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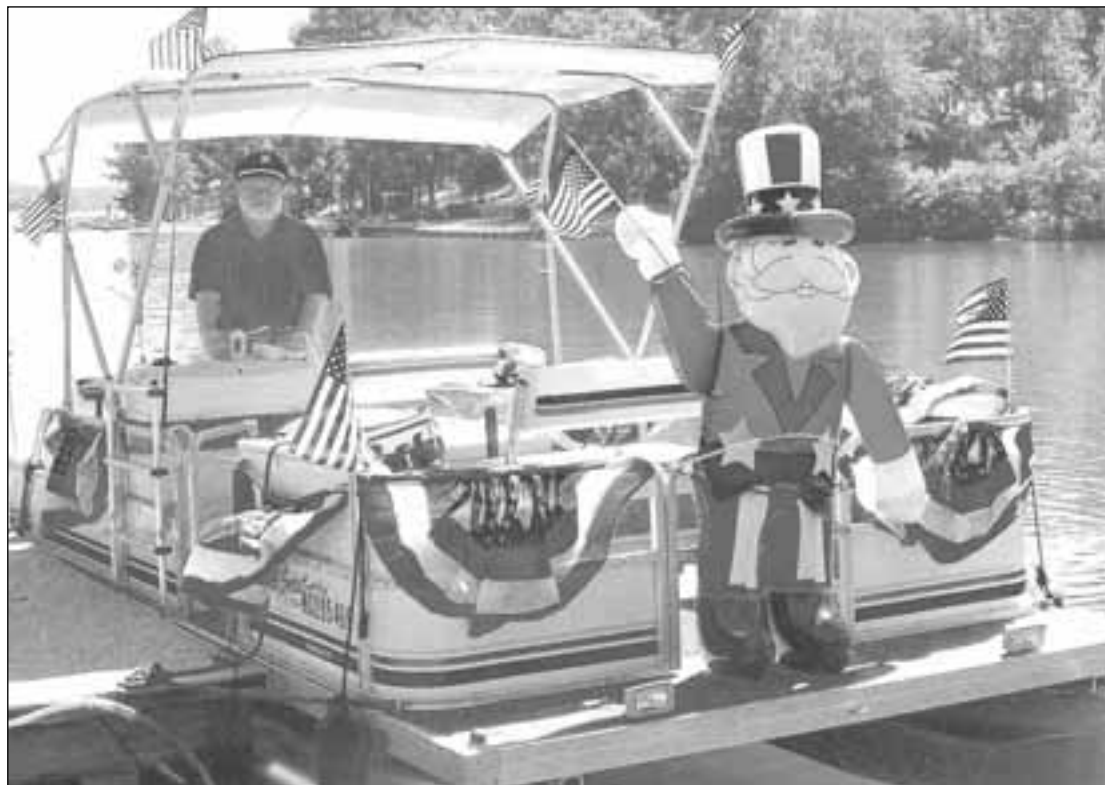
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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

July 9, 2010

Hooray for the Red, White & Blue!



Captain Ed Massimo readies his well-equipped craft for the Fourth of July boat parade on Lake Sequoia.

Maintenance of SLLA lakes and dams questioned

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Concern about the community's lakes and dams and a proposal to construct a new dock at Sequoia Point drew an interested crowd to an otherwise routine general meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors on Wednesday, June 30.

Northsider JoAn Moses pressed hard during public comment with a series of questions seeking information on who is responsible and what is being done to proactively maintain the lakes and dams in top form.

"Do we have a Lakes & Dams Committee? And, if not, why

not?" Moses asked. "This is our most important asset."

SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf responded that the committee was disbanded in favor of moving control and responsibility of the lakes and dams to management. Taking on a more confrontational tone, Zielsdorf stated the decision was also partly based on the committee's membership of mostly lakefront property owners who "sometimes acted like the lakes were there for their own use."

Continuing her line of questioning, Moses asked whether the written schedule for lakes and dam maintenance, developed by the former committee, was

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

UNC Professor takes Westsiders to school

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Though she admitted to having been up since 3:00 am, NC Incorporation expert Kara Millonzi brought her A-Game to a Westside forum on Thursday night, June 24, leaving those who attended better informed and, perhaps, a little overwhelmed with the amount of information packed into the hour-and-forty-five-minute session.

Millonzi is a professor at the

University of North Carolina's School of Government and one of the authors of "Incorporation of a North Carolina Town." She made clear at the outset of the meeting that she had no stake in whether or not the various communities that make up Seven Lakes decide to incorporate:

"I don't have a dog in the fight," Millonzi said. "I am completely neutral. I can talk to you about process, effects, financial effects. I can't tell you whether or not it

is a good thing for you to incorporate. You need to decide that, once you have considered everything involved."

The role of the School of Government is to "provide non-partisan, non-advocacy legal advice," she explained. Millonzi is a member of the bar in both North Carolina and Massachusetts.

Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] President Ron Shepard positioned the June 24 Westsiders-only "Tuto-

rial on Incorporation," as the beginning of a structured study led by the Board and involving volunteers from the community. Committees studying seven different areas potentially impacted by incorporation are expected to produce interim reports in September and final reports in December. The process may ultimately produce an official Board recommendation on the matter, Shepard said. Volunteers are being actively sought to staff

the committees and landowners are encouraged to submit their questions about incorporation to the Board

Thursday night's meeting was strictly a Questions & Answers session; Millonzi made no presentation, but, instead, let the crowd's questions guide the coverage of topics. Because that resulted in a more-or-less random order of questions, we have taken some editorial license and

(See "Incorporation," p. 14)

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Community Council seeks 'seat at table'

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Greater Seven Lakes Community Council is still looking for a seat at the table -- specifically, at the table around which elected officials sit when the Moore County Board of Commissioners gather council members from the county's towns and villages to discuss common issues.

Back in February, the GSLCC sent a letter to Commissioner Nick Picerno and Jimmy Melton asking for that seat. "We never heard back," Council Chairman Randy Zielsdorf told *The Times* at the conclusion of a recent Council meeting.

GSLCC members, who include the Presidents of The Seven Lakes, Seven Lakes West, and McLendon Hills Landowners Associations, as well as the President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild, met on Tuesday, July 6 to discuss several items,

including pursuing more recognition from the county. They invited *The Times* to sit in of a question and answer session after the formal meeting, which was closed.

Given the lack of response from Picerno and Melton, Zielsdorf said, the Council decided to renew its request for a seat at the table -- but this time to direct their missive to Board of Commissioner Chairman Tim Lea.

"We're the third largest populated area in the county," Zielsdorf said. We think we should

have equal standing."

"If we don't hear back from them this time, then that might be a reason to pursue incorporation more diligently," he added.

Pinehurst, Foxfire Intentions

Incorporation was on the Council's agenda Tuesday, as was the threat of annexation.

The group voted to send a letter to the Villages of Pinehurst and Foxfire asking about their intentions with regard to annexing any part of greater Seven Lakes or West End.

When *The Times* noted that Pinehurst Village Manager Andy Wilkison is on record expressing that Village's lack of interest in annexing Seven Lakes, McLendon Hills President Pete Dotto noted that Wilkison disavowed interest only in Seven Lakes West.

"He didn't say anything about Seven Lakes North or South -- or West End," Dotto said.

Darrell Marks, who serves as the Business Guild's alternate on the council, noted that anything Wilkison or current town council

members might say on the matter is, in any case, not binding on future councils.

Studying Incorporation

Seven Lakes West has launched an ambitious study of the proposed incorporation of Seven Lakes, with seven separate committees proposed to examine various aspects of the issue. The plan will involve residents in manning those committees and may ultimately result in an official position from the

(See "GSLCC," p. 18)

Business Community Meeting on Incorporation

The owners of Seven Lakes Businesses and owners of property in the Business Village are invited to attend a forum on incorporation hosted by IncorporateSevenLakes.com at Beacon Ridge Country Club on Monday, July 12 at 6:30 pm.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 888-806-2572, or e-mailed to mail@seven-lakestimes.net.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Munro is godmother to thousands. . . of bluebirds



Helen Munro of Foxfire Village checks out a brood of newly-hatched Eastern bluebirds.

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Eighty years ago, the Eastern Bluebird was a common songbird in North Carolina. By 1979, harsh winters, the use of chemical pesticides, and loss of habitat took their toll and the bluebird population declined by ninety percent. Sightings became rare.

Today, with careful monitoring and human assistance, these beautiful natives are beginning to flourish once again.

Just ask Helen Munro.

A longtime resident of the Village of Foxfire and the Moore County coordinator for the NC Bluebird Society, Munro explained that her passion for bluebirds began innocently enough.

In 1995 as part of a beautification project, the Foxfire Property Owners Association purchased 72 bluebird houses and established a trail that now supports eighty bluebird boxes along Foxfire's golf courses and park. Interested in the birds and the work of the NC Bluebird Socie-

ty, Munro accompanied a neighbor to a meeting in 1995 and, quickly rising through the volunteer ranks, was elected president in 1998.

Over the years, her enthusiasm has continued and today she edits the NC Bluebird Society's quarterly newsletter, Bluebird Notes, which offers a wealth of knowledge and information on how to attract, feed, and care for bluebirds. Munro also oversees five volunteer teams that check each box weekly, from the end of March to mid-August to provide an annual chick tally that frequently reaches four hundred

fledged bluebirds.

"We are approaching around 5,000 bluebirds that have fledged from our boxes," said Munro, noting that the Foxfire Bluebird Trail is in addition to many more privately-maintained bluebird boxes installed throughout the village.

The Foxfire Bluebird Trail is jointly sponsored by the Foxfire Garden Club and the Foxfire Property Owners Association and the originally boxes have been replaced once. Munro explained that the early boxes were constructed with recycled

(See "Bluebirds," p. 21)



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Hot weather driving up 7 Lakes water use

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Hot, dry weather is driving up water usage in Seven Lakes, but, so far, the community hasn't topped the 906,996 gallon record it set on July 1 of last year.

