an option for Seven Lakes West, President Ron Shepard reported, explaining that the US Postal Service had declined to provide curbside delivery in the community. Shepard later told *The Times* that the refusal came not from a regional manager, but from Robert MacCloskey, at USPS headquarters in Washington. MacCloskley was not identified by title on the communication received by the Board.

Shepard said the USPS refusal leaves the community with three options: having individual residents rent boxes at the West End Post Office, using cluster boxes scattered throughout the community that will serve multiple households, or building one or more larger mailhouses.

He reported that the Postal Service is currently studying the community in order to propose locations for cluster boxes. The Long Range Planning Committee will now begin actively exploring the options in order to provide the Board with data on costs, Shepard said. He noted that there is currently no budget for building new mailhouses, which means the Board will have to either begin building a reserve for the purpose in the FY 2011-2012 budget or contemplate a special assessment for the purpose.

Noting the decreasing importance of USPS delivered mail in the age of electronic communications, Director Mick Herdrich said the West End Post Office could be an attractive option for some residents. Director John Goodman said the entries planning committee has already explored some ideas, recognizing that new mailhouses might be needed.

"I think there are ways to construct mailhouses that are a lot less expensive," Goodman said.
"There are a lot of alternatives."

Treasurer Joe Sikes asked whether any public meetings were planned to solict input on the subject. Shepard replied that, once options have been fleshed out, they will be presented to the community. He

also invited landowners who want to weigh in on the subject before that to contact the Board.

Reciprocal Access Policy

Security Director Hoffmann reported that the SLLA Board is now offering only two options for Westsiders to be admitted to Seven Lakes North and South: the purchase of a barcode for \$25 or the use of a visitor hang tag.

He asked Board members whether they should re-evaluate their policy of honoring SLLA stickers for gate access. The Board was expected to discuss it in executive session, but did not address the issue afterwards.

Library Expansion turned down

The Board voted unanimously to deny a request for the expansion of the Seven Lakes West Library into another twelve-foot-by-twelve-foot space in the bottom floor of the Community Center. Library Committee Chair Judy Pendleton had asked for the expansion during the Board's May 25 work session

President Shepard said he

had reviewed the options and felt 500-600 additional books could be accommodated in the current space by shelving rows of books on top of the existing shelves and providing a sturdy footstool that would allow volunteers and patrons to access the high shelves. He also suggested adding a rolling cart for books that could be placed in the hall when the library is open.

The Board also approved a motion by Director Silberhorn that one Director by appointed to serve as Liaison with the Library Committee; Sessler agreed to take on the responsibility.

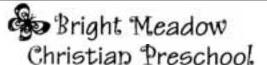
Other business

In other business during its Tuesday, June 8 Work Session, the SLWLA Board:

13

- President Shepard said the opening of the Westside pool on Memorial weekend had gone smoothly, in part because Community Manager Frost had pool passes not yet picked up at the office available for pick-up at the pool.
- Security Director Hoffmann reported that that repairs to the gate opening mechanisms had the Security Equipment line already over budget, a month into the new fiscal year.

(See "SLWLA," p. 14)



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14 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 NEWS

North Moore Family Resource at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Claire Ruggles, Director of Northern Moore Family Resource Center, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Tuesday, June 1.

Moore Family Resource Center organization serves the area in Moore County north of Carthage, and strives to develop strong families through various programs. In existence for

15 years, the organization works with the schools to supplement their efforts where extra help is needed to bring children to grade level in the basics of their education. They participate in morning and afternoon programs, not only with the children, but with their parents.

Helping to find good housing, and programs like the Individual Development Accounts program (IDA) which help families save money for their own homes, are part of the effort to strengthen the entire family.

Moore County, as part of the IDA program, matches the first \$1,000 saved by each family toward the purchase of its own home. Funding comes from the Federal Government, but is received through the State. That funding is supported by grants

which are solicited by the organization and from various other sources. Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors are always welcome.



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SLWLA Meeting

(Continued from page 13)

- Treasurer Sikes said he was working through the data to determine how many landowners had elected to pay their dues monthly and how many had already paid in full -- information that will allow him to better track actual revenue receipts against budget.
- Sikes said he is exploring the possibility of gathering together a finance committee and may ask that they work on the pros and cons of moving from a cash to an accrual accounting system.
- The Board asked Community Manager Frost to contact the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] to determine what their policy will be toward use of the Northside pool by SLWLA members. SLLA members may use the Westside pool by paying a \$5 daily usage fee.
- The Board unanimously approved allowing a resident of

AT SEVEN LAKES

FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEA!

The Pinnacle at Beacon Ridge to build a fishing platform at the edge of one of the Westside ponds, subject to guidance from the Architectural Review Committee on construction and materials.

- Events Director Jane Sessler said the season's first Friday Night Concert at Johnson Point had been a great success, and thanked Karen Milligan from developing the easy-to-implement event when she was Community Activities Director. During the concert, Sessler said, she and committee members were able to recruit teenagers interested in taking sailing lessons, so that program will go forward after all.
- Infrastructure Director Goodman thanked Director Hoffmann for taking an active role, along with Community Manager Frost, in maximizing the use of the Cedar Pines Landscaping crews

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to accomplish a variety of community improvement and beautification tasks.

- The Board approved a list of Lake Auman Rescue volunteers submitted by Director Herdrich.
- Herdrich said 750 boat decals have been issued; those applying for them after June 1 will pay a \$25 late fee. Boats without current stickers after June 14 will face a \$25 fine.
- The Dam Committee is working with Dam Engineer Dan Marks to schedule a trip to the community so that he can present to both the Board and the membership his rationale for keeping Longleaf Drive closed over Lake Auman Dam.

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Q. Why do my lights dim when my air conditioner cycles?

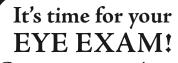


A. Every outlet in your home is connected to a circuit in your panel. Each breaker is designed to carry enough power, or amperage, to whatever is running off that circuit. Sometimes, folks will add more appliances to a circuit than it is designed to carry, causing an overload. GFI's can trip or lights can dim when an appliance on that circuit cycles. It's usually not difficult to

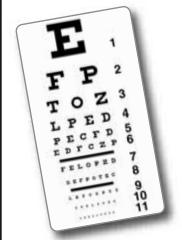
cycles. It's usually not difficult to add another circuit. Give **KR Mace Electric** a call at **673-0093** for any concerns about your circuitry.

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Seven Lakes West \$775,000 CHARMING CUSTOM BUILT WATER FRONT 3 BR / 3.5 BA Code 636 www.1310wensCircle.com



Seven Lakes South \$229,000 DESIRABLE GOLF FRONT HOME 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 617 www.122CambridgeLane.com



Beacon Ridge \$265,000 BEAUTIFUL GOLF FRONT 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 996 www.202BanbridgeDrive.com



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16 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 WHAT'S WHEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

- American Red Cross Blood Drive – 1:30 to 6 pm, Temple Beth Shalom, 131 Jackson Springs Rd. Foxfire. Sponsored by Foxfire Community. For appt. call 692-8571.
- Casual Fridays Everyone welcome to "Casual Fridays" at the Seven Lakes Country Club. A night of socializing and/or game playing. Feel free to bring your own games or you can join in with others playing games that will be provided. A one item entrée buffet is also offered for \$8.15 + tax & gratuity. Reservations suggested. This is the place to be on Friday nights. Call the SL Country Club 673-1100.

