

West Side unveils master entry plan

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Seven Lakes West has a new Master Plan for its front and back entranceways that would move the front gatehouse further inside the community and create a back gate area that is as attractive as the richly-landscaped Lakeway Drive Mall.

Director John Goodman shared with his fellow Board members the results of months of work by the Entries Planning Committee and the land-planning firm LandDesign during the Tues-

day, July 13 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Work Session.

"Everyone was very happy with this result," Goodman said. "I hope the community looks favorably upon it." You can download copies of the Master Plan drawings from sevenlakestimes.net; larger, much easier-to-read versions can be viewed at the West Side Park Community Center.

The drawings lay out a concept and embody the work of the committee, but they are not detailed construction

(See "Westside," p. 31)

Page Coker resigns Foxfire Council seat

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

In a surprise announcement at the Tuesday, July 13 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council, Page Coker submitted her resignation from the Council, effective August 5.

Coker, who has been in charge of Public Safety, said she tendered her resignation with regret. She said she was honored to have served the residents of Fox-

fire and hoped her efforts had helped to better the community.

First elected in office in 2007, Coker was reelected last Fall to a four-year term. It was not immediately clear how or when the Council would move to fill Coker's seat.

Woodland Circle Extension

Recent repaving work on several portions of the Wood-

(See "Foxfire," p. 29)

A Fourth for the Kids



Seven Lakes West hosted its first July 4th "Kids' Red, White and Blue" Parade, as well as an expanded July 4th Boat Parade on Lake Auman this year. These young Lakers were happy to celebrate the nation's birthday.

Seven Lakes gets seat at table

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Seven Lakes will get its seat at the County's table — or, more accurately, the County Commissioners have pledged to, at least twice a year, come and sit at a table in Seven Lakes.

The Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC] — comprised of the Presidents of the Seven Lakes,

Seven Lakes West, and McLendon Hills landowners associations, along with the President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild — sent a letter earlier this month reasserting its desire to be "a full participant in all county meetings and discussions that include our fellow communities."

In particular, the GSLCC wanted a seat at the table provided for municipal council members when the Board of Commissioners convenes its quarterly elected officials forums, rather than being offered at seat long the wall, with the press, staff, and observers.

Instead, the Commissioners unanimously approved during their Monday, July

19 meeting, a resolution calling for the full Board to journey to Seven Lakes at least twice a year to meet with the GSLCC and other Seven Lakes leaders in a public meeting.

It was a compromise that Chairman Tim Lea had worked out in advance with the GSLCC members, and McLendon Hills President Pete Dotto, speaking for the group, said they were "in full agreement that it would be a good solution."

Lea asked that the GSLCC prepare the agenda for the meeting, arrange for a conference table large enough to accommodate the commissioners and Seven Lakes representatives, and provide (See "Commissioners," p. 28)

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Notice anything?

You might notice a few changes in this edition of The Seven Lakes Times.

See page 10 to find out what's going on.

Study Group endorses West Side's process

After several months of intensive study, comprehensive research and multiple interviews with governmental and community leaders, we the members of the Seven Lakes Community Study Group have now presented our findings and recommendations on incorporation to the community. We provided a summary of our study to all of the residents through an insert in *The Seven Lakes Times* and copies of the full report to the board members of the three landowners associations, the Business Guild, and the Civic Group board of directors. In addition we held an open forum on June 1 at the Westside Community Center attended by over 200 residents. Copies of our complete report are available on the Seven Lakes Times web site (<http://sevenlakes-times.net>) under the Incor-

poration heading. The report is titled "Building a Better Seven Lakes Community Together."

From the very beginning, we have been guided by the following vision statement that was adopted by the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council which includes the presidents of the landowners' boards from the North, South, and West Seven Lakes communities along with the president of the Business Guild and McLendon Hills Property Owners Association:

We want the greater Seven Lakes Community to maintain a culture of enthusiasm, good will, mutual respect, cooperation and dedication to the common good. Our task is to preserve all the good we have in Seven Lakes while providing for orderly growth and positive change. We seek a community that is safe, sociable, physically beautiful, hospitable, and environmentally friendly and culturally fulfilling for a present and future population that is diverse in age, race, life-styles, interests and economic backgrounds.