Seven Lakes hit its highest usage number so far for this Summer on July 5, consuming 880,674 gallons — more than eighty percent of what the community's water system can produce. The county's rain gauge at the Seven Lakes North water tank has recorded less than one-half inch of rain in the past two weeks.

"We're in decent shape," Moore County Public Utilities Operations Manager Ben Vaughn told *The Times*, noting that maintenance was performed this spring on pumps in the NC Highway 211 booster station in West Pine Middle School.

Though the community was once served by a well-based local water system, now 85% to 90% of Seven Lakes' water flows through a single water main that runs from Pinehurst to Seven Lakes along NC Highway 211. The county operates the water system in both Pinehurst and Seven Lakes.

The water is drawn from wells

in Pinehurst and purchased from Southern Pines, Aberdeen, and Harnett County.

Vaughn noted that a spare pump is ready to swing into action, should either of the pumps in the NC 211 booster station fail. Those pumps ran for more than 20 hours to produce the 880,674 gallons used on July 5.

"We monitor it closely — on an hourly basis," Vaughn said of the booster station.

The two water tanks that serve Seven Lakes hold 150,000 gallons each — a day's supply in the winter months, but not when the hot summer sun has irrigation systems running at full tilt.

Water supply options tied up in negotiations

The county continues to explore two primary options for bringing additional water to Seven Lakes, Public Utilities Director Dennis Brobst told *The Times*. But both options are snarled in tricky — and slow-moving — negotiations.

The first would bring water down NC Highway 211 from Candor, supplying Seven Lakes with water from Montgomery County. The second would bring water from a mothballed water treatment plant in Robbins.

The county has been involved in on-again-off-again talks with the Town of Robbins for more than a year, but those negotiations have yet to produce a plan that the Board of Commissioners and Town Council can both endorse.

Brobst told *The Times* that county representatives have met with Montgomery County, "and they are still willing to sell us water." The price may be an issue, however.

Brobst said the last price proposed by Montgomery County was \$2.63 per thousand gallons. That compares to \$2.10 per thousand that the county pays Southern Pines for water. Moreover, Montgomery County has recently raised water rates for its own citizens and municipalities, so the price of water from that source could well be even less attractive in the future. Last fall, the news was that the developer of the proposed Pine Forest subdivision would pay to bring water from Montgomery County in order to receive a certification from Public Utilities that the county water system could supply its residents.

County Attorney Misty Leland told *The Times* that negotiations with the developer continue, but are no longer focused exclu-

sively on the Montgomery County option. Though Leland did not elaborate on the other possibilities, she did indicate that how to use the money would be the county's call.

An obvious alternative would be for the county to reach an agreement with Robbins to bring water from their treatment plant.

A third option would connect the Seven Lakes system with a newly-installed water main that runs from Eastwood down NC 211 to supply the Dormie Club development. That option, Brobst noted, would not actually add any new water to the county system, though it would provide

a second path for water to flow into Seven Lakes.

Voluntary Conservation measures still in effect

The Seven Lakes water system continues to be under the county's Stage 1 Voluntary Water Conservation, Vaughn told *The Times*. That standard recommends a number of measures residents can take to save water, including:

- Check plumbing, faucets and toilets for leaks, and if necessary repair.

- Store drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid trying to run

(See "Water," p. 21)

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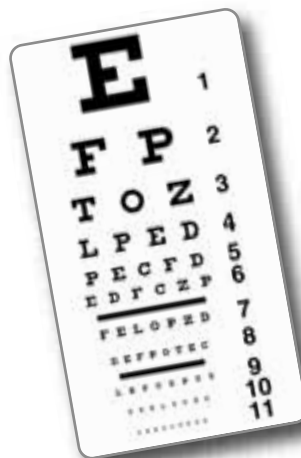


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Civic Group chips in for Wagram water study

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

If Moore County won't help pay for an engineering study of one option for bringing more water to its citizens, Representative Jamie Boles figures it's time to ask the citizens themselves for the funding, and Seven Lakes Civic group is chipping in \$100 to help.

Boles announced on Friday, June 25 that the Moore County Chamber of Commerce was establishing a fund and seeking contributions to raise Moore County's \$2,500 share of the cost of a \$78,000 preliminary engineering study that aims to estimate the cost of bringing water from the Lumber River to Moore County and to other participating counties and towns.

The Seven Lakes Civic Group announced on Tuesday that it would be contributing \$100 toward the effort.

"The Seven Lakes community, the third largest community in Moore County, has been the recipients of a number of water use restrictions imposed by Moore County Public Utilities over the last several years," noted the Civic Group's press release announcing the contribution. "The County has been studying the problem in depth for more than four years with no plan of action yet to be in place.

The Seven Lakes Civic Group supports a regional approach for the long term solution to Moore County's water supply problems."

Moore County's Board of Commissioners on June 21 voted against providing the \$2,500 local match requested by the Lumber River Council of Governments [LRCOG], which is assembling a group of interested counties and municipalities to fund a study of water distribution and wastewater collection costs required to connect those communities to a water and wastewater plant near Wagram, in Scotland County. Half of the study's \$78,000 cost will be covered by a grant from the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center; LRCOG is using a federal grant to pick up another \$22,375 of the tab.

The county contends that a state senator and two representatives — including Boles — promised from the initial organizational meetings that the state would cover the whole cost of the study. Board of Commissioners Chairman Tim Lea made that point in a June 24 letter to Boles informing him of the county's decision not to contribute the requested \$2,500.

The next day, Boles held a press conference and announced his plan to ask citizens to support

the effort.

"If the county don't want to step up to the plate," Boles said, "that's fine. Let the citizens step up to the plate."

County sees little potential for Wagram as water source

Commissioner Lea told *The Times* that state legislators had in fact failed to deliver on promises to fund the engineering study.

"That was a commitment that was made up front by those that were moving this forward," Lea said. "But this is not about the money. It's about whether this is a good strategic business decision for the ratepayers of Moore County."

Lea said the engineering firm Hobbs-Upchurch & Associates had provided the county with estimates that put the ultimate price of water from the Wagram plant at \$6 to \$8 per thousand gallons.

"The county just signed a con-

tract with Southern Pines that provides our ratepayers with water at \$2.10 per thousand gallons," Lea told *The Times*, noting that the county purchases water from Harnett County at roughly the same price.

"Do the ratepayers really want us to spend time and money to look at this opportunity that could double or triple their water bills?" Lea asked.


Study would estimate connection costs

The proposed study involves

industrial water and wastewater treatment plants near Wagram, in Scotland County, which once served a sprawling textile plant. The facilities were brought to the attention of the County and its municipalities by the 2008 McGill & Associates study of the county's long-term water needs and possible sources to meet those needs.

The Village of Pinehurst attempted to buy the plants and use them as the cornerstone of a regional water alliance, but

(See "Wagram," p. 20)



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St. James – a model for Town of 7 Lakes?

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Can an incorporated town provide reasonable services with a five cent tax rate?

This is the rock-bottom tax rate proposed by both pro-incorporation groups currently touting plans to the Seven Lakes community and, during recent meetings and forums conducted by the two groups, some have questioned the ability of the proposed town to effectively manage on such a modest budget.

Perhaps a little perspective can be gained by looking down the road.

Town of St. James

NC Highway 211 traverses North Carolina for 155 miles, traveling first through the Sandhills and then winding its way across rural farms and woodlands to the Eastern Seaboard: beginning a few miles up the road in Candor and ending at the Atlantic Ocean near the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

Just a few miles short of the Hwy 211 eastern terminus, at the beach town of Southport, is the gated entrance to the Town

of St. James.

Developed as a master-planned community, St. James Plantation sprawls over thousands of acres and boasts an enviable lifestyle with over \$100 million in private amenities including eighty-one holes of golf, a beach club on the Atlantic, a full-service marina and marketplace, athletic and fitness clubs, parks and miles of walking and biking trails, eight swimming pools, an outdoor amphitheater, and a chapel.

In 1999, residents of St. James Plantation began exploring the possibility of incorporation primarily as a defensive move to ward of potential annexation by several neighboring towns.

Ironically, a decade later, St. James worked the opposite side of the forced annexation argument when their new Town Hall building was proposed for construction on Hwy 211. With twenty or so properties along that public corridor opposed to annexation into St. James, the plan spurred court proceedings and several lawsuits before it was eventually resolved through an annexation agreement.

With a population of approximately 3,000 residents and a comparable annual dues structure, St. James is not so unlike the various communities of greater Seven Lakes. And with a five cent tax rate, St. James is not so unlike the proposed Town of Seven Lakes.

But there are a few key differences.

No police force, private roads

St. James is not a self-sufficient town with a thriving business village: its limited business district consists of a restaurant and small grocery shop. There are no doctor or dentist offices, no dress or jewelry shops, auto care or hair care; instead residents must travel to neighboring towns for necessities.

The Town of St. James also does not employ a police department, which has been proposed by both pro-incorporation groups for Seven Lakes. Instead, with its entire resident population behind gates, St. James relies on private security that is funded through the association to provide safety and traffic control. The roads

behind the gates are privately-owned, maintained by the association, and designated as a Public Vehicular Area [PVA], which allows the State Highway Patrol and Brunswick Sheriff's to enforce motor vehicle laws. Neither office provides regular patrols, but will enter the gates when called.

St. James is managed by three entities, each with a unique sphere of responsibility. The developer plans and manages land development, including the installation of roads and utilities, and amenities.

The property owners association provides for the operation, maintenance, preservation and repair of common areas, including lakes, beach clubs, playgrounds, boardwalks and sidewalks, and mowing of vacant lots, as well as security and traffic control.

And the town, which is organized with a Council/Manager form of government, provides fire and first responder medical

services through a contract with the St. James Fire Company, provides emergency management with the County and FEMA, assesses ad valorem property taxes, establishes an annual budget and conducts elections, manages growth and annexation, and provides garbage and trash collection.

St. James started with a three cent tax rate; over time, that climbed to five cents, where it has stayed for five years.