<u>SATURDAY, JUNE 12</u>

- Standard First Aid + Adult CPR/AED - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$60. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. 692-8571.
- Weymouth Garden Tour –
 10 am to 3 pm, Admission fee.
 Program booklet provides
 extensive about the gardens on
 the tour and a map showing
 locations. Weymouth Center,
 155 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. 910-692-6261.

<u>SUNDAY, JUNE 13</u>

- St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist. Rev. Father Robert Brown, Vicar. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.
- Southside Baptist Church - annual Homecoming services. Pastor Roger Baker of King, will be the speaker at the 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship service, and a special 1:30 pm afternoon service. Following the morning worship service, a potluck dinner in the educational building. A nursery is provided for each service. Public is invited to attend. For information or directions, call the church at 428-9243 or Pastor Michael Lynn 974-4723. Southside Baptist Church, 125 Cedar Creek Road, Biscoe
- Paint Hill Discovery Hike 3
 pm, join a ranger for a one
 mile hike to see the Paint Hill
 Tract of Weymouth Woods.
 This satellite area is not devel-

oped yet. Ranger will discuss plants and animals. Car pool from Weymouth Woods to Paint Hill, approx. 1.5 mile drive. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg

What's When and Calendar

Rd.. to Owens

Southern Pines (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ ncdenr.gov

- West End United Methodist Church - Invites Families to Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace. A summer family event. The program will continue through Thursday, June 17, 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm each day. Families will step back in time at Egypt, exploring the life of Joseph. Kids and adults participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Egyptian eats. To register call 673-1371.
- Summer on the Porch Music Series – Postmaster's House.
 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen.
 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JUNE 14

- Flag Day
- National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895 – quarterly "Eating Meeting" 10:30 am, at Kenny's Country Restaurant, US Hwy 1, opposite the Shell Station, Pine Bluff. Information about NARFE

is available by contacting: Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.

drive. Weymouth Woods, Sand-hills Nature Preserve, Concert - 6:30

pm, Free. Bring a lawn chair and picnic if you wish. In the event of rain, the concert will

be moved

to Owens Auditorium on the SCC campus. Sandhills Community College, Airport Road, Southern Pines. 910-692-7966.

Sandhills Photography Club - 7 to 9 pm, at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland and Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. Digital competition, any subject. The objective of the competition is to "level the playing field." It is the initial captured image "as shot" that counts. Digital manipulations are limited to cropping and resizing. Judge for the June 14 open competition is Melissa Southern of Naturescapes Photography. Southern is an awardwinning photographer and

- presenter who has been shooting since childhood and a shooting professional since 2003. www.sandhillsphotoclub.org.
- 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 (Exxon Station), just east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

 American Red Cross Blood Drive – 9 am to 1 pm, at Ag Building, 707 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage. For appt. call 947-6362. League of Women Voters of Moore County (LWVMC) – 11:30 am, monthly meeting. At Table on the Green at Midland Country Club, Pinehurst. June guest speaker is LWVMC officer Mary Lou Bernett. Her subject: "I Solemnly Swear... the lighter side of politics." Reservations required. Call

Charlotte Gallagher 944-9611.

Cost is \$12...

• Healing Service – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Intercessory prayers for those who are sick, troubled, in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. This weeks leader: Bette Hanham. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.



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Non-Registrants: \$110/wk Mon-Fri or \$30/day Sibling Discount. Reserve Only the Dates You Need! Non-Registrants/Drop-Ins Not Guaranteed a Spot. All Snacks are Provided! Kids Bring Lunch. Location: 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes. Just 2 Doors Fr McDonald's! A Non-Denom. Christian-based Facility. WHAT'S WHEN June 11, 2010 **Seven Lakes Times**

THURSDAY JUNE 17

- Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. "Wine Down Tasting" Rieslings - Rieslings and More Rieslings - from Sweet to Dry. \$10 and food from Goldies. Located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.
- Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED **Review** - 6:00 - 8:30 pm, American Red Cross Review/Recertification Course. Certification fee \$25. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. 692-8571. Prerequisite: Participant should hold current or recently expired certification in the review subject.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

• 4th Annual BackPack Pals Golf Tournament - 11:30 am Lunch, Shotgun Starts: 12:30 pm, Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club. Format: Captain's Choice w/handicap. Teams: Men, Women or Mixed. Entry fee:\$65 per person, \$300 for four as a corporate sponsor with name in program. Hole Sponsorships \$100. For entry forms contact: Ginger Finney, 673-1330, Jo Nicholas, 673-3604, Linda Hubbard, 692-6476 Proceeds benefit Moore County School's Back-Pack Pals program.

<u>SATURDAY, JUNE 19</u>

Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED - 8:00 am -1:30 pm, American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$55. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees paid in advance. Class size is limited. 692-8571.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

- St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church - 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Fred Thompson, Priest Associate. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, All are Welcome.
- Hoppers, Climbers, Swimmers - 3 pm, nights are filled with sounds of frogs and toads at this time of the year. Program will focus on more than 20 species that inhabit the region. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 692-2167.
- Eddie Barrett and the Goodman Legacy Orchestra - 4 pm to 6:30 pm, at VFW Post, 615 S. Page Street, Southern Pines. The public is invited. Cover charge \$5 per person. 910-692-3772.
- · Summer on the Porch Music Series - Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street. Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JUNE 21

Aging Gracefully Seminar at West End United Methodist Church - 10 am in the Fellowship Hall of the church.1.5 hour seminar by Myron Dice, United Methodist Church pastor and a professional in aging services. Objectives of the seminar are to provide the opportunity for participants to get in touch with their own aging and their

aging parent(s) and to provide options for participants to plan ahead for losses in the aging process, avoid denial when loss occurs, and maintain important decision-making control. For information 673-1371.

 American Red Cross Blood Drive - 1:30 to 6 pm, at Southern Pines United Methodist Church, 175 Midland Rd., Southern Pines. For appt. call 692-8571.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

- Healing Service 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. Leader: Paula Hill. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, All are Welcome.
- **American Red Cross Blood** Drive - 1:30 to 6 pm, at Pinehurst Resort, St. Andrews Room, at Pinehurst Country Club. For appt. call 692-8571.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

 Chili's "Give Back" Night Benefits BackPack Pals Program - Chili's, on U.S. 15-501, Southern Pines, hosting a "give-back" night, in support of the BackPack Pals program for MC Public Schools chil-

- dren. Chili's is donating 10 percent of receipts placed in the donation bowl to help with this program. Support the endeavor.
- **American Red Cross Blood** Drive - 10 am to 3 pm, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Conference Room, Page Rd., Pinehurst. For appt. call 715-1478.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

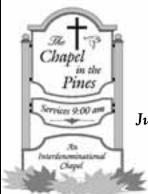
 American Red Cross Blood **Drive** - 10 am to 2:30 pm, at Sandhills Community College, Blue Hall, 3395 Airport Rd. Sign online uр

http://www.membersforlife.org/c bsr/schedule. Code is 1769.

17

- Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. "Wine Down Sterling Vineyard Tasting" \$10 for wine and food from Goldie's. Located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.
- Standard First Aid Review -6:30 - 8:30 pm, American Red Cross Review/Recertification Course, Certification fee \$25. 115 E. Penn. Ave., Southern Pines. Paid in adv. Class size is limited. 692-8571. Prereq: Participant holds current or recently expired certification in the review subject.