Our community should have an efficient, economical and transparent method of governance that meets the psychological and security needs of all its residents; and a com-

mercial district that is pleasing in appearance, pedestrian friendly, supported by the residents and diverse enough to meet their needs and interests. There should also be an ample number of institutions and organizations to meet the human needs of belonging, self-esteem and self-realization.

Early in our study we became aware of the efforts of the group, "IncorporateSevenLakes.com," an ad hoc group of businessmen who are seeking to incorporate Seven Lakes as soon as possible by keeping the roads of the individual associations gated and forgoing the state funds available only to incorporated municipalities with at least 51% of their roads public.

We met several times with the leaders of IncorporateSevenLakes.com with the hope that we could merge our findings with their drive to incorporate. Although both of us agreed that incorporation was not only desirable,

but also necessary and probably inevitable, there were several points of disagreement. These include the fol-

lowing:

- A total budget of only \$844,000 with \$320,000 of that amount for fire protection is inadequate for a town of over 5,000 persons.

- A police/security budget of less than \$200,000, which is inadequate for any real police protection. By having a police force, even one that is inadequate, we will most likely lose any police coverage provided by the county, ac-

cording to Kara Millonzi, Professor UNC Chapel Hill School of Government.

- A budget of \$62,000 for administration and \$53,000 for general government expenses which does not provide adequately for well-qualified professionals.

- No budget at all for the critical area of planning and zoning necessary to control growth along the 211 corridor and in the business district.

- Only \$100,000 in Powell funds for roads, an amount that not only fails to address the crumbling roads and infrastructure in the residential areas, but is woefully inadequate to repair and resurface roads in the business area.

- A cap on annual raises of (See "Study group," p. 36)

Seven Lakes, Together.
Another way to incorporate.

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@sevenlakes-times.net.


Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
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*

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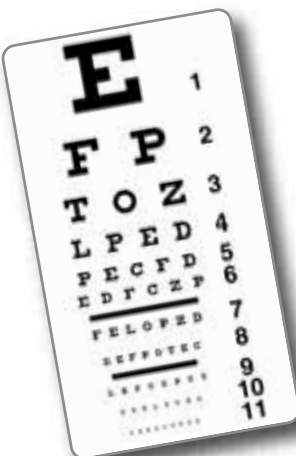


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Evenings by Appointment

SLLA, Talis work through transition issues

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

A meeting last week that brought together representatives of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] with executives from Talis Management Group was very productive, reported President Randy Zielsdorf during the SLLA Board's Monday, July 12 Work Session.

"There were some concerns on transition activities not happening as rapidly as we'd like, but now I understand why we came to that circumstance," he said. "I am very confident that some of the issues that have been plaguing us for the last six weeks will be resolved fairly quickly."

Moving forward, Zielsdorf said, the Board will be looking at minor changes in terms of how fees are assessed: Do they make sense? Are they appropriate? And do they reflect the value of the service?

"One of reasons we went with a management company is to do things better than we have in the past. When they [Talis] come to us with reasonable suggestions, we need to consider them," said Zielsdorf.

Road Repaving Project

The repaving of SLLA roads was originally slated to begin this Fall, and lack of progress on that project has left some residents frustrated.

Several necessary planning steps have delayed the project, including:

- An assessment of the cost to repair several road areas with extensive damage that need immediate attention,
- Completion of a Reserve Study, and
- Discussion of potential changes to the main entrance at the North gate and Dogwood Lane to improve appearance and traffic flow.

One of the top repair priorities is the Echo Dam roadway, and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently informed the Association that road-

way repairs on Echo Dam will be "non-jurisdictional" - that is, they will not require the SLLA to jump through a variety of state approval hoops in order to do the work.

Zielsdorf described that as

Study will be conducted by an outside contractor and will include a thorough assessment of all major capital assets, including an evaluation of their present condition, a projection of when they will need to be replaced, and an estimate of replacement cost.

Three requests for proposal for the Reserve Study were sent out, but only two bids were

received. The Board will vote on whether to approve the lowest bid of \$6,080 at the Wednesday, July 28 Open Meeting.