A model for Seven Lakes?

So, can a town can be adequately serviced with a five cent tax rate? Apparently, yes — if it's a very unique town, like St. James, where many services that would normally be provided through the municipality are handled by association dues.

Is St. James a workable model for Seven Lakes?

That's a question this community is likely to be debating through the dog days of Summer — and beyond.



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In memory of . . .

Dwight Franklin Puckett, 63 of West End died Monday, July 5, at home. Mr. Puckett was the son of Otis Franklin Puckett and Lelia Marshall Puckett of Moore County.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 8 at Middle Cross Baptist Church, West End. The Rev. David Reynolds & Rev. Otis Goins officiated. Burial followed in the West End Cemetery.

Mr. Puckett graduated from West End High School in 1964 and went on to work and retire after 27 years of service with Stanley Furniture Company in West End. He served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Middle Cross Baptist, was a member of the Gideon's and past member of the Lions Club in West End.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otis Puckett and mother Lelia Puckett and his sister Louise Leonard.

Survivors include his wife of forty five years Betty S. Puckett of West End; son, Dwight "Frankie" Puckett of Jackson Springs; daughter, Lynne P. Johnson of Jackson Springs; step-mother, Mozelle Puckett of West

End; brother, Danny Puckett of West End; two sisters, Brenda P. Frye of Carthage and Deborah Bowman of Arrart, VA; five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Vivian Lewis Williams, 89, of Eagle Springs, died on Thursday, July 1, at her home.

Mrs. Williams was born in Samarkand the daughter of the late Willie Thomas Lewis and Margaret Monroe Lewis. She was a graduate of West End High School in 1939, and was married to Arthur Williams. She was a member of Bensalem Presbyterian Church all her life, receiving the Presbyterian Church's Honorary Life Membership in 1983. She taught Sunday school and Bible school, served on various church committees, participated in Presbyterian Women's Circles, served as an Elder.

She enjoyed music, playing the piano, singing, and traveling. Family and friends also remember her for her welcoming smile and gift of hospitality.

A gathering to celebrate her life was held at Bensalem Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 3.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Raleigh Williams; her brothers, Earl Lewis of Eagle Springs and Ralph Lewis of Durham.

She is survived by a large family that will miss her dearly: son Clement Monroe Williams; daughter Nancy Williams Green; daughter Judy Williams Blake; daughter Dianne Williams Sutphin; son William Arthur Williams; brother, WT Lewis of Eagle Springs; sister Mary Lena Cole of Fountain; fifteen grandchildren; and also twenty-four great-grandchildren survive.

The family especially thanks the dedicated and loyal caregivers who were always by Mrs. Williams side for the last few years:

Memorial contributions may be made to Bensalem Presbyterian Church, PO Box 157, Eagle Springs, NC 27242.

Nancy Jane Black Hartung, age 80, of Canton, OH, died Sunday, June 20.

She was the daughter of Mary Jane and Ted Black. She spent most of her life in Canton, OH; graduated Lehman High School, attended Southern Seminary College in Buena Vista, VA, attended the University of Toledo, where she was a member of Tri Delt sorority.

Nancy was active in many community activities including serving as Canton Junior League President for two years; and was an active member of Brookside Country Club.

Since 1977, Mrs. Hartung and her husband, Paul, wintered in their home in Seven Lakes.

Memorial services were Thursday, June 24 at the Church of the Covenant in Ohio. The Dr. William Watt officiate. A private interment will be in North Lawn Cemetery. Memorial remembrances may be made to benefit the Hartung House, c/o The Canton Preservation Society, 131 Wertz Avenue, N.W. Canton, OH 44708 or to the Grant Hartung Scholarship (or memorial) Fund, PO Box 881836, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488.

Mrs. Hartung was preceded in death by her brother, Ted Black Jr. and son, Grant.

Survivors include her husband, Paul W. Hartung Jr.; daughter, Barbara Hartung Smith of Bristol, VA; sons, P.W. "Wick" Hartung III of Canton, OH; Tom Hartung of Laguna Niguel, CA; and ten grandchildren also survive.

Diana Faraci, 92, of Seven Lakes, died Monday, June 28, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Faraci was born in Brooklyn, New York the daughter of the late Accursio and Rose Sclafani Margiotta.

A Funeral Mass was held Thursday, July 1 at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. The Rev. James M. Labosky officiated. A Rite of Committal will be in Florida at a later date.

She was a member of the Women of Sacred Heart Church and the Seven Lakes Diamond Group.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dominick Faraci.

She is survived by her three sons, Angelo Faraci of Wytheville, VA, August Faraci of Souderton, PA, and Richard Faraci of Seven Lakes; sisters, Lillian Battillo of Hyde Park, NY, and Josephine Aurigemma of Bogart, GA; eleven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Diana Faraci to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care at 150 Applecross Road Pinehurst, 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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West Pine Elementary Open House 7/13

The new West Pine Elementary School will hold a Community Open House Tuesday, July 13, from 6-7:30 pm. The public is invited to tour the facility at this

time, located at 272 Archie Road, West End (behind West Pine Middle School).

The 67,000 square foot facility has been under construction for a little over a year. The school will welcome approximately 400 students in kindergarten through fifth grade when the new school year begins on August 25.

Attendance lines were redrawn in the Pinehurst-West End area earlier this year so that a portion of the student population at West End Elementary and Pinehurst Elementary will now attend West Pine Elementary. The school will help to relieve over capacity issues that West End and

Pinehurst Elementary have been experiencing for several years and enable the school district to meet the needs of the K-5 instructional program more effectively.

West Pine Elementary Principal Seth Powers and many of the faculty and staff, as well as school district representatives, will

be on hand at the July 13 Open House to greet visitors.

"I am so happy to welcome our parents and community members into our new school," said Powers. "The grounds and facilities are simply beautiful, and it's difficult to imagine a better environment for teaching and learning."

Jungle Book at Temple Theatre

The Jungle Book, a 1967 American animated film produced by Disney Animation Studios, was inspired by the stories about a feral child, Mowgli, from the book of the same name by Rudyard Kipling. This was the last film produced by Walt Disney, who died during its production. Most of the songs were written by Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman.

Temple Theatre announces the first of its two conservatory productions of Disney's The Jungle Book Kids play to be held this summer.

Thirty-eight local youth, ranging in age from 8-18, work tirelessly during each three-week conservatory to learn the script, the songs and the dances and transform themselves into jungle animals ranging from monkeys to wolves and snakes to vulchers.

Everyone will have a great time as they watch the youngsters take the stage for four performances which conclude each conservatory.

Performances for the first conservatory are scheduled for: Friday, July 9, 7:00 pm; Saturday, July 10 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm; and Sunday, July 11 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets for our summer conservatory performances are \$10 adults and \$5 children 12 and younger.

To make reservations, call Temple Theatre's Box Office Monday-Friday, from 2:00 until 6:00 pm, at 919-774-4155. For additional information, visit the website at www.templeshows.com.

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Foxfire family win NAMI's Bob Best award

Patty, Chris and Christopher Laughlin of Foxfire recently received the NAMI-MC's Bob Best Award for 2010.

The Laughlin family was given this award because they exemplify a long-standing tradition of dedicated service and commitment to NAMI-MC and the people who rely on them.

Soon after the Laughlin family joined NAMI-MC, Patty became a member of the Board

and they have all played a major role in the success of the many NAMI-MC programs including Pathway to Awareness Weekends, NAMIWalks, winter and summer social events and anything else the board asks of the family and more.

Patty has a unique ability to solicit donations from local businesses and became known in NAMI-MC circles as the "go to gal" or the "NAMI-MC Hustler."

Marianne Kernan says "Patty was a tremendous asset to the five member Pathway to Awareness 2006 Committee, aka, the 24/7 Gang." Patty used her unique skills to acquire free food items and hundreds of water bottles that would be used for Pathway to Awareness events. If something was needed, Patty went for it, and then some. She continues to provide this kind of dedicated service to NAMI-MC

The Pathway to Awareness 2007 committee decided to have a Silent Auction to help raise funds. Months before and without being asked, Patty and Chris used their skills to acquire numerous, expensive articles from area merchants to raise over \$4000 dollars.

Ellen Airs also said that "Patty is so convincing that she could sell sand at the beach."

If Patty's the 'go-to-Gal' of the affiliate, then Chris and Christopher are the 'count on us Guys!' If anything needs doing, they're always there to do it.

The family attends all NAMI-MC monthly meetings and events helping in any way they can. For Pathway to Awareness Weekends and NAMIWalks that means setting up and taking down the various stations, including the

Field of Hope flag display (50-some Memorial and/or Honorary garden flags of irises).

They all stay to the end of any activity, to make sure everything is put away and cleaned up.

Not to be outdone by his 'hustling wife, Chris has also acquired numerous donations from people in Sanford, where he is employed as a mail carrier for the US Postal Service.

The Laughlin family also vol-

untarily chairs and does all the preparation work for several yearly events for NAMI-MC including the summer picnic in July, the Christmas Party in December and NAMIWalks at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh in May. Patty designed the NAMI-MC the tee shirt that won the "Best Tee Shirt Award" for this years NAMIWalks. Last year NAMI-MC won the NAMIWalks

(See "NAMI," p. 13)



Patty, Chris and Christopher Laughlin of Foxfire received the NAMI-MC's Bob Best Award for 2010

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League members attend National Convention

The League of Women Voters of Moore County (LWVMC) was represented by Jo Nicholas, Ann Torok, Mary Lou Burnett, and Mary Price at the 2010 League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) biennial National Convention June 11-15, in Atlanta, GA. There were nearly 700 delegates in attendance.

Delegates were welcomed to the conference by iconic civil rights leader Congressman John

Lewis, who represents Atlanta. Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius addressed the delegates praising the League's efforts on health care reform, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent 90th anniversary greetings via video.

Eight former national League presidents — all those still living — were in attendance and reflected on each of their presidencies, spanning the 1960s to the

present.