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Reverend Fran Stark Minister of Visitation & Outreach

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June 20th - Bob Tourt

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June 11, 2010 **NEWS** 18 **Seven Lakes Times**

Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

is typical of politicians . . . it is obvious that three of you want to change the process at the twelfth hour."

Among the larger adjustments to McSwain's \$85 million budget approved Monday night were adding back \$120,000 for Sheriff's bailiffs, \$38,000 for a new solid waste employee, and \$157,000 to prevent the elimination of four currently filled positions.

These additional expenses were largely paid for by Picerno's discovery that the manager's budget included a \$487,000 expense for the county landfill that had already been paid for in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget.

Picerno's motion to make those and the other adjustments was approved three to two, with Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan opposed.

The budget as approved will require no increase in the county's property tax rate.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, June meeting, the **Board of Commissioners:**

- Approved the final drawings, bid documents, and bid process for the new dentention center to be located in downtown Carthage. During the public comment segment of the meeting, four residents of Carthage asked the Board not to move forward with their plan to locate a jail downtown.
- · Declined a request from the Lumber River Council of Governments for \$2,500 to help fund a multi-county, multi-municipality engineering study of the feasibility of using industrial water and wastewater treatment plants near Wagram as a resource to meet regional water and wastewater treatment needs. The county joined in the planning process facilitated by the Lumber River Council with the understanding that any study costs would be fully funded by the state.
- Approved an extensive revision of the county's purchasing policies and procedures prepared by county attorney Misty Leland.
- · Made an exception to a general hiring freeze to allow the replacement of a senior plant operator for the Addor wastewater treatment plant, but tabled

the Manager's request to hire a Fire Code Enforcement Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

- Tabled a request from American Legion Post #12 in Carthage to sell a piece of property that the county gave the Legion Post in 1960, so that a park could be built on the property.
- Approved a \$68,000 contract for the installation of fire

hydrants in Old Town Pinehurst.

- · Scheduled their next meeting with county municipalities for August 5, and decided to invite members of the Moore County Summit's Water Task Force to make a presentation.
- · Made a nummber of appointments, including:
- Frank VanArsdale as ETJ representative to the Town of

Vass Board of Adjustment.

- Betty Sapp as ETJ representative to the Village of Pinehurst/Planning and Zoning Board
- Patrick Coughlin & Kay Thomas to the Workforce Development Board
- Nancy McNiff to the Sandhills Center Board
- Joe Clendenin to the Sandhills Community College Board

of Trustees

- David Byars, George Little, and Kelly Miller to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.
- Emi Allen to the County's HR Board of Appeals.
- Sarah Foster & Robert Wittmann to the County's Local Emergency Planning Board, also reappointing Scot Brooks Chair of that committee.



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126 SMATHERS DRIVE SEVEN LAKES WEST 3 BR plus office AND bonus room! Vaulted ceilings, fenced yard, close to Marina, MANY upgrades! Priced to sell at \$315,000!



116 DENNIS CIRCLE, SL WEST WATERFRONT ON LAKE AUMAN 3 bed /2.5 bath with great water frontage! Great floor plan with Carolina room. Well maintained, great views and nice dock! \$540,000



106 CARR CT., SL WEST GREAT LAKE VIEWS! 4 Bed plus office! Carolina room, open loor plan, lots of upgrades, and great loca tion on quiet cul-de-sac near community center! \$400,000



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! \$425,000



235 LONGLEAF DRIVE SEVEN LAKES WEST Den/Study, single level, many up grades! 10 ft ceilings, granite, crown moulding, hrdwds, private yard, screened porch, close to golf course! \$315,000



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



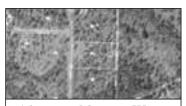
105 W DEVONSHIRE SEVEN LAKES SOUTH 3 Br, 2 Ba, golf front with Carolina room, fenced yard, workshop, gas fireplace, nice layout! \$200,000



23 ACRES IN MORGANWOOD SEVEN LAKES WEST Aggressively Priced at \$200,000! Many possibilities for this acreage!



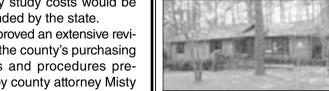
101 Sunrise Point SEVEN LAKES WEST Waterfront masterpiece on Lake Auman 5 Bedrooms, great views, dock, bulkhead too many wonderful features to list! \$1,200,000



5 ACRES IN MORGAN WOOD SEVEN LAKES WEST Horses Allowed! \$110,000



119 HARWICH SEVEN LAKES SOUTH 3 BR, 2 BA golf front with great pond view! Fenced yard, large great room, eat-in kitchen, split bedrooms, screened porch, freshly painted. Priced to sell! \$189,900!



103 ESSEX CT SEVEN LAKES SOUTH 4 Br, 2.5 Ba, golf front, all brick, custom ome with many upgrades! Lots of storage beautiful view, workshop, greenhouse, Carolina room, and more! \$250,000



119 LONGLEAF DR., SL WEST Spacious home on over 1 acre, water view! 3 BR PLUS 2 multi-purpose rms! Open floorplan, heated & cooled garage, wooded backyard & many wonderful features! New Granite & Hardwoods!! \$250,000



103 PINECONE COURT SEVEN LAKES NORTH 3 BR, 2 BA, wonderful open floor plan with Carolina room and spacious back yard. \$170,000



117 VANORE RD., SL WEST Vaterfront beauty on Lake Auman! Magnifi cent views from this 3 BR home with office, formal dining, bulkhead, timber-tech dock, nany fine details! Heated & cooled oversize garage with bonus rm above. \$899,000

Westside

(Continued from front page)

out the requirement that eighty percent of all landowners must approve the sale or encumbrance of any common element. There's an exception if the community's covenants lay out some other percentage for approval; but the Westside covenants do not do that, Silberhorn told the Board.

In short, dedicating the roads owned by the Association to the town of Seven Lakes would require approval by eighty percent of all landowners.

And dedicating Westside roads to the town is apparently the only way that public monies both town taxes and state shared tax revenues - could be used to improve those roads.

Silberhorn cautioned that, while he is licensed to practice in the State of Florida, he is not a North Carolina attorney and was speaking only as a private individual and the Board's Legal Director. However, the Board's outside counsel, a North Carolina attorney, did concur with Silberhorn's reading of the law.

Silberhorn said he was sharing the results of his research in part as an invitation to others to examine the law and offer confirming, or alternative, readings. He noted that one point of debate could be whether "dedication" of the streets to the town is in fact the same as "conveyance" as used in the Planned Community Act. The other point of debate might center on whether Powell Bill funds may be used to maintain streets that are ungated and open to the public, but privately owned.

Why it matters

Silberhorn's finding, if it stands up under scrutiny, would appear to throw a wrench into the approach to incorporation advocated by the Seven Lakes Community Study Group, which was detailed in a brochure inserted in the May 28 edition of The Times and a Tuesday, June 1 public meeting [See story on front page.]

The Study Group has been advocating taking down the gates of Seven Lakes North, South, and West, as well as McLendon Hills, and making the streets within those communities public by dedicating them to the town. The objective of that strategy is to make the proposed

Town of Seven Lakes eligible to receive shared tax revenues from the state, estimated to total \$1.6 million. Those funds could be used, among other things, to repair and repave the streets within the once-gated communities, because those streets would become public streets.