"Realistically, we're looking at the beginning of [the] next season when it is favorable to pave before we

can begin," said Treasurer Denny Galford. "We won't be able to get the study complete and estimates in by this September." In other words, major repaving is unlikely before September 2011.

And major repaving is likely to require financing. "We won't be able to do more than a few miles of repaving and these [major] repairs with our current reserve," Galford said.

Zielsdorf said the repaving project will require a multi-year plan, adding that he was opposed to patchwork paving. He advocated completing the major repairs that are needed, then repaving the major artery roads, and finally paving or just resurfacing secondary roads. Paving one mile at time comes

at a premium, Zielsdorf said, and the Board seemed in unanimous agreement that undertaking a loan will be necessary to pay for a more extensive paving schedule.

"Using the added increase in dues to road reserves, we can use a lot of that to make payments for money we borrow and still hold money back for emergency repairs," said Zielsdorf. "The magic formula is: How much can we borrow and pay off with that extra \$100 in dues?"

"The roads are an unsightly blemish . . . We've sat through benign neglect for ten to fifteen years, and the community is starting to look old," Zielsdorf added. "Our lakes are a valuable asset only if the community does-

(See "SLLA" p. 35)

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

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"good news" that will help keep costs down. The Board is already soliciting bids for that repair, and will be seeking bids on three other areas that also need attention sooner rather than later.

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Westsidiers can buy stickers for SLLA gates

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westsidiers who frequently visit Seven lakes North and South will no longer have to wonder how they are going to get through the gates.

Director John Hoffmann announced during the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] July 13 Work Session that new windshield stickers will be made available for purchase at the SLWLA office by Westsidiers who need to regularly visit Seven Lakes North and South.

Association staff will install the stickers on vehicles, as they do with barcodes. The stickers will expire at the end of the fiscal year in May. Community Manager Joan Frost told *The Times*

that the sticker will cost \$5.00 this year, subject to change based on the amount of staff time the process consumes.

Hoffmann noted that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] will not for-

only Westsidiers who have already purchased barcodes be eligible to purchase the windshield stickers.

Pool Pass Policy Changed

During the public comment period at the beginning of Tuesday's meeting, Eva Huston told the Board that the policy for distributing pool passes discriminated against members who live alone.

This year the Association has issued primary pool passes to two adult owners of each lot. Each pass allows the holder to bring up to four guests to the pool at no charge. But residents who live alone and lot owners with only one name listed on the title were given only one primary pool pass, limiting them to four guests total.

"I am a single person with children and grandchildren who visit infrequently," Hus-

ton told the Board. She said the current policy involved "an obvious gross inequity," and asked the Board to correct it. "Every fair-minded person in Seven Lakes West would support this," she added.

The Board did support it, voting near the end of the meeting to allow each lot to receive up to two primary pool passes, at the owner's request.

"I really don't think anyone even thought of this," Director Herdrich commented, to general agreement by

other Board members.

Incorporation Studies Get Underway

Committees have begun forming to study the implications for Seven Lakes West of a proposed incorporation of Seven Lakes in a seven-committee process rolled out at an incorporation forum last month.

Director Silberhorn reported that the Property Valuation subcommittee, one of two committees he is chairing, has already held its first

(See "Westside," p. 32)

West Side Landowners Meeting

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mally vote to recognize the stickers until their Open Meeting late in the month, but SLLA Security Director Chuck Mims had assured him that a majority of the Board supported the move.

Director Mick Herdrich asked for a stipulation that

Presentation on Auman Dam road scheduled for August 3

Dr. Dan Marks, the West Side's Dam Engineer, will be making a presentation on Tuesday August 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Side Park Community Center concerning his recommendation to keep Longleaf Drive closed across the Dam and to answer questions related to the subject.

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Funding cuts mean reshaping education

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Funding reductions this year had a significant impact but were still within

reach of the system, said Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser; however it is next year's budget and the anticipated loss of \$5.2 million in Federal

stimulus funds in addition to the ongoing state and county cuts that is of greater concern.

"How do we adjust? We have made so many reductions and trimmed here and there," Purser reported to the Board of Education on Monday, July 19, recommending that the enormous loss should be viewed as an opportunity to reshape how public education is accomplished.

"We will be looking at how to do our business differently. We've got to be realistic: the money is not coming so how we structure what we do need has to be changed."