While in Atlanta, League of Women Voters Moore County delegates attended workshops and caucuses, and discussed many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including global climate change, elections and voting rights, redistricting reform and more.

Delegates elected Elisabeth MacNamara of Atlanta president and elected a new Board of Directors, passed the LWVUS budget, and voted on LWVUS public policy positions for the next two years, including voting to study the federal role in education policy and privatization.

President Jo Nicholas of LWVMC spoke on the delegates' floor in support of the new study of the federal role in education policy and privatization. LWVMC will be undertaking this new study to examine the effects on Moore County educational system. LWVNC was well represented with twenty-four delegates attending the convention. All of the LWVMC delegates had a rewarding experience and look forward to the next convention.



Moore County League of Women Voters President Jo Nicholas, along with Mary Lou Burnett, Mary Price and Ann Torok, attended the League's National Convention in Atlanta.

Mental Illness Support Group

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)-Moore County moves to new meeting place. NAMI-MC will now hold its monthly meetings at the Community Room located in the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, located at the corners of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst.

Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings and programs are free and open to the public. For information call (910) 295-1053 or go to www.nami-moorecounty.org

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David Hipp, MD Melody King, MD Padiwath Ung, MD

Starting on August 9, the following physicians will be relocating to the second floor of our new Heather Glen building:

Michael Antil, MD Julie Baugher, MD Greg Blakely, MD Kathleen Letizia, MD
Philip Mondl, MD Michael Sobociro, MD Jennifer Szurgot, MD

Starting on August 16, the following physicians will be relocating to the first floor of our new Heather Glen building:

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Ravikant Varanasi, MD Diane Williams, MD, MHS



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Grads



Ryan Elizabeth McGaughey

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Radford, VA

Ryan is the daughter of Joel & Shanna McGaughey of Ashburn, VA & the granddaughter of Ron and Dita McGaughey of Seven Lakes. She received a BS degree from the College of Visual & Performing Arts, Theatre. She will pursue a career in acting.



Ryan C. Zellar

Norman A. Wiggins
School of Law
Campbell University
Buies Creek, NC

Ryan is the son of Ron and Conni Zellar of Seven Lakes West.

He was a graduate of University of Kentucky in 2007. Ryan received his Juris Doctor degree in law. He will sit for the bar exam in July.



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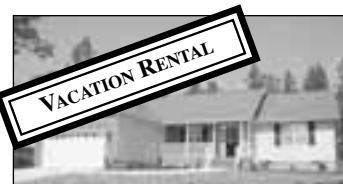
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Winery aims to be community gathering place

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Seven Lakes Kiwanis had a visit on Tuesday, June 29 from the bubbly and vivacious proprietor of the Sandhills Winery of Seven Lakes.

Leslie Rose, and her husband Bob, moved to the Sandhills from Vermont several years ago, and fell in love with the area. They are now permanent residents of Seven Lakes, and have opened a winery in the Seven Lakes Business District.

They incorporated the business in 2008, but prior to that began their journey into wine-making in their kids' bedrooms. Their plan is to have an informal

meeting area for the community to come and visit with their neighbors while enjoying a cup of coffee, a glass of wine, or a bottle of beer.

Plans are developing for a pergola where people can be served outside in good weather, as well as inside service.

Their winemaking process involves buying concentrated varietal juices from all over the world and mixing them in many different ways that seem to fit the palates of their customers. In this way, they will not only have a "regular" inventory of constantly produced wines, but also hope to develop some specials as a result of customer input.

Their beer availability's will also come from around the world, enabling the customers to actually pick out an "intercontinental six pack" and take it home or drink on the premises.

One of their planned activities is an every Thursday night wine tasting from 5:30-8:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres are served and everyone can get acquainted with the various wine and beer products available as well as make some new friends from the community.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets each Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Guests are always welcome.



Leslie Rose of Sandhills Winery.

NAMI

(Continued from page 10)

"Best Team Spirit Award"

The summer picnic is always a great time because the Laughlin's select a theme each year. The first year was a Hawaiian Luau; the following year was an Americana theme celebrating July 4th. This year's theme will be a Mexican celebration. All of these yearly events require a

lot of hard work and time by the Laughlin's.

Chris, Patty, and Christopher have done all this and more without expecting recognition. They do it because of their love of NAMI-MC and their desire to help people with mental illnesses and their families.

The Bob Best award was established in 2005 by the

National Alliance on Mental illness (NAMI)-Moore County as a tribute to honor Bob Best who was one of the founding members of NAMI-MC. Best worked tirelessly, far beyond what was expected of him, to advocate for and to educate and support people who have a mental illness and their families.

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Chrissy Excell NC #2032 Bobbie Salang NC #1573
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Incorporation

(Continued from front page)

reordered by topic the queries and responses as they appear below. A much longer and more complete version of this story is available at www.sevenlakes.com. Look for "incorporation" in the top menu.

Why do areas incorporate?

Q. What are the advantages in North Carolina of an area becoming incorporated?

A. "Every community is different," Millonzi said, and they decide for or against incorporation for a wide variety of reasons. Things that for one community might be seen as advantages of incorporation might be seen by another community as disadvantages by another."

"What I can globally tell you is what the legal consequences of incorporation are, and you can decide whether they are advantages or disadvantages," she said.

Some communities incorporate in order to offer residents a higher level of services than those

provided by the county, Millonzi said. She explained that counties in North Carolina primarily serve to carry out state functions: police protection and jails through the sheriff's office, providing funding for school construction and maintenance, administering elections, providing social and mental health services. In these functions, the county is essentially an arm of the state.

But, over time, counties have gotten into the business of offering other, optional services: for example, zoning and land-use planning. Some communities that want these services, but find themselves in a county that doesn't provide them, incorporate so that the town, rather than the county, can make them available.

"There are lots of times where counties take a very hands-off role on land-use planning, and some communities want to take more control," Millonzi said.

"But it comes with a cost," she added. "Citizens have to be willing to pay a higher price for those services in the form of

municipal taxes."

Another reason communities incorporate is to avoid being involuntarily annexed by a neighboring community. Incorporation also creates the possibility that a community might be able to have an ABC store, she said.

Q. What are the potential negatives of incorporation? Why do communities decide not to incorporate?

A. Noting that it was a hard question to answer, Millonzi said communities choose not to incorporate largely because they don't want or need any of the things a municipality can provide — local zoning, police protection, state shared revenues — and they don't want an extra layer of government.

Q. Suppose there are services already provided by the county. Can we just add to them, or do we have to displace them? For example, police protection through the sheriff's office.

A. The answer varies by the type of service, Millonzi said.

"Almost one hundred percent of the time, as soon as an area

is newly incorporated," she explained, "the sheriff stops patrolling . . . Some communities will enter into a contract with the sheriff's office and pay for sheriff services. Others establish a police department. There are certain other services where you will have that same experience."

The established county fire protection districts will continue to exist once a town is created, Millonzi said, and nothing has to change. But a town can take on the task of providing fire protection services itself, collecting taxes for the purpose and then either staffing a new fire

department or contracting with one of the existing fire departments to provide the service. [For example, the incorporated Village of Foxfire contracts with West End Fire and Rescue to provide fire protection in the Village. — Ed.]

Water is another area that could be affected by incorporation, she said. The county water system is obligated to charge a uniform rate to all the customers in the same class, in a given area. But it can decide to consider customers within a new municipality a different class of customer and charge them a high-

(See "Incorporation," p. 15)



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Incorporation

(Continued from page 14)
er rate.

For other services — those in which the county essentially acts as an arm of the state, including education, social services, mental health services, elections, and others — citizens of the new municipality could expect the same level of service they have always had from the county, Millonzi said.

The incorporation process

Q. Can you explain what happens at the state level when a community wants to incorporate?

A. Millonzi's key point in answering this question — a point she made more than once — is that a community's success in attempting to incorporate is almost wholly dependent upon winning the support of their local delegation to the General Assembly. In the case of Seven Lakes, that would be State Senator Harris Blake and State Representative Jamie Boles.

"If your local delegation supports you, they will put it in front of the General Assembly, and the General Assembly will pass it," Millonzi said. She noted that the legislators operate on the principle of "comity," which essentially means that they show deference to their fellow legislators — particularly when a proposed bill affects only that legislator's home district.

"It's hard to understand," Millonzi admitted. "There is a process to be followed, but it is almost meaningless. If your delegation is on board, you're good."

The process in question is "a series of hoops" that those organizing an incorporation effort must jump through, but successfully negotiating the hoops does not necessarily mean incorporation will occur. That requires the support of the local legislators. Nor does a failure to jump through each and every hoop mean that the incorporation effort will fail, so long as the local delegation is "on board."

Nevertheless, the hoops are there, and they involve preparing a charter that describes how the town will operate, winning the signatures of at least fifteen percent of the registered voters in the area to be incorporated, producing a boundary map of the proposed town, and developing

a plan for forming the municipality that levies a property tax of at least five cents per hundred dollars of valuation and describes how, within three years, the new

town will provide at least four of a set of eight municipal services.

That packet is presented to the General Assembly's Joint

Commission on Incorporation, which reviews it, works with the town organizers to make sure it is adequate, and then recommends for or against it to the

legislature.

With that hurdle passed, the organizers then work with the local senator and representative. (See "Incorporation," p. 18)



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- **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. 673-1100.