Municipalities may share in most of the available state tax revenue, of which sales tax proceeds are the largest component, only if more than half of their streets are public.

The Study Group estimates that the proposed town of Seven Lakes would have more than eighty miles of roads, of which thirty-three lie inside the gates of Seven Lakes West.

It would appear to be techni-

cally possible, then, to leave the Westside streets in private hands, drop the gates of Seven Lakes North and South and McLendon Hills, and still win access to the bulk of state shared revenues.

However, those revenues could not, in that case, be used to repair or repave Westside roadways.

Silberhorn's finding would not seem to impact the incorporation plan advocated by Incorporate-SevenLakes.com, which advocates leaving the gated communities as is, foregoing state shared revenues, and developing a more modest municipality in terms of both budget and services offered.

Board debates its role in incorporation debate

The broader question of how best to approach the question of incorporation as a Board and as a community was hotly debated during the SLWLA Directors' June 8 Work Session.

When Secretary Karen Milligan announced that the Communications Committee had arranged a Tutorial on Incorporation for June 24 that would be open to the wider Seven Lakes community, Director's Mick Herdrich, John Hoffmann, and John Goodman all argued that the meeting

should be open only to Westsiders and that the Board's focus should be on understanding the implications of incorporation for Seven Lakes West, rather than sponsoring community-wide discussion of the topic.

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After considerable discussion Director Goodman offered a motion directing the Board to undertake a "comprehensive process" of investigating incorporation that would focus "on the perspective and needs of what is best for Seven Lakes West." That process, Goodman

("Westside," p. 20)

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20 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 NEWS

Westside

(Continued from page 7)

proposed, should lead to "recommendations related to the issue of incoporation by the Board of Seven Lakes West for the residents of Seven Lakes West."

Goodman's motion passed seven-to-two, with Milligan and Treasurer Joe Sikes opposed. Milligan noted that her opposition was only to the portion of Goodman's motion that called for the Board to make recommendations to the membership on the issue.

In discussion prior to the approval of Goodman's motion, the Board struggled with differing notions of its responsibility with regard to the incorporation debate and with the purpose of any public meetings on the subject that it might sponsor.

Secretary Milligan reported that the Communications Committee had scheduled a June 24 "Tutorial on Incorporation," open to the entire community, featuring University of North Carolina School of Government professor Kara Millonzi, one of the coauthors of "Incorporation of a North Carolina Town," the bible on incorporation in the state.

"I thought this was for Seven Lakes West," Director Herdrich said, adding that Millonzi couldn't speak to the pros and cons of incorporation for the Westside community. Herdrich had successfully offered a motion during the Board's May 25 work session asking that the SLWLA Communications Committee set up a series of forums on the issue. He said the intent of that motion was that the sessions be aimed exclusively at Westsiders.

[During the May 25 Work Session, immediately after Her-

drich's motion was approved, Communications Committee member Betsy Mikula asked whether the proposed forums should be open to the wider community. President Ron Shepard confirmed that they should be open to residents of Seven Lakes North and South, McLendon HIlls, and "other interested people in the neighborhood."]

Responding to Herdrich during Tuesday's Work Session, Milligan said she felt Millonzi would be able to offer a solid jumping off point for the conversation: detailing the process of incorporation itself, providing "simply factual information about the topic," and serving as the starting point for "a civil conversation" on the issue.

A Westside-only Discussion?

Goodman said he didn't think it was appropriate to invite the rest of the community, noting that doing so lends credence to the notion — supported by proponents of incorporation — that there is in fact already a Greater Seven Lakes community.

"I don't think it is in our best interests to do that," he added

"I concur with John's point of view," Director Hoffmann said. "The board in this forum owes our allegiance and our best efforts to this community." He added that he liked the idea of a free exchange of ideas, but for our Seven Lakes West residents only, so they could ask question "without the risk of launching into an argumentative sitaution because a different community might feel totally differently."

"I think you cannot separate Seven Lakes West from the larger community," Treasurer Sikes responded. "What is good for Seven Lakes West is going to have to fit into the larger community."

Sikes said he didn't feel Westsiders could be "cocooned" behind their gates and should open any forums on incorporation to the broader public.

He also questioned the sense of urgency that some of his fellow Board members seemed to have about the issue.

"Which is it? Do we have to do something right away, or do we have plenty of time?"

"I do think it's right away, Herdrich reponded. "When someone starts selling something, you had better start getting the facts," Herdrich said.

"It strikes me that we are trying to stuff 20 pounds of stuff in a ten pound bag," Director Adam Wimberly said, noting that Milligan seemed to be trying to foster a general educational effort, while Goodman and others seemed to be trying to move toward having the Board develop an official position on the issue.

"It could be that we are asking for two different meetings," he said.

Director Jane Sessler said the idea of SLWLA-sponsored meetings on incorporation is "to educate . . . not just the Board, but everyone who lives in Seven Lakes West." "

I think we need to be able to do that within the privacy of our own community," she added.

The debate concluded with Goodman's offering and the Board's approval of his motion for a comprehensive investigation of incorporation that will generate an official Board position on the matter.

After some discussion in closed session, the Board decided not to advertise the June 24 session with Millonzi as open to all residents of the greater Seven Lakes community.

Goodman voices opposition to incorporation

Late in the meeting, Director Goodman asked to make a statement about the proposed inclusion of Seven Lakes West in an incorporated Town of Seven Lakes.

Goodman said he was disappointed in the Seven Lakes Community Study Group's presentation on incorporation, because he felt it was unbalanced, offering none of the potential drawbacks to incorporation.

"It was short on facts and long on opinion and marketing," Goodman said, adding that he felt the SLWLA Board should be "looking out for the interest of Seven Lakes residents." "Lastly, I want to clearly and unequivocally state," Goodman continued, "that, as an individual Board member, I believe that incoporation is a terrible idea for Seven Lakes West."

"I believe opening the gates and creating a new taxing entity will result in a substantial decrease in property values."

Goodman said he supports the gathering of facts that will help community members make informed decisions, but believes "incorporation is a one-way road leading the degradation of our lifestyles, and careful gathering of the facts will reveal that our costs will not decrease but will substantially increase."

Secretary Milligan responded to Goodman's statement by suggesting Board meetings were not the proper venue for the expressin of personal opinion on such matters.

"I would just suggest, going forward, that we don't take Board (See "Westside," p. 21)



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Westside

(Continued from page 20) time to air our personal opinions," Milligan said.

Noting that Silberhorn's earlier presentation concerning the difficulty of dedicating the community's roads to the town was based on legal research, not opinion, she added, "I just don't think that this is the pulpit to preach from for that."

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Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010

OPINION

Mirror, mirror . . .

am my mother after all.

For most of us, this tiny nugget of truth is no small morsel to

One day you're feeling young and hip and the next, well . . . just the hip. It's like the first twenty years pass normally and then the Earth's gravitational pull kicks in. The next twenty fly by in double time so I'm getting my space suit ready for warp speed travel through the next two decades.

To preserve my sanity and as a general rule in life, I've trained myself to avoid mirrors as much as possible and posing for pho-

Mirror, mirror, on the wall. I tographs almost entirely. Total reflection avoidance is the key to my natural self-confidence. Like the saying, 'If you look good



you'll feel good,' - only reversed. Unfortunately not everyone got my memo.