Purser's contract amended

Again this year as last, Purser declined the automatic \$2,500 salary increase as stipulated in her employment contract.

In a related budget discussion on July 19, the Board also approved two additional contract amendments as requested by Purser. In the

future, if local salary supplements are cut for county employees, her salary will be adjusted accordingly. Also in lieu of a cell phone provided by Moore County Schools [MCS], she was granted a \$200 per month allowance for internet and cellular services.

Preliminary reports on tests are promising

End of year test results have not been finalized but preliminary results show increased proficiency across the board, improvement in growth for most schools, and what appears to be a significant jump in the graduation rate.

"This is wonderful news. All of our high schools have worked very hard," said Purser. "These preliminary numbers demonstrate a positive statement about student success."

Bond Projects Update

Archie Road improvements are complete, reported John Hawthorne, MCS Executive

Supervisor for Construction, and punch list work continues for the nearly complete West Pine Elementary School.

Located midway between West End and Pinehurst along Hwy 211, it is adjacent to the existing West Pine Middle School. A well-attended Open House on Tuesday, July 13, allowed future students and their parents a first peak at the new facility.

Using funds from the \$54 million school bond referendum approved by voters in 2007, West Pine Elementary was one of two new schools built this year under Phase I of Master Facilities Plan. Moving forward this year into Phase II, which runs through 2014, the focus will shift to high school facility needs.

Recognitions

Four fifth graders from Academy Heights Elementary School were recognized by the Board of Education as the top two 'First in Math' teams in North Carolina, and ranked within the top twenty.

(See "Schools," p. 37)



Principal Seth Powers welcomes rising fourth grader Alexander Borden to West Pine Elementary School, Moore County's newest school, during a July 13 open house.

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Dave Kinney re-elected Planning Vice Chair

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

By a vote of acclamation, Dave Kinney was re-elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Moore County Planning Board on Thursday, July 8. A longtime member of the Planning Board, Kinney has held the Vice Chair since April following Kim Von-Canon's departure from the Board. In addition, Kinney has also served as Chair of the Small Planning Area A Committee and is a Past President of the Seven Lakes Civic Group.

STARS expansion request postponed

Convened as the Moore County Watershed Review Board, the Planning Board approved a special non-residential intensity allocation [SNIA] request by Neighborhood Youth Leadership, Inc. to increase the maximum built upon area of the Sandhills Theater Arts Renaissance School [STARS] from 24% to 45% for future development on the 5.86 campus located near Vass. However, a decision on a conditional use permit at the same location was postponed pending further investigation. As proposed, the charter school submitted a conditional use permit request to build an 8,295 square foot addition with an additional request for a potential 28,264 square foot building for future expansion. During the public hearing, an adjacent neighbor of the campus complained that while the school is excellent, that previous permit restrictions have not been followed; citing safety and fire code violations including failure to replant the buffer zone, using a residential townhome for classes, routine use of emergency exits, and allowing children to enter and exit vehicles at inappropriate locations behind the school and along the public road. Chair Martha Blake asked Planning Director Joey Raczkowski to pull all previous permits granted to the

school and to research whether the school was in compliance with all restrictions. In addition, the school must provide an impact analysis of traffic, and reports on student enrollment and the overall affect the school has on the site.

Update proposed for Land Use Plan

Initial efforts to update the Moore County Land Use Plan, originally developed in 1999, were sidetracked by the economic recession. In 2009, following a recommendation by the Board of County Commissioners to fund a long range plan to include schools

and a master water and sewer solution, Moore County hired a dedicated long range planner, Jeremy Rust. Describing the plan as an integrated approach, Rust said a clean slate was not necessary because the 1999 Land Use Plan was progressive in nature. Early steps in the update include analy-

sis and mapping, along with a comprehensive review of codes and ordinances. Public participation in the plan will include an emphasis on interviews with key stakeholders, including county directors, elected and appointed officials, business leaders, environmental ad-
(See "Planning," p. 8)

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For Your Generous Support of the Seven Lakes Village Beautification 2010 Fundraiser

The Seven Lakes Village Beautification Committee has been active for over eight years and our contributors and volunteers have grown considerably. When the 2010 drive began, our treasury was close to zero, but with the generous support of the following people and businesses, we are able to continue our work of plantings and maintenance along Highway 211, Seven Lakes Drive, and other special projects.