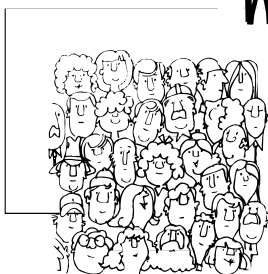
SATURDAY, JULY 10

- **Standard First Aid + Adult CPR/AED** – 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$60. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 692-8571.
- **Babysitter Training** (ages 11-15) – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, American Red Cross Course. Fee \$30. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 692-8571.
- Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc. – Mixed Paper Recycling Drive, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, at Kangaroo Station, Fresh Market Shopping Center, Southern Pines. Paper & flattened boxes, paper grocery bags, telephone books, paperback books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, shredded paper, office paper, newspapers, household & rechargeable batteries, ink jet cartridges, Cell Phones, diskettes, cds, DVDs, and Laptop Computers. Contact Joan Neal, 947-3478.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

- **Holy Eucharist** – 9:30 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Rev. Robert Brown, Vicar. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.
- **Red, White, and Blue Sunday** – at Southside Baptist Church, 125 Cedar Creek Road, Biscoe. Honoring all emergency responders, including law enforcement personnel, EMTs, fire fighters, & dispatchers. Sheriff Jeff Jordan will be speaking at the 10 am, Sunday School; 11 am Worship service, & 7 pm evening service. Following morning worship service, a potluck dinner will be held in the educational building. Nursery will be provided for each service. Public is invited. 428-9243 or Pastor Michael Lynn at 974-4723.
- **Geology Of The Sandhills** – 3 pm, Where did all the sand in the Sandhills come from? What is Paint Rock? Join a ranger to learn the answers to

these questions and discover more about the geology of the Sandhills. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 692-2167, weymouthwoods.ncdenr.gov



What's When Calendar

- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, New Found Road on stage tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org
- **Vacation Bible School** – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Belford Baptist Church Bible School for children and adults. Program runs July 11 - July 15. Fellowship, fun and learning more about the Bible. Everyone welcome. Located on Windblow Rd, Jackson Springs.
- **Meet with Sean “The Beast” Fister** – World Long Drive Champion, who will compete against golf pros from area clubs in the Challenge, “the Beast Long Drive Contest” at Little River Resort. Meet the Beast and enjoy cocktail and hors d'oeuvres while you watch the contest. Proceeds benefit Communities In Schools (CIS) of Moore County. Call 910-295-1072.

MONDAY, JULY 12

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 8:30 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

- **Communities In Schools** – host the 4th Annual “Fore Kids Sake” Golf Tournament at Pinehurst No. 8. at 9 am. Shot Gun Texas

Shamble. Celebrity golfer Sean “The Beast” Fister, World Long Drive Champion, join the golfers for the day. 910-295-1072.

- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, monthly meeting at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. Guest speaker is Lin Hutaff, a representative of AFLAC. Hutaff will give a general presentation on supplementary insurance. Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or

George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.

- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church** Invites Families to Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace – Hosted at Seven Lakes Baptist Church through Friday, July 16, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm each day. Families step back in time at Egypt, exploring the life of Joseph. Call Seven Lakes Baptist Church at 910-673-4656.
- **SCC Jazz Band Outdoor Concert** – 6:30 pm, Free. Bring a lawn chair and picnic if you wish. BBQ Dinners by Jordan's at 5 pm, \$7/plate. Sandhills Community College, Airport Rd, Southern Pines. 692-7966.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7-9 pm, Christ Fellowship Church, Midland and Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. Presentation by Juan Pons will include two subjects; improving nature photography techniques and using live view/video features on DSLR cameras. Guests welcome. 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 Rd, off Hwy 211, Candor. \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome. 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Program leader: Bette Hanham. All are welcome.
- **West Pine Elementary School Open House** – Community Open House, from 6-7:30 pm. Public is invited to tour the facility. 272 Archie Road, West End (behind West Pine Middle School).
- **Foxfire Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, general monthly meeting. Open to public.



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

- **Professional CPR/AED Review** – 6:00 - 8:30 pm, (for Healthcare Providers & Lifeguards) American Red Cross Review/Recertification Course. Fee \$25. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 692-8571.

THURSDAY, JULY 15

- **Wine Tasting** – Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$10 for six wines and food from Goldie's. Located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.

FRIDAY, JULY 16

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm to 6 pm, at Sandhills Cycle Center, 7540 Hwy 15/501, Pinehurst. 692-8571 for appt.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

- **CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider** – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Fee \$60. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 692-8571.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 am to 2 pm, at Acorn Ridge Baptist Church, 208 Acorn Ridge Road, Robbins. Call 464-3310 for appt.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

- **Holy Eucharist** – 9:30 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Rev. Fred Brown, Priest Associate. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.
- **Tarheels And Turpentine** – 3 pm, In 1880 North Carolina produced one-third of the world's supply of turpentine. Join the ranger for a closer look at the history of this industry, the products produced from pine resin and the origin of the state's nickname. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167.
- **Belford Baptist Church Women of Promise** – 3:00 pm, a Pre-Women's Conference Program. Guest speaker Pastor Gloria Downs of Marsh Chapel, Jackson Springs. 925 Windblow Road, Jackson Springs. Men And Women are Welcome.
- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, Jon Shain Trio and the Grandsons on stage tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.therooster-swife.org

MONDAY, JULY 19

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 am to 2:30 pm, at Chick-fil-A, 10735 S. Hwy 15/501, Southern Pines. Call 692-6646 for appt.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, meeting. Historic Courthouse, downtown Carthage.

TUESDAY, JULY 20

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 am to 2:30 pm, at Community Presbyterian Church, 125 Everett Road, Pinehurst. Call 692-8571 for appt.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Program leader: Linda Rinaldi. All are welcome.
- **Atrial Fibrillation Information Session** – 5:30 pm, join Andy C. Kiser, M.D., heart surgeon. What is it, why treat it and how? Medications, ablations, surgery - the menu of treatments for atrial fibrillation is as confusing as this troublesome condition. Free and open to public. Family and friends are welcome. Register,

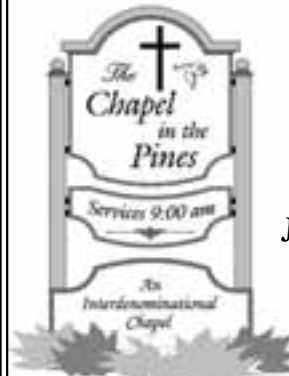
call (910) 715-1478 or toll-free at (800) 213-3284 or register online at www.firsthealth.org/afibinfo Conference Center, Moore Regional Hospital Corner of Hwy 211 & Page Road, Pinehurst.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 11 am to 3:30 pm, at FirstHealth Fitness Center, 170 Memorial Drive, Pinehurst. Sponsored by FirstHealth. Call 715-1800 for appt.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$10 for

six wines and food from Goldie's. 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 are nonrefundable, but they may be applied to another course. 692-8571. Prerequisite: Participant should hold current or recently expired certification in the review subject.

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Incorporation

(Continued from page 15)

tive to craft a bill that reflects the town's proposed charter.

"Whatever the General Assembly decides is in your charter, that's what is in your charter," Millonzi said, and the local legislators have the power to add and subtract elements from the charter as they develop the bill that will create the town.

"Whatever is in the charter governs," she said. "But unless the General Assembly agrees to include something, it doesn't get included automatically."

The purpose of making town organizers jump through all the hoops, Millonzi explained, "is

really to force a community to think long and hard to decide 'Do we really want to become a government?' for a positive reason." She explained that, since the late 1990s, the legislature has been very skeptical of communities that want to incorporate purely for defensive reasons — that is, simply to avoid annexation by another community.

Ironically, once the town is actually created, it does not technically have to impose the taxes or provide the services laid out in the charter.

"The one thing that a new municipality absolutely has to do is building inspections," Mil-

lonzi said, "and most municipalities let the county do that."

But, if a town fails to levy taxes and provide services, it will miss out on a variety of revenue streams available from the state.

Q. Do we get to vote on whether we want to incorporate?

A. That is completely up to the General Assembly, Millonzi explained. "If the General Assem-

bly indicates through the charter that you only become a municipality with a referendum, then you vote. If the General Assembly doesn't include it, then there

(See "Incorporation," p. 19)

GSLCC

(Continued from page 2)

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

The GSLCC discussed on Tuesday the possibility that the Seven Lakes and McLendon Hills Landowners Associations might participate in that effort. Westside President Ron Shepard is expected to present the idea of cross-community participation by residents, board members, or both at a work session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] on Tuesday, July 13.

The Council also discussed whether it may be possible to "Bring the brain power of all the groups studying incorporation under one umbrella," Zielsdorf said. But that effort will apparently wait at least until the conclusion of a Monday, July 12 meet-

ing of the Seven Lakes business community hosted by IncorporateSevenLakes.com, one of the groups advocating incorporation.

"We have an obligation to our 500 signatories that means we can't significantly change our petition," Marks, one of the principal organizers of IncorporateSevenLakes.com, explained. "We are looking for the support and the input of the business community in Monday's meeting."

"The Civic Group has already sought to broker a compromise between IncorporateSevenLakes.com and the Seven Lakes Study Group," Business Guild President Randy Merritt added. "But we are not in a position to make substantial changes to our proposal."

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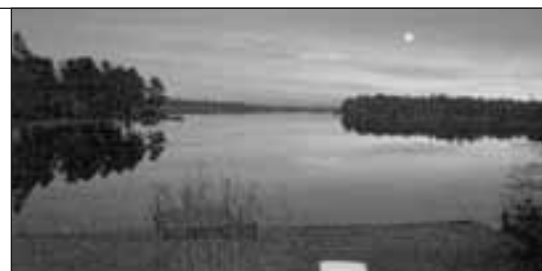
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Incorporation

(Continued from page 18)

is no vote. They can automatically incorporate you."

The impact of incorporation

Q. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission considers Lake Auman "public waters" in a "private" lake. If the gates come down, what happens to the lake?

A. Noting that she is not an expert on water rights, Millonzi said SLWLA might need to consult a private attorney in order to obtain a more definitive answer on that portion of the question. However, she said, incorporation would have "no immediate effect" on existing private property rights."

All of your existing covenants and all of your private property rights remain," she said. "They are not able to be altered by a newly-incorporated municipality."

The one "major exception" is the fact that North Carolina municipalities have the right of

eminent domain, allowing them, under certain circumstances, to take private property. If Seven Lakers would prefer their newly-incorporated town to forego that right, the town's charter could be written to take that power away from the town.

The North Carolina State Constitution gives municipalities certain rights, powers, and responsibilities. Other rights, powers and responsibilities are given by law, in the state statutes, but are not spelled out in the Constitution.