"Old and fat," is how one impec-

cably dressed gentleman recently described my sunny countenance from this page, in his unfiltered brilliance assuring me

> I was neither of those things and that I should simply substitute a new picture pronto. "It doesn't even look

> > like you!"

Well, that's true.

But the problem is there aren't many photographs that actually do look like me.

That is, the real me: the lovely lass who sets sail first thing each day on a little ship of denial where red hair is never frizzy and freckles are forbidden.

Like rare pearls, every once in a while she'll show up in a family album but, despite my best efforts, I've filled far more scrapbook pages with that other person who shares my toothbrush. You know, the chick who should've used more sunblock in the 70's, gotten a few more hours of beauty sleep, and perhaps eaten a few less leftover French

At least I've got my kids firm-

ly on-board with me on my fantasy cruise. Presenting her Mother's Day acrostic poem this year, the Pink Princess proudly described me as Marvelous, Outstanding, Magnificent, Mighty, and Young - immediately followed by a helpful notation in parenthesis, "not old."

That's my girl!

And I have to admit, it's a bit comforting to know that as time marches on, I'll always be with her: flaws and all, smiling back from her mirror.

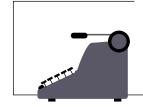
Incorporation: Now, Later, or Never?

First and foremost, I wish to commend both incorporation groups for their dedication to cause, research, time and effort and also to sav that, regardless of which side one chooses to be on, we are all one. Friends, neighbors, or residents of the larger Seven Lakes community, we must all remember to respect one another's point of view.

I believe both Incorporate-SevenLakes.com and Seven Lakes Together are looking to change the very things that attracted us all here in the first place. I believe they think the state budget office in Raleigh has excess money to bestow upon us.

meeting, Seven Lakes Together, presented a slide show and pamphlets depicting a budget that was unrealistic and indefensible. Budgets, as you know inherently contain fuzzy math. Anyone can input pro-

Bob Kieling Seven Lakes West



posed expenses and income to balance out. In the real world, when the dust has settled, the numbers do not match.

Suggesting a minimal tax of On June 1, at a community five cents per hundred dollars of property valuation, as both groups do, is absurd. That was put in place to get the camel's nose under the tent. To say that most of us would realize a reduction in monies spent on taxes and dues is pure

> smoke and mirrors. That may be in place for the first vear, but watch out for rising taxes in the coming

years. A member of Seven Lakes

Together admitted during the June 1 meeting that the budget would hold for "a year or two" before taxes had to be increased. At that meeting, I cited the tax structure for Foxfire on a home appraised for \$670,000. Village tax from incorporation on that property is \$2,158, plus County tax is \$3,338, plus Association dues \$998. Realistically, that's where your taxes would be heading. Pinehurst pays 28 cents per hundred, and Carthage pays 40 cents per hundred for their town or village taxes, yet both groups for incorporating Seven Lakes suggest a 5 cents per hundred tax to satisfy their understated budgetary expenses.

To counter some of their points encouraging incorporation:

I believe we who moved here did so knowing we would be living in a gated, restricted community with covenants, and welcomed it.

I believe we who moved here did not find it discomforting to need a realtor to show us a potential home or land to buy, and welcomed it.

I believe we all drove through West End and Seven Lakes prior to buying a home or land and accepted it as a rural North Carolina town and area in which we wished to settle to live our lives in a pleasant, tranquil environment, and welcomed it.

I believe that our time would be best spent by using Google to search for "NC forced annexation" and educating ourselves about this ugly monster that roams throughout our state. By the way, ours is one of the few remaining states that allows this to happen.

I believe our combined efforts would be well used lobbying our politicians to do away with forced annexation entirely. Rather than waste our time and efforts on incorporation looking for monies that may never appear, let us do away with the cause for our fears. Forced annexation can be defeated. Join one of the groups throughout the state working together to petition our representatives to do away with

such a law that destroys personal enterprise and property ownership.

Here is a website that will provide ample information on forced annexation and the movements within North Carolina to do away with it: http://www.stopncannexation.com/

The US Government is broke, our lovely state of North Carolina is broke and each of us will soon be broke trying to support a budget to build a never-never

Remember what you moved here for. Removing the gates will open our communities to unwanted traffic and trespassers. If we cannot control speeders now, who are mostly residents, just you wait 'till the gates come down. Cars will come roaring through your once quiet streets at all hours of the day and night. Parents will have additional concerns for the safety of your children.

I for one, wish to continue in the lifestyle that I moved here for. If I have to pay my fair share to rebuild my roads, I will do so gladly. It will be far less expensive than paying more taxes to support another municipality in the hope that some of those state monies will trickle back to ease my financial and mental

(See "Never?" p. 23)

AKES IMES

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Don't dismiss incorporation too hastily

Dear Editor.

Having attended the June 1 briefing on the proposed "incorporation of Seven Lakes minus the gates" and observed the presentation and audience response, I've come away with mixed feelings. I certainly commend the community-minded group that has invested significant time and effort to explore this option and applaud their suggestion that time should be taken to modify and improve their proposal before attempting further steps.

There was certainly a high level of audience skepticism and that's appropriate. On the other hand, a degree of open-mindedness is a fundamental requirement for bettering our lives and environment. Our passion for our gates seems to produce a gut-driven emotional response that gets in the way of our logical reasoning.

We need Spock from Star Trek

to keep us logical with our emotions in check. I hope we don't kill this idea before it can be more adequately evaluated. Only a more in-depth analysis can provide what's needed to make a sound judgment.

The prospect of a more united community is certainly appealing, as is gaining a place at the table in the county and the state councils. Certainly preserving our independence from acquisitive-minded neighbors is in our best interest and ultimately if these things can be accomplished without worsening the bottom line we owe it to ourselves to keep this door open.

One only needs to take a ride around Lake Pinehurst or tour Whispering Pines to see examples of attractive lakes in ungated communities which manage to preserve private access to their lakes and amenities with no evidence of some of the calamities predicted at the June 1

neetina

I believe there may be additional benefits beyond those already presented. Since road maintenance is a major expense for our individual communities and financing it through our landowners groups requires prefunding of large reserves, might there not be a financial advantage in handling this via municipal bonds which would be a possibility if we were a town?

Wouldn't that have a large impact on the level of dues needed to run the landowners groups? By consolidating the various road paving projects could there be a savings of scale? On the negative side, if road maintenance projects under the control of town authorities would there be a potential for conflict between landowners groups and other stakeholders as to priorities?

If the gates were gone could

this enable us to claim our rights to home mail delivery? Could the landowners groups get rid of the expense of mail houses?

I'm sure there are many other trade-offs that need to be looked at but I, for one, would hate to see a rush to judgment and a toohasty dismissal of this proposal

> Theodore Atwood Seven Lakes West

A Natural Course for Seven Lakes

[This editorial appeared in the Wednesday, June 2 edition of The Pilot newspaper. Reprinted with permission.]

Incorporation of Seven Lakes sounds like an idea whose time has come.

Two groups are pushing incorporation as the best course for the future of this lively and thriving community, accentuated by diversity and energy.

The concept of officially becoming a municipality has floated around for years, but the latest movement is undoubtedly propelled at least partly by the approach of the village of Pinehurst.