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**Denotes Seven Lakes Village Beautification Volunteers*

Florence will run for conservation board seat

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Finding the name of a Seven Laker on a General Election ballot is a novelty, to say the least.

Bud Shaver ran for the District 52 NC House seat a few years ago, and, of course, County Commissioner Nick Picerno lives in McLendon Hills. But candidates from the Seven Lakes area are few and far between.

This November, Northsider Michael Florence will join their ranks.

Florence has thrown his hat into the ring as one of five candidates vying for two open seats on the Moore County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Other who have filed for the race include Lynn Harris of West End, John Carter III of Eagle Springs, John McDonald of Carthage and Scott Sheffield of Pinehurst.

A subdivision of state government, the unsalaried Board consists of five supervisors; three are elected and two are appointed.

Its mission — to preserve natural resources for Moore County landowners through technical, educational, and financial assistance — is accomplished through various programs including comprehensive educational materials for children and adults, farm equipment rentals, sales of fruit and ornamental trees, and prioritizing financial requests from farmers interested in implementing Best Management Practice [BMP] systems, which are designed to improve efficiency and water quality.

"I live in the third largest

populated area; but, since we're unincorporated, we have no say on water issues," said Florence told *The Times*.

"I think it is important for people in this area to get involved and run for county offices, so they will understand we are serious out here. I am pleased that there

are other candidates from this area running. We are not just gated communities here; there are also a lot of family farms and small businesses dependent on the land."

He continued, "I'm interested in finding ways to not waste taxpayers money and

also to help preserve the way of life in Moore County. We like it the way it is, but there has to be an avenue for growth."

Florence holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geography and has studied soils science and hydrology.

A resident of Seven Lakes

North since 2002, he is a former member of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors and is active in the Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

Florence is employed with Record and Data Storage Solutions in Aberdeen.



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103 PINECONE COURT SEVEN LAKES NORTH

3 BR, 2 BA, wonderful open floor plan with Carolina room and spacious back yard.
\$170,000



119 PHILLIPS DRIVE WATERFRONT LAKE AUMAN

Many updates include finishing over 1500 sq ft on lower level, new woodwork, new carpet, fresh paint, new bulkhead & composite dock! Priced to sell, at **\$550,000!**

Planning

(Continued from page 7)

vocacy groups, and also frequently overlooked sectors – farmers, artisans, minorities, educators, youth – and community forums to validate lists of opportunities and to establish priorities and implementation strategies.

Bullard's cooking up some magic at SLCC

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

There's a new chef in town!
Specializing in French and

Southern flair, Moore County native Richard Bullard was recently named as Executive Chef at Seven Lakes

"Basically, you just add lots of bacon. That makes a recipe Southern," joked Bullard. "But what I really like to do is take an old favorite like shrimp scampi and revive it by adding a few new ingredients."

After finishing a degree in culinary arts, Bullard began his career with Pinehurst Resort and then to Le Petite Café in Red Springs, a gourmet restaurant owned by a community development organization. There, Bullard offered demonstration dinners for the finest tastes while the café provided an occupational education program developed to combat high dropout rates and unemployment in Robeson County.

Bullard said he has always been a creative chef.

"I get ideas from different things and put my stamp on it depending on what I have in the house," he explained.

On Wednesday evenings in Seven Lakes, diners can expect exciting new menu options from Bullard, to include pan sautéed chicken

breast with pancetta bacon, baby spinach, and mushrooms in a light broth, or oven roasted rosemary crusted pork loin with a maple mustard cream sauce, or bacon-wrapped filet mignon with buttered mushrooms and French fried onion rings, broiled scallops Monterey, and St. Louis-style pork ribs.

Lunch is served daily at the Club from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and features new items as well as many old favorites.

Sunday brunch also continues the third Sunday of each month with a varied menu, and the popular Casual Friday buffet dinner will feature delicious new op-

tions, including fried chicken using Bullard's own recipe.