What the General Assembly gives in the statutes to all towns, it can take from an individual town in the legislation that creates that town. That legislation contains the town charter, and the charter can take from the town the right of eminent domain, among other things.

Q. If we incorporate with the gates, can some future governing body take them down? If

so, can we put in the charter that the town cannot do that?

A. "That is absolutely something that could be limited in the charter," Millonzi answered, though she doubted that the town board would in any case have the authority to force property owners to take down the gates.

The threat of annexation

Q. I understand that there is proposed legislation that would do away with involuntary annexation. Is that true?

Millonzi explained that there

was a bill introduced last year in the General Assembly's long session to accomplish that, but it went nowhere, and "It has not gotten significant traction in the short session." School of Government colleagues with an expertise in that area tell her that bills aimed at abolishing forced annexation are a perennial in the General Assembly, but typically "never go anywhere."

Town powers and authority

Q. Can a municipality levy a special assessment if they run short of money?

A. Millonzi said NC municipalities have at their disposal a wide range of methods for raising revenues, including assessments. "There are very detailed procedural requirements, but special assessments don't require a vote of the citizens," she explained.

"If you don't want the town to have that authority," she added, "you could take away that power in the charter."

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Wagram

(Continued from page 5)

that attempt was thwarted when the Scotland County Board of Commissioners withheld an approval needed for the deal to go through.

A 2008 engineering report prepared for Scotland County by The Wooten Company estimated the fair market value of the plants and the cost of rehabilitating them. The new LRCOG study would supplement that study by estimating the cost of laying water and sewer lines to connect the plants to surrounding counties and towns.

LRCOG Executive Director Jim Perry told *The Times* that both Scotland County and Robeson County, as well as the municipalities of Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinebluff, Laurinburg, Maxton, and Red Springs, had agreed to participate in funding the study. If the Rural Center grant application is approved, Perry said, the study will move forward, whether or not Moore County chooses to participate.

Boles: Water key to economic development

"This is not a redundant study," Boles told *The Times*. "It addresses the distribution cost. The local governments want the facts about what it would cost to bring these plants on line. This is just the last piece of the answer to that question."

Boles said water is key to continued economic development in the county.

"If we don't look for answers to

our water needs and work to build partnerships regionally," he told *The Times*, "then we are being short-sighted about the future of Moore County."

If enough citizens and businesses contribute to the fund, Boles said "this may be a statement to the county to please look at this option."

Boles told *The Times* that Moore County's argument has been that state senators and representatives stated they could get state money to pay for the study.

"We did come up with \$39,000 in state money," Boles said. "Times have changed," he added, making reference to belt-tightening at the state brought on by the economic downturn.

Chamber no newcomer to water issues

The Chamber had contributions and pledges totaling \$970 by Wednesday, July 7.

"We have seen private citizens kick in \$25," Chamber President and CEO Patrick Coughlin said. "Businesses, like Boles Funeral Home, have contributed \$100."

"We're going to stop accepting contributions, once we reach \$2,500," Coughlin added. "We don't want people to be uncertain about where the money is going."

Asked why the Chamber had agreed to help Boles raise Moore County's contribution to the study, the Chamber President told *The Times* the project "fits with our mission and where we

have historically placed our priorities — on water and inter-local cooperation."

He noted that the Chamber was active in bringing together Moore County's local governments to fund the 2008 McGill and Associates study of the county's water needs and potential water sources. "We have been a facilitator of the Moore County Summit and its water task force," Coughlin added.

"When Representative Boles called and told me his idea to go out to the public and solicit contributions to come up with the \$2,500, we thought that was a good fit for the Chamber's involvement," Coughlin explained.

Asked where the Wagram plants fit in the priority list for the

Summit's Water Task Force, Coughlin said it was their number one out-of-county priority, with bringing water from Robbins to Seven Lakes their number one in-county priority.

"The water task force agrees that Wagram is probably the biggest potential and the number one priority outside the county. It presents an opportunity that no other option does, which is to own water production capacity."

Coughlin explained that most of the other options on the table envision purchasing water from neighboring counties or municipalities — sources that could literally dry up when they choose to serve their own citizens first in times of drought.

"This, to the Chamber is a logical next step," Coughlin told *The Times*. "It appears that the local governments need a little more information about what the cost will be to get it up and running and to extend the distribution system."

"Some folks have done back of the envelope estimates based on average costs to lay twelve-inch water mains in North Carolina. What this is going to do is put hard numbers to specific locations to which the distribution systems will go."

"This study will tell us whether we will be able to bring Wagram water to Moore County affordably or not," Coughlin said.

As for the Seven Lakes Civic
(See "Wagram," p. 21)

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Water

(Continued from page 4)

it cool at the tap.

- Use shower for bathing purposes or reduce the depth of water used for tub baths. Limit showers to five minutes where possible.
- Refrain from running faucets while shaving, rinsing dishes or brushing teeth.
- Install water flow restrictive devices in showerheads.

- Install water-saving devices such as plastic bottles or commercial units in toilet tanks.
- Review water uses and where feasible install recycle systems, particularly commercial and industrial customers.
- Limit the use of clothes washers and dishwashers, and when used, operate fully loaded. Reduce the flushing of toilets to the minimum whenever prac-

- tical.
- Limit lawn watering to only when grass shows signs of withering and apply water as slow as possible to achieve deep penetration.
 - Limit shrubbery watering to the minimum, reusing household water when possible. Limit car washing to the minimum.
 - Limit wash downs of outside areas such as sidewalks,

- patios, driveways, or other similar purposes.
- Limit hours of operation of water-cooled air conditioners where possible.
 - Use biodegradable disposable dishes and utensils, both for residential and commercial purposes, where feasible.

The state has mandated that local governments update their water conservation ordinances, Vaughn told *The Times*, and Moore County's ordinance will be on the agenda of an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting.

Bluebirds

(Continued from page 3)

materials and that profits from their sales were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Bluebird boxes are carefully designed to provide maximum safety for the young chicks. Since the birds are cavity-dwellers, the size of the box and hole, along with proper placement of nesting boxes is important.

A first batch of bluebirds with four or five eggs is common in April to mid-May and then a

second smaller batch of three eggs later is common later in the Summer. Occasionally, a third brood will hatch in early Fall. A late frost can damage the eggs, as well as too much rain or heat.

Snakes, squirrels, raccoons, outdoor cats, and larger birds are concerns but the biggest threats to bluebirds are people and their cars, in particular.

However, bluebirds are a vital part of the ecosystem: beloved both for their beauty and their diet.

"They are really good about taking care of insects that we don't like," Munro said.

In addition to insects, bluebirds will also eat seeds, berries, and suet. Come Winter, bluebirds do not migrate and may rely more heavily on backyard feeders for sustenance.

For more information on how you can attract, house, or simply feed bluebirds in your own yard, visit www.ncbluebird.org

Wagram

(Continued from page 20)

Group's contribution, Coughlin said, "We would be thrilled with the participation of the folks out in Seven Lakes. Right now Seven Lakes has one little water pipe coming in, and we need to change that."

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Joseph's Journey

A summer family event called Egypt will be hosted at Seven Lakes Baptist Church from Monday, July 12, to Friday, July 16, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm each day.

Families 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, visit Joseph in prison and then in his palace home, and collect Bible Memory Makers to remind them of God's Word.

Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings.

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Choo-choo-weeeeee!

I was apprehensive. This new and potentially dangerous situation required a modicum of caution, so I did what any reasonable parent would do: I let the kids go first.

Timing our steps up the aisle in sync with the rock and roll of the rails, I reached the front of the car and ungracefully maneuvered my firstborn into the water closet. The emphasis being on closet here — not water — which only ran in drips, I would soon discover.

“Cool! The toilet flushes blue water!” shouted Jack, amazed at this odd outcome. With so much of his life experiences cushioned by the pine-scented time

capsule of our Sandhills, a trip to the big city often provides novel experiences in modern technology: or, in this case, chemical waste processing.

Avoiding the amused glances of my fellow travelers, I deposited the Pirate back at our seats and repeated my staggering lurch back up the aisle with the Princess of Pink before it was finally my turn in the little metal room. Bracing myself with an elbow on each wall and a foot holding the door, in case the lock rattled open, let's just say it was everything I expected. But then again, it could have been worse.

Like the kids, I also took a

long train trip in my youth. Unlike the kids, however, I wasn't headed for civilization but away from it. On winter break while living in the Middle East, my parents decided a two-week trek through some dusty outposts in Get-



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

metheheckoutofhereistan was just what I needed in my Christmas stocking.

I'm sure I thanked them later.

Somewhere around day three on our grand tour, we left behind the tacky, mirrored buses blasting Indian Top 40 radio and boarded a train. This wasn't your mama's Amtrak. A first class

ticket simply meant I had a seat — on a hard wooden bench, that is — but a seat nonetheless. For the less fortunate, a coach ticket

ensured passage: nothing more.

Eventually nature called and I wasn't apprehensive — kids

never are. Ducking under third class folks masquerading as luggage stacked in the overhead bins and stepping over chickens and tires, I carefully timed my steps up the cluttered aisle to the rock and roll of this rail and threw open the water closet.

Now this wasn't my first squat john. We actually had our own at home, but these simple commodes usually involved plumbing. So as I peered down into the hole, I was shocked to see railroad ties whizzing by with alarming speed. I braced an elbow on each wall and hollered out to my mother, “Cool! The toilet flushes right through the floor!”

Seven Lakes is changing – and not for the better

Dear Editor:

Our family based community of Seven Lakes has changed over the years, with the takeover by management companies and now the business community insisting on a takeover through incorporation of a good majority of West End area.

It's sad when we cannot enter through our gates without traffic backup and have to pay for another barcode. We are all Seven Lakers. One barcode

should work for all gates. Why are the management companies and board members making it so difficult?

The business area will gain all from incorporation. They want their roads and parking areas fixed up — let them pay for it.