The village, along with the towns of Aberdeen and Southern Pines, several years ago gained legislative authority to extend extraterritorial jurisdiction by two miles. Now, with the annexation of Pinewild, the village limits of Pinehurst extend almost to Eastwood on one side and almost to West End on another.

Pinehurst also has an annexation agreement with Foxfire Village. Aberdeen and Southern Pines abut on the other sides. Things are getting a bit crowded.

Controlling Their Own Destiny

It is understandable that Seven Lakes residents want to establish their own parameters of authority. After all, their heritage is different, and the community has its own distinctive personality and goals for the future.

Leaders of the two movements cite any number of valid reasons in addition to encroachment by Pinehurst. They want control of zoning, better and more economical fire and police protection and improvements in other services that are available in municipalities but sketchily provided in rural areas.

According to one of the leaders, Seven Lakes also wants a voice and a place at the table when it comes to negotiating with Moore County.

As a private development, Seven Lakes has succeeded far beyond anyone's imagination. Conceived by developer Fred Lawrence in the

1970s as a residential subdivision, Seven Lakes was initially the "child" of Longleaf Inc. with the purchase of about 1,100 acres. Now it sprawls across N.C. 211 and has three self-contained developments known as South, North and West.

Since its inception, Seven Lakes has coasted along in relative security on the basis of strict deed covenants that control residential usage and prevent undesirable development. But such issues as road maintenance and utilities remain uncertain, with the community dependent upon developers who come and go and on homeowner associations as well as the county, which now controls the availability of water.

Gates Are an Issue

With a population estimated at 5,000 or more, Seven Lakes is larger than most of Moore County's 11 existing municipalities. Incorporation would make it the county's third-largest town, displacing Aberdeen and indeed earning a place at the table.

One point of unease is a major difference between the two separate groups. One group wants to keeps existing gates, and the other wants to remove them.

The gates are nice, but in reality they provide limited security. And by removing them, the new municipality would qualify for millions of dollars in state highway funds, sales taxes and other state and federal grants. Property values would be unlikely to suffer if the gates were lost. In any case, voters must make the decision before incorporation becomes legal reality.

Leaders of both movements have earned plenty of stars for extensive research and thoughtful ideas about future growth and development. We hope that the two camps will get together, work out these differences as quickly and amicably as possible, and become one.

Seven Lakes, though not a town, looks more like one than some local communities that are. Go for it, we say.

Never?

(Continued from page 22) anguish.

In closing, there will be many opposing one side or the other. Let us exercise our right to free speech and to agree to disagree with cool heads and not rush to do something we may well regret

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No need to drag out incorporation debate

Dear Editor:

It's apparent that a lot of hard work has gone into the two proposals for Seven Lakes incorporation.

We now have the opportunity to debate the pros and cons of each option. Based on what I

know of both proposals, neither is perfect—there are aspects of each that I don't like.

However, I am absolutely in favor of incorporating Seven Lakes. I believe the community will benefit from incorporation in ways that can not necessarily be measured in dollars. I believe that there are significant benefits to incorporation even if we can't get a penny of State sales or road tax money.

I also favor moving on incorporation this year. Debating the pros and cons of the options is worthwhile and necessary, but I don't see the benefit of an 18 month debate/petition cycle.

The incorporation petition must be submitted by November for action in the next legislative session. That allows for five months of debate.

owners an opportunity to learn

what their costs of incorpora-

tion will be, what limitations may

be placed on their property

through local zoning, and what

role they might be able to play in

helping the new, small govern-

ment Town of Seven Lakes suc-

ceed for the benefit of the entire

community.

I suspect there are few, if any, residents that need that much time to determine where they stand on the issue.

Since there are distasteful aspects of each incorporation proposal, it's a timeline decision for me. I would welcome any proposal that can complete the debate/petition cycle by the November deadline for petition submission. At this time, the IncorporateSevenLakes.com proposal is the only option that meets that timeline.

I've been told that incorporation was discussed several years ago but it went nowhere, apparently because of the gates. Ten years from now, I would prefer not to, again, lament having missed the opportunity to incorporate because of this issue.

> Jim Haggard Seven Lakes Wes

Public forum planned for June 21

IncorporateSevenLakes.com will host a public forum at the West Side Park Community Cen-

ter on Monday, June 21 at 7:00 pm, with the goal of comgates and the size of town government are so different as to preclude any meaningful compromise. People who have already signed the IncorporateSeven-Lakes.com petition are encouraged to attend the June 21 forum owners and commercial property to offer their insights as to how to best proceed with the incorporation effort.

A second meeting, yet to be

scheduled, will offer business

ncorporate**SevenLakes.C**om by Darrell Marks

paring and contrasting the two proposals for creating a new Town of Seven Lakes.

IncorporateSevenLakes.com continues to advocate a plan which involves incorporating without taking down the gates.

The committee sponsoring IncorporateSevenLakes.com met on Friday June 4 at First Bank to discuss the presentation from the Seven Lakes Community Study Group that was made public the previous week.

Having watched the response to their petition drive slowed by the e-mail campaigns urging Seven Lakers to withhold their support for incorporation until both plans were public, much of the conversation centered on how to reinvigorate their own efforts now that the public could see for themselves the meaningful differences between the two groups.

Although the two groups both make a strong case that incorporation is an idea whose time has come, their approach to the

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Who's the expert?

Just Who Is the Dam Expert Here?

Unless you are a dam engineer you have no business questioning the findings of Dan Marks, the fellow whose professional expertise calls for disallowing vehicular traffic on the Lake Auman dam.

He designed the repair and is intimately familiar with the damaging effects repeated dynamic loading would have on his design.

The people next closest to the engineering aspects of the

I would like to encourage the

residents of Seven Lakes to

drive slowly through our neigh-

We have lots of road kill on our

street, and we all need to pay

attention and make a concerted

effort to avoid the baby birds

hopping across the roads, the

squirrels scurrying about search-

Dear Editor:

borhoods.

repair are the state engineers who recently approved the executed project. They suggested following Mr. Marks' recommendation. That's a second opinion that didn't come at any cost above whatever the state approval might have cost.

Pay attention, people.

The last time trucks, trailers, contractor's equipment, RV's, and cars were allowed, the repair bill wiped out a good portion of the budget for a number of years.

ing for material for their nests,

and the turtles simply trying to

cross the road. We lost one of

our beautiful fox squirrels this

week on Lakeway Drive, and

The wildlife was here first! Please

slow down and pay attention.

We all need to remember:

Bob Hancock

Seven Lakes West

we have so few of them.

Bruce Macdonald Seven Lakes West

Let's slow this train down!

Dear Editor:

In the midst of a great deal of conversation about incorporation, I'm most disturbed by a comment attributed to Randy Merritt in The Times of May 28th (shaded box on page 30).

He is quoted: "why not incorporate and do the educational process afterwards?"

Do I understand that Mr. Merritt would have us move to incorporate as soon as possible and only after the fact ask ourselves whether that was the appropriate action for our communities?

I favor listening to all the posi-

tions and examining positives and negatives, but let's slow this train down.

Surely some collective rational thought must prevail in a matter significant to all of us.