An acquaintance of former SLCC chef Jackie Scotti, who is engaged and now managing the kitchen of her husband-to-be's family restaurant near Rockingham, Bullard said he is looking forward to defending her back-to-back championship awards for best overall chili two years in a row at the annual Business Guild's Chili Cook Off.

"We've told Richard to start working on his chili recipe so that we defend our title," said SLCC Manager Mike Spayd.

"New chef, new recipe — hopefully, the same result."



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**Our Gastroenterology Department and many of our Primary Care Physicians
will be moving to our new facility in August —**

**Starting on August 2, the following physicians will be relocating
to the second floor of our new Heather Glen building:**

Jeffrey Binney, MD Michael Daley, MD Jackson Gibson, MD
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 Mondil, MD Michael Soboeiro, MD Jennifer Szurgot, MD

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

Wayne Lucas, MD David Martin, MD Thomas Swankowski, MD
Ravikant Varanasi, MD Diane Williams, MD, MHS



Something's different. I just know it!

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

You may have noticed that this issue of *The Times* looks a little bit different. But, if you didn't notice, that's okay, too, because we'd rather the couple of changes we've made not get in the way of your reading.

When we bought *The Seven Lakes Times* more than a decade ago, we changed almost nothing. We kept the same typeface, the same headline face, and the same flag (that's what newspaper people call the name of the newspaper printed at the top of the front page).

Most importantly, we put out the paper every other week instead of once a month.

That was about it.

Over the years, we've added little things here and there. Mostly we've added more pages and added coverage of county news.

I suppose we are pretty conservative when it comes to messing around with *The Times*.

But we needed to do some things to improve the paper and figured it would be easier to do them all at once. The result is what you are holding.

Here's what we did:

Color: We've added color on the front and back page and on some pages inside. With even the *Wall Street*

Journal using color, *The Times* was beginning to look like the last of the gray ladies. Plus, we've heard from some advertisers who would like to be able to use color. (Check out pages 11, 20, and 40 for some examples of color ads.) We haven't added a lot of color, just a little. The technology of the newspaper press limits this to some extent. Plus, we need to experiment a little and learn how to use it before we go hog wild.

Flag: After 13 years, we've changed the flag at the top of the front page. For all that time, the "Seven Lakes" in our name has been represented by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] logo, and we appreciate very much that they allowed us to use it for so long. Former Westside Community Manager Tony Robertson used to try to talk us into adding the great Westside logo that Betsy Mikula designed. But too many logos spoil the soup, so we've decided to use just type up there.

Type: Speaking of type, the change that will most affect regular readers of *The Times* is the new typeface that we are using for the text of our stories. For years and years, we've used a typeface called "Helvetica." It is a sturdy, no-nonsense typeface. But it's also a "sans serif" or "gothic" type, which means it

lacks the little ornamental horizontal lines attached to the tops and bottoms of letters. Those are called "serifs," and they actually serve a useful purpose: they help the eye follow the line of type, making it easier to read. Plus, Helvetica has a lot of very fat and very skinny letters, which meant that some of our lines were all spread out, and others were all squished up.

So now we are using a typeface called "Bookman." It dates back to the 1850s, and, as the name suggests, was developed for use in books. It's a typeface designed to be easy to read.

Marcy Hankins, who proofreads every page of every issue of *The Times*, says she can read this new typeface all the way across the table. We hope this won't cause problems at breakfast when some folks try to read the back of *The Times* while other folks are reading the front of it.

We kept Helvetica around for old times' sake, using it for headlines, page headers, and pretty much all the little di-

rectional to's and fro's in the paper.

That's about it. These are small changes and we'll probably make small adjustments as we get used to them.

We hope that they make

your reading of *The Times* more enjoyable.

Actually, we hope that, after a couple of issues, you won't notice them at all.

Drop us an email and let us know what you think.

Ribbon Cutting



Sandhills Winery, with the help of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, celebrated their new location on Seven Lakes Drive with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, July 20.

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Dear Family & Friends,

I can't believe it's been 13 years since the first time I wrote you a letter asking you to help my Mimi get rid of stuff!

She's come a long way since that little shop in her backyard. Medleyanna's has grown into two large shops and gardens. She



brings in 9-10 loads off fresh junk every week. There's antiques, primitives, country junk, shabby chic, french country, cottage garden necessities, smell goods, needful things