Another tax on homeowners, with the outrageous Association Dues, plus all added expenses the association throws onto homeowners, plus our county taxes which we basically receive

no service from because of being a private community.

The average family cannot afford all of these added fees from the Association, taxes, and now an incorporation tax.

The Seven Lakes Associations and the possibility of an Incorporation tax will do nothing but lower the value of our home and area.

The state of North Carolina is financially broke, our federal government is broke — there

is no guarantee that any money will be granted with Incorporation. Five cents per \$100 is so unrealistic. In a year, it will ten times that. And please, Pinehurst has no interest in us.

I've said it for thirteen years now, “take the gates down, liquidate the association, let the county come in, and see all the benefits we will have.”

Thanks to the high unneeded raise in dues and now the pos-

sibility of Incorporation, myself and other homeowners have recently been forced to sell their homes, and it's so obvious that the board members and management companies don't care — or the rich business people who formed the proposal of Incorporation also.

Diane Evans
Seven Lakes West

SEVEN
SLAKES TIMES

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Reporter — Laura Douglass

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

Incorporation: Just do the math

Dear Editor:

Suppose your Seven Lakes dues are about \$900 per year. This money is spent on the same things it would be in any town: maintaining the infrastructure, day-to-day management, security, parks and recreation, etc.

The dues are a “flat tax” justified by equality of access by all members to all facilities within the gates, regardless of the value of their home. If you own a \$200,000 house the dues are equivalent to 45 cents per \$100

of assessed evaluation.

If you own a \$300,000 house, your dues are equivalent to 30 cents per \$100; a \$600,000 house, 15 cents per \$100; and so on.

Based on the experience of Pinewild, annexation by Pinehurst would mean an additional 28 cents per \$100 for which you would get absolutely *nothing*.

On the other hand, if we incorporate, add 5 cents per hundred. Tough choice.

Bruce Macdonald
Seven Lakes West

SLLA, Club are neglecting driving range pact

Three years ago, the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] entered into an agreement that defined how the Country Club property would be controlled by restrictive covenants, provided for a buffer easement along Seven Lakes Drive, provided for five new parking spaces for the mail house, and established an understanding that the Association's Architectural Review Board [ARB] would work closely with a builder or developer for construction on the old driving range property.

You can find the agreement in total in the August 3, 2007 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* at www.sevenlakes.net.

At this point, politics, power struggles, and frankly lack of honesty and integrity have resulted in nothing being completed.

This is a big deal. Without completion of the items in the agreement, the South Side can lose the integrity of the gated community and the potential exists that the golf course can be subdivided into lots.

Three years ago, Randy Zielsdorf, the current president of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, was quoted in the August 3, 2007 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* saying: "Trying to preserve the golf course and trying to get some protection on the old driving range was more important than getting bogged down in the issue of houses on the old driving range."

If that is the case, why has Zielsdorf failed to secure the easement and covenants that were supposed to provide that protection?

The agreement calls for the Club to grant an easement on the old driving range along Seven Lakes Drive. The goal is to prevent some future buyer of the range or the Club from creating a new entrance into the community on Seven Lakes Drive.

Zielsdorf told *The Times* months ago that the Association was ready to move on the easement whenever the Club would like. Apparently, the Club would prefer to delay the matter until a buyer for the old driving range is in hand, so it can use the easement as leverage to

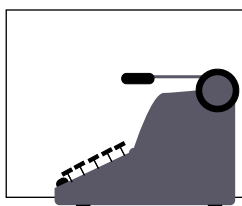
ensure the ARB will approve whatever that buyer wants to place on the site.

Securing the easement should be a top priority for Zielsdorf and the SLLA Board.

Finalizing covenants to be placed on the entire acreage owned by the Club that comply with

Your Turn

Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South



ing lots, destroying property values throughout the community. SLCC is reporting to its membership a loss of \$107,400 for the first five months of the year. This makes legitimate concerns rise to greater levels of importance.

The Club has written covenants, but two SLCC members who have seen them report that they do not permanently restrict the property of the CC to use as only a country club and golf course, as required by the 2007 agreement. Though, under the agreement, the Association has the right to approve these covenants, they have not been made public, and the Board has made no report to the membership about where things stand.

Currently, the SLLA is allowing the Seven Lakes Country Club to ignore completing the driving range agreement at the risk

of it never being completed.

Good people who are Country Club members should be ashamed of the way their leadership has refused to honor the terms of the agreement and demand that the agreement be completed as approved in 2007.

Seven Lakes Landowners Association members should demand completions of the agreement as written in 2007 to protect the integrity of the community as the developers intended. A reasonable deadline for the completion should be set, so, if they refuse to comply with the agreement, further legal action could commence immediately.

Again, this is a big deal. Without the agreement in place, our community is vulnerable to actions beyond the control of the SLLA.

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Is Talis worth the money SLLA is paying?

Dear Editor:

In a meeting with Seven Lakes Landowners Association Community Manager Alina Cochran, I asked what we were getting for the \$140,000 we pay Talis?

Cochran said we receive a manager four days a week and bookkeeping handled in Raleigh. We pay for everything else: health insurance, postage, legal, employees salaries, etc.

Ms. Snead at the League of Municipalities estimated our 1,150 home community would pay a manager \$47,000, to top

out at \$59,000. Bookkeeping can be done for about \$600 per month (about 30 vendors checks and payroll every two weeks).

Do the math. Aren't we paying about \$70,000 too much?

Did Director Kent Droppers and the board really get us a deal?

I hope someone in the office remembers to tell Talis that about five years ago the board passed a policy that the employees will pay twenty percent of the health care costs while the landowners pay eighty percent.

Do you think Talis will thumb their noses at this board voted policy like they did the promissory note? We'll just have to wait and see.

On another note, in the monthly open meeting, Treasurer Denny Galford was upset with my letter of June 25 to *The Seven Lakes Times*. No where in the letter do I state that the association is not receiving interest on monthly, quarterly, or semiannual dues payments. We have always received interest on dues payments.

My concern was that the board passed policy of a promissory note that the attorney drew up in 2007. Galford stated that "We may be following a different procedure . . ."

You cannot change a board voted policy just because you want to.

As far as Galford talking about the vote in 2009, what does that

have to do with the issue of board voted policies that are ignored?

He didn't mention the fact that he was originally appointed, not elected, to his seat on the Board.

On another subject, West-siders – it costs about 39 cents for a windshield sticker. What's the problem?

Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes North

Red, white & blue Sunday

Southside Baptist Church has designated Sunday, July 11, as Red, White, and Blue Sunday.

The day honors all emergency responders, including law enforcement personnel, EMTs, fire fighters, and dispatchers. Sheriff Jeff Jordan will be speaking at the 10 am, Sunday School; 11 am Worship service, & 7 pm evening service. Following the morning worship service there will be a potluck dinner in the educational building.

The church is excited to honor those who protect everyone. Special recognition will be given to those in attendance. A nursery will be provided for each of the services.

The public is cordially invited to attend these special services at Southside Baptist Church,

125 Cedar Creek Road, Biscoe.

For more information or directions, please call the church at 428-9243 or Pastor Michael Lynn at 974-4723.



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Correction

In the June 25 edition of *The Times*, we headlined a letter from Steve Hudson "Pre-Talis, SLLA earned interest on monthly dues." In fact, post-Talis, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] continues to collect interest on the unpaid balance owed by those who choose to pay their dues monthly. Only the process has changed, as Treasurer Denny Galford explained in a recent meeting of the SLLA Board. The error was not Hudson's but ours, the result of a misreading of Hudson's letter. The *Times* regrets the error.

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Let's keep Sequoia Point clean and green

Dear Editor:

Sequoia Point is one of the main focal points in the community. It is a place where we can gather for picnics, parties, swimming and just hanging out. We do not need any additional mooring spaces on the point.

This is not Seven Lakes Yacht Club and Marina. The lakes are an added amenity, not a "drawing card" for boaters. Boat storage has always been available across from the point or else at

ones own dock. It has worked this way for years and years.

If these new moorings go in, what will happen to the swimming right off the point? Kids use this "jumping off place" constantly and it is safe and unpolluted.

We want to go "green" so why are we asking for more water and noise pollution. Has anyone thought of the way this is going to look? Right now, with the small park for the kids and the picnic area and the "greenness,"

the view is really quite nice.

Even when cruising around the lake in the pontoon boats, it is really a pretty site to see, so why spoil it? Johnson Point, on the West Side, is much the same

as Sequoia Point. A few slips, a storage location and personal docks.

Let's just think this through carefully and keep what we have intact. Keep the "Point" as it is and

enjoy it as it is and protect it from being lost to more boats.

Just think about it!

Jackie Wells
Seven Lakes North

Help the pets!

Dear Friends and Pet Lovers:

Sandhills Animal Rescue League needs your help in the form of monetary donations to purchase food, to pay veterinarian and supply bills.

We at Sandhills Animal Rescue League know that times are hard, and we are caring for some pets that owners had to give up because of job loss, moving to another area, or sickness in their families.

Sandhills Animal Rescue League can use any amount of donation, large or small. Please help us help the animals in need.

Please send your tax deductible donations to: Sandhills Animal Rescue League, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson

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Meet Sean 'The Beast' Fister World Long Drive Champion as Communities In Schools supports and helps kids stay in school and prepare for life.

The tournament will be played on Pinehurst # 8, The Centennial Course, Monday, July 12.

The game starts at 9 am with a Shot Gun – Texas Shamble.

All proceeds from the event support Moore County children including the Community In Schools COMPASS Mentoring Program serving over 150 students.

The cost is \$200 per player that includes golf, lunch, beverages and a player reception

Meet 'The Beast!' at CIS event

after the tournament.

Sponsorships are available. Special events include: 'Meet the Beast' reception on Sunday, July 11 at Little River Golf Resort and also The 'Beast Challenge' on July 11 at Little River Golf Resort.

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Like hearts beating in the trees, below the surface in the pond, in bodies soaring gracefully in the azure sky, or in those making their way with purpose along the soil.