> Nelda Cockman Seven Lakes West

25

Plant trees with the Woodmen

On Saturday, June 12 at 9:30 am, members of the local Modern Woodmen of America Pinehurst Camp will gather a Malcolm Blue Farm to plant trees, as part of the fraternal benefit society's Plant A Tree program.

Introduced by Modern Woodmen in 2004, the program offers Modern Woodmen members the opportunity to beautify their communities by planting trees.

"The Plant A Tree Program ties Modern Woodmen members to the roots of our organization," say Michael Bernard leader of the Pinehurst Modern Woodmen Camp.

"The name Modern Woodmen honors the pioneer woodsmen who cleared the forests to build homes and secure futures for their families.

Modern Woodmen offers financial services to help clear away members' financial burdens. And today planting trees is an important way to create a secure future for families, communities and the environment," Bernard says.

Through the Plant A Tree Pro-

gram and the help of its members, Modern Woodmen has planted more than 80,000 trees across the United States this vear.

For more information contact Michael Bernard, FIC at 910-673-3344.

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NEWS 26 **Seven Lakes Times** June 11, 2010

Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)

The Water Fund stands at \$298,000; with \$40,000 in loan proceeds for Woodland Circle, and \$135,000 in restricted funds held in escrow for a new well.

Bank loans due in July include \$28,514 from the General Fund for the Village Green Park, and \$41,145 from the Water Fund.

The Council will review Frusco's proposed changes to the fee schedule at the June 11 Work Session.

Woodland Circle Extension

A section of the 54,000 square foot Woodland Circle Extension road project does not meet specifications, reported consultant Tom Collins.

"2,500 square feet of road is out of tolerance for the cross slope which is one of most important design elements," explained Collins. "North Carolina streets are designed with a two percent cross-fall. There are areas on the road where water flows backward. To look at it, it's a good-looking paving job but when you look at the specs, there are discrepancies."

Collins said the problems are correctable and that he anticipates a recommendation from the contractor in the next few days.

According to his report, all the preparatory and sub-grade work was top quality but there are questions on the paving and storm water erosion controls.

"The way the stone was put down and the equipment on the job was top notch. The current

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issues are not related to the sub-grade and the storm grading was put in properly. It is the outfall structures and tie-ins and completed finish paving work where there are problems," said Collins.

He said the project is currently ninety days overdue and that penalties are incurred on a daily basis. He notified the Council that a hearing to the settle the contract will probably be required.

Water Department

Councilman Ed Lauer reported that Water Superintendent Dick Cristman is having health issues and is not doing well.

"The Village owes him a great deal of thanks for many years of service. We will not be able to replace him," said Lauer.

Looking ahead, Lauer said he hopes to hire a part-time certified person to oversee the Water Department; however, he warned that costs will probably increase.

"Under state law we can't sell water as cheap as we can produce it. We must provide for out years maintenance: numbers that we are finalizing now," Lauer

He reported that current usage is well below maximum allowances and the Village is operating at a safe level with one final radium test required.

Public Safety

A West End Fire & Rescue First Responder will be on duty at the Foxfire Fire Department 24/7 as of July 1, Coker reported, with required facility renovations nearly complete. Grant funding was used to upgrade the sleeping quarters fire rat-

However, termites were found in the building during renovations. The facility and adjacent Town Hall were both treated and placed under a pest-control service contract.

Coker reported two recent small brush fires, one caused by a discarded cigarette and the other by fireworks - which are illegal in Foxfire. She reminded residents that dry pine needles are extremely flammable.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, June 8, the Foxfire Village Coun-

Reviewed a proposed golf cart ordinance which would allow operation on streets with a speed limit less than 35 MPH and places additional safety and legal responsibility on the operator, reducing Village liability.

Heard from Long Range Planning Chair Mick McCue that the committee is finalizing a short general survey that will be distributed to residents in the near future

Accepted Mary Spotts resignation from the Appearance Committee and appointed Barbara Arnold to fill her position.

Heard from Mayor George Erickson that the terms of five members of the Planning & Zoning Committee will expire at the end of 2010. At least one vacancy is anticipated. Anyone interested in serving should complete an application that is available at the office and the Village website.

Heard from Erickson that the preliminary report for the preliminary Moore County Hazard Mitigation Plan is moving along with an anticipated Fall 2010 completion date.

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Forum

(Continued from front page)

"Our idea is that the entire Seven Lakes community should work together," Welch said, making it clear that the Study Group's recommendations are a starting point rather than a proposal already carved in stone. By incorporating, Welch said, Seven Lakes "can become one of the finest residential communities in the region."

Saving money. By having a newly-formed town take over responsibility for security and road maintenance within the residential communities of Seven Lakes North, South, and West, as well as McLendon Hills, the various landowners associations will no longer have to budget for gate equipment and guards, or for road maintenance. Though there's no guarantee those savings will be passed along to landowners, Welch said, the study group has calculated that annual dues could be reduced, on average, by more than \$250.

Security. "It's not a matter of taking down the gates," Welch said, "it's a matter of providing an excellent police force for the protection of all of us." He noted that

Geoff Cutler

Certified Arborist

the Study Group had already, based on input from members of the landowners association boards, revised a plan to have one policeman on patrol at all times to double that number, offering 24/7/365 coverage by two police officers.

"These officers will have the power to apprehend and arrest," Welch added, "which our current security guards don't have."

Protecting amenities. "The lakes and amenities are a concern for all of us," he continued. "We want to make sure that the folks using the lakes and other amenities are those who have paid for them." Welch said the Study Group had contacted other communities with amenities unprotected by gates - like Pinehurst and Whispering Pines — and found "they have not had a problem with folks invading their lakes and using their amenities." Town police would have the power to enforce trespassing laws to keep non-members from using private amenities.

Zoning. Noting that NC Highway 211 is to be widened to four lanes from Pinehurst to West End, Welch said, "what develops

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at the end of that road and on up through Seven Lakes and beyond is so important to our future. At the present time, we have no control over what happens there." An incorporated Seven Lakes would have planning and zoning authority both within its borders and in a one-mile wide perimeter surrounding its boundaries.

Adequate revenue. Providing professional town management, planning and zoning administration, and police protection requires substantial resources. "We need a significant

amount of money to do this," Welch said, "and the good new is, the money is actually available."

"We have been passing up for the past ten years \$1.6 million per year in state revenues that we have already paid in...The money that we have paid in has gone to fund Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and other communities, and we haven't gotten any of our share."

What about the gates? Calling the question of taking down the gates "the elephant in the

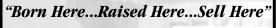
room," Welch said it was "the thing that has made us shy away from incorporation for the past ten or twelve years."

27

"But it is the only way you can finance a town," he said. "Without having fifty-one percent of the town's roads open to the public, you receive only a small amount of state money."

"The gates cost us \$2 million each year," Welch said, adding the \$400,000 cost of staffing and maintaining the gates to the \$1.6 million in lost shared

(See "Forum," p. 28)



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28 Seven Lakes Times June 11, 2010 NEWS

Forum

(Continued from page 27) revenues from the state.

"The cost of not incorporating is uncontrolled growth," Welch said. The community outside the gates will continue to deteriorate."

He said the fact that prospective home buyers must drive through the unattractive areas of West End and the Seven Lakes business village hurts home sales and depresses prices in the Seven Lakes market.

Creating a community. "The last thing I have to say is the most important," Welch concluded. "We have the opportunity to create, in our time, a distinctive community that we can be proud of."

He said the Study Group recommended that the various Seven Lakes communities spend the next several months discussing the issue of incorporation, "to see whether we really want to do this. If there is sufficient support for incorporation within the community, then we would recommend to the Board of the landowners associations that they pursue incorporation by moving to take down their gates."

"This is the most important decision we have to make about our community," Welch said. "We hope that folks will see this as a way to create a wonderful village here."

Questions and statements

After Welch's introduction, the floor was opened and attendees weighed in with both questions and statements, generating responses from Welch and other

members of the Study Group, who include Fred Young, Carolyn Mealing, and Kathy Kirst, of Seven Lakes West, and Joe Krallinger of McLendon Hills.

Speakers were not asked to identify themselves, though some did. Many of their questions and comments returned to the same key issues again and again.

Security a key concern

On the whole, the group that attended Tuesday night's event seemed very skeptical that either security or property values would be improved if the gates were removed. A number of statements about the value of the gates or "leaving Seven Lakes as it is" met with loud applause -though not everyone in the room was applauding those statements.

Westsider Ron McGaughey said the security offered by the gates was a significant factor in his decision to move to Seven Lakes West. He encouraged the Study Group to search for data that compares crime statistics in gated and similar ungated communities. Another speaker noted that Seven Lakes is very close geographically "to one of the largest drug areas in Moore County."

"The North Side has six parks," another noted. "How are you going to protect all of those with two officers?"

Fred Young responded that he believes having two police officers on patrol at all times would provide significantly better security than the gates. If additional security were needed at key areas, like Johnson Point and Sequoia Point, he said, he would advocate the use of security cameras -- perhaps monitored in real time at the police station.

"Someone today told me, Fred, you haven't convinced me that security will be better, but that it will be adequate, and that will be worth the other benefits," Young said.

Though he expressed support for incorporation, Northsider Bill Moses, a retired attorney and former prosecutor, said "If those gates come down and people are able to wander in and out at will, we will pay a price. It is not worth putting any individual in our community in harm's way."

A resident who identified himself as a retired police officer said, based on his experience, the Study Group had significantly under-estimated the need for police protection. Welch replied that former Southern Pines Police Chief Gerald Galloway had assisted the group in developing their staffing levels and salary projections for the police force. After receiving input from Seven Lakes Landowners Association Director Chuck Mims, who also has law enforcement experience, the group doubled the size of the proposed police force.

Other "gates" issues

The prospect of removing the gates raised concerns beyond the obvious security issue.

One Westsider, who identified himself as a former marketing executive, said the gates were an essential part of Seven Lakes West's "Unique Selling Proposition." "If you take away the private gated community, you take away our uniqueness," he said.

Mary Anne Fewkes, a former President of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], warned that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission had backed off insisting that its officers patrol Lake Auman in part because the gates limited access to the lake. She encouraged the Study Group to get, in writing, documentation from the State that they recog-

nize Lake Auman as a private lake. Kathy Kirst pledged that the group would seek that written assurance.

Counting on state revenues?

SLWLA Legal Director Ed Silberhorn, who noted he was speaking as a individual rather than as representative of the Board of Directors, said he had discussed the issue of incorporation with a large number of fellow residents and found some willing to give up the gates for the promised economic benefits of state shared revenues. But, given the economic straits in which the state finds itself, he said, "we have to make a judgement about whether we will really receive the \$16 million promised to the proposed town over

(See "Forum," p. 29)



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Forum

(Continued from page 28) the next decade."

"Unlike the federal government, the State of North Carolina can't print money," Silberhorn noted.

"My sense is that many folks would prefer that Seven Lakes would remain the way it is and would forego the promised benefits."

"Things never stay the same," Mary Price countered, speaking after Silberhorn. "I love Seven Lakes just the way it is. But it is not going to stay that way forever. ... We have no place at the table where Moore County government is concerned." In addition, Price said, while annexation of Seven Lakes by Pinehurst or Foxfire is not an immediate concern, it may well become one in the future.

A number of other attendees expressed concern that pressures on the state budget created by the recession will result in less shared tax revenue flowing from the state to local governments, including the new Town of Seven Lakes. Some pointed to pending legislation that would reduce the state's obligation to share revenue from the gasoline tax, among other proposed cuts.

"The bulk of the \$1.6 million comes from the sales and use tax," Kirst explained. "As long as people keep spending money, those monies will be available from Raleigh. They are obligated to distribute them. They cannot keep them up in Raleigh."

Bob Kieling warned that a five cent property tax might be attractive now, but would almost certainly rise in the future. He pointed to the much higher rates in the surrounding towns, including Foxfire's thirty-two cent rate, which generates more than \$2,000 in town taxes on a \$650,000 home.

"We found this to be a very comfortable budget," Young replied. "So I think it would be a mistake to assume that the tax rate is going to go up quickly."

"Nothing can prevent the town from raising the tax rate," Welch said. "But the people making that decision will be the town council that you have elected."

Other questions, concerns

Westside Board member John Goodman objected to the onesided nature of the Study Group's entire presentation.

"I didn't hear any negatives in your presentation," Goodman said. "I am very skeptical. I worry that there is a substantial risk of property values deteriorating because of the lack of gates." To applause from the crowd, Goodman said he — and many like him — had bought property in Seven Lakes West because of the gates

"You didn't do a good job here of presenting the potential downside of incorporation," Goodman continued. "You really do need some cons as well as pros."

Referring to the Study Group's assertion that the landowners association may be able to cut dues by \$200 or more per year, he said "If you have a five or ten percent deterioration in property values, you wipe out those savings."

"I want to proceed very cautiously on this," he concluded, to which Welch responded, "I think you represent a very sizable group of people."

Other questions raised by those who attended the meeting included the following:

Q. If we have a town manager and the landowners association have community managers, wouldn't that create a lot of friction?

"That's not what's happening elsewhere in Moore County," Joe Krallinger replied, noting that the Village of Pinehurst includes a number of gated communities. He said the town manager would have his or her hands full with administration, finance, zoning, and other issues. In the Study Group's draft, the position is budgeted at \$96,000 plus benefits.

Q. If we incorporate, do we have to bring all the communi-

ty roads up to state standards?

Carolyn Mealing explained that that would be necessary only if the state were taking over maintenance of the roads, which is not what the Study Group envisions. Instead, the town would be taking over the roads, so state standards would not apply.

Q. Won't there be a time lag between the time the gates come down and we actually incorporate and can count on additional police protection?

Welch explained that the application for incorporation can be made with the gates in place. He said he expected any landowners association referendum on dropping the gates would make the timing of that contingent upon successfully completing the incorporation process.

Next steps

Noting that his was the twelfth house built in Seven Lakes West,

before there was a dam, or paved roads, Dudley Crawford said the idea of incorporating Seven Lakes "has come up again, and again, and again. But we had developers then, and they didn't want the gates down or incorporation discussed."

29

"But now the developers are gone, and it is just us. There is power if we can come together to discuss this with each other. My hope is that what we have done here tonight is to plant some seeds."

Welch said the Study Group is actively seeking residents willing to host small group discussions of incorporation in there homes. "You don't have to be in favor of incorporation to be a host," he said, "just in favor of having it discussed."

Volunteers willing to act as hosts can call 910-687-6050 for more information or to sign up.

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