Why don't we have more awareness of these living things?

Like a vivid breasted robin gently swaying on a limb and delivering, with persistence, a lovely song. It's as if he wants to prove that he's justified to be here on earth.

No need for a beautiful flower to say "hi" to us as we pass by. The communication is already there: someone's beating heart open to the silent handshake of a colorful petal, and the realization that each is thankful to be alive.

Does the sun smile?

Is a frog's croak a thankfulness for life?

Must the swishing of a dog's tail mean more than simple con-

tentment?

What are dogwood blossoms trying to tell us? That voiceless beauty is in our midst for a purpose? To remind us there is bounteousness in many forms of life? To soothe the frayed edges of our nervous systems? To pro-



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

vide ourselves with a change of pace in the relentless momentum of life?

Yes, that's it. A refreshing change. It can and does nurture the soul. It has something to do with Thanksgiving.

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The message is simple: Never take the gifts of life for granted.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

being used by management. That schedule, she said, details specific maintenance tasks to be completed at various times throughout the year.

Community Manager Alina Cochran responded that she had not received the schedule and, thus, it was not presently being used. Current routine maintenance includes periodic spraying with herbicides, she explained, as well as water quality testing, performed every six months. In addition, she reported, the Board is considering whether to continue the more frequent water testing schedule employed last year.

Moving on to boating concerns, Moses asked whether boats are being checked for current stickers, citing recent instances of boats being operated on Lake Sequoia without proper identification.

Security Director Chuck Mims said that the Boat Patrol is on-duty each weekend, Friday through Sunday, for ten-hour shifts. He recommended that residents immediately report any boats being operated without a current sticker.

Another location for new docks?

Speaking on behalf of sixty-one homeowners, Northsider Joan DeBruin said she opposed a plan, currently under Board consideration, to construct a new eighteen-slip dock on the northern side of Sequoia Point.

"Sequoia Point is one of most picturesque parts of Seven Lakes and attracts people to swimming, boating, and picnicking. It should not be turned into a boat marina," said DeBruin. "We do not wish to mar the view with more boats nor see property values decrease because there is a marina in what we [lakefront property owners] view as our front yards. Is this the best use of this valuable resource?"

Noting that there are three shallow coves at the north end of Sequoia, DeBruin said increased boat traffic could also further undermine bulkheads since so many ignore the 'no wake' area regulations.

DeBruin offered two suggestions: raise the slip fee to test actual demand for new dock space, or to reconsider the loca-

tion of the proposed new dock. Instead of constructing new docks on the northern side, she recommended relocating the swimming area to that location and improving or expanding the existing dock area on the southern side -- which mainly fronts the dam rather than nearby homes.

"That would put the beach closer to the restrooms and the playground," DeBruin said. "It would be safer for children, because it's further away from the road; boater access would be improved; and lakefront landowners north of the point would not be adversely affected," she added.

She implored the Board not to make a hasty or wrong decision: "Let's work together to develop a sane and reasonable plan for the long-term use of this key amenity."

Zielsdorf stated that he had been in previous contact with DeBruin and supported her recommendation. "Unless there is a good reason not to do it, I

believe this is a very good idea," he said.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Northsider Donna Fentzlauff told the Board that, despite repeated complaints, Sequoia Point and its beach continue to be filthy and full of cigarette butts. She recommended a smoking and alcohol ban at the park to address the problem.

Fentzlauff also railed against the "no shelter" sign installed at the beach. "That is ridiculous: there are bigger concerns going on there!"

Solution for reciprocal gates access in the works?

After several weeks of confusion and delays for Westsiders attempting to enter the North and South gates without the benefit of window stickers, plus numerous complaints all around, Mims reported that a meeting on Tuesday, June 29, between directors of SLLA and the Seven

Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] was fruitful. Mims said he anticipated a reasonable solution to identifying vehicles at the gates would soon be approved and "bring everything back to normal."

Mims also reported that the Boat Patrol has been deployed for just over a month and that officers had completed a boating safety course as well as instruction on North Carolina laws

applying to boat operation while intoxicated. A Standard Operating Procedures [SOP] manual was distributed to all security officers.

A proposal to install wireless cameras at several common area locations has been delayed due to the contractor's health. Mims postponed further discussion until the August Work Session.

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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STR0908

SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 27)

During public comment, Northsider Dennis Mueller reported the emergency access back gate, located on Firetree Lane and adjoining Holly Grove School Road, poses an ongoing security breach of the gates.

"Last year, people took down the fence rails and were coming in and out on the Fourth of July. I've seen people walk through, drive motorbikes through, kids on bicycles come in and go to a neighbors dock and then leave. A pickup truck with seven people in the bed stopped, the group hopped the fence and started walking toward Sequoia while the pickup continued on his way. Children were being exchanged with them exiting one car and entering another on the opposite side of the fence. I'm very concerned about it," said Mueller.

SLLA still collecting interest on dues payments

Addressing an item that he said "struck deep," Treasurer Denny Galford stated that a recent Letter to the Editor published in *The Times* was incorrect and the headline misleading that policy has changed regarding interest on Association dues.

Former Treasurer Steve Hudson authored the letter, which complained of a cumbersome process for arranging to pay dues monthly, noted that the Association was no longer requiring promissory notes of those

landowners who choose to pay their dues monthly, and implied that the Association was no longer receiving interest on those payments.

"We may be following a different procedure, but the policy is being followed and interest is being charged, just like always," Galford said.

Continuing, Galford said he appreciated that the majority of residents remember the opinions of the letter's author and noted that is reflected at the ballot box. Hudson and Galford both ran for seats on the Board in 2009. Hudson finished sixth of six candidates, with 226 votes; Galford finished fourth, with 290 votes.

"That is why we have the Board we have now," Galford said.

Reduced fees for Summer Camp

Though the SLLA Summer Day Camp has been up and running for two weeks now, attendance has been lower than usual, prompting a decision to reduce fees, reported Community Manager Cochran.

The new drop-in rates for SLLA members and non-residents is now \$10 per day. Summer Camp is held Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the North Clubhouse - Community Activity Center [CAC]. Daily activities include swimming, games, and crafts. Children aged five to fourteen are welcome to par-

ticipate.

If interest and enrollment numbers increase, Summer Camp is anticipated to continue until August 20 -- with the exception of Monday, July 5, when camp will close for the Federal holiday.

Pool hours extended; camp out planned

Weekend pool hours have been extended; pool hours are Noon to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and Noon to 8:00 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Water aerobics are held weekday mornings; for more information call the SLLA office.

Under action items, the Board approved a newly-drafted liability waiver and parental consent form for use at the Stables. No minor children will be allowed to

ride without prior approval, and forms will be kept on file at the Stables.

A Family Camp Out event at Sequoia Point will be held Friday, August 13. Sponsored by the Recreation Committee, this kid-friendly evening will feature a campfire, songs, and s'mores. Families are invited to come out for an hour or to spend the night. S'more fixin's and fun will be provided, but campers should bring their own tents, sleeping bags, and flashlights. [Rain date is Friday, August 20.]

During public comment, Northsider Beverly Sommers expressed disappointment in the lack of scheduled recreation trips this year.

"I find it lackluster here. What has happened to the trips, and what will be planned in the

future?" she asked.

Cochran responded that there has been little interest or response to the recreation programs so far this year; but that the Recreation Committee was open to program suggestions and trips of interest to the community.

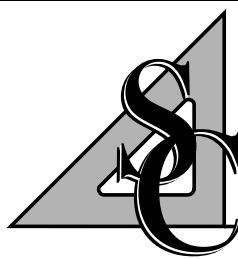
Beautification Work Day

All interested residents are invited to participate in a Beautification Work Day on Saturday, July 10, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help clean and beautify common areas. Please meet at 9:00 am at the SLLA offices and bring work gloves and garden tools. Trailers and pick-up trucks are also needed.

"This is a busy time for main-
(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 28)

tenance and we just want to supplement some of the things they are doing," explained Director Kent Droppers.

Continuing his report, Droppers said the Community Standards Committee is very busy and thanked residents for their quick response to concerns. He said the committee has worked through a backlog of complaints and that no issues have required a Judicial Committee hearing.

Accounting system problems

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Galford said the transition from cash basis to accrual basis using the Talis accounting system had generated more problems than anticipated, including improvements needed on the statements, slow processing of payments, and some incorrect billing penalties.

To address these concerns, Galford said a meeting has been scheduled at Talis' main office in Raleigh on July 9 to discuss issues "item by item."

In addition, Galford said a monthly financial statement had not been distributed as usual, prior to the meeting, because he felt what was available was not very revealing.

"Income would have been over and expenses under on the statement. I feel the system can be modified to meet our needs and we will be taking care of those issues on July 9," Galford said.

Other Business

In other business on Wednesday, June 30, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Heard from Community Manager Cochran that North Carolina deemed the necessary road repair work near Echo Dam as "non-jurisdictional," so bidding may commence with only a few stated require-

ments. "That is a good thing - this means we don't get our own state bureaucratic babysitter for the project," said President Zielsdorf.

- Approved landowner requests to recombine lots 45 and 46, and lots 25, 39 and 40. Zielsdorf noted that such requests are approved through Moore County, and that the Board has no control over such

action.

- Heard from Director Melinda Scott that the Architectural Review Board [ARB] is reviewing requests as quickly as possible and have also been more diligently following up and inspecting approved projects.

Directors Bud Shaver and Bruce Keyser, Jr. were unable to attend the meeting.

Red Cross Blood Drives

Friday, July 16

Sandhills Cycle Center, 1:30 pm to 6 pm, , 7540 Hwy 15/501, Pinehurst. Call 692-8571 for appt.

Saturday, July 17

Acorn Ridge Baptist Church, 10 am to 2 pm, at 208 Acorn Ridge Road, Robbins. Call 464-3310 for appt.

Monday, July 19

Chick-fil-A, 10 am to 2:30 pm, at 10735 S. Hwy 15/501, Southern Pines. Call 692-6646 for appt.

Tuesday, July 20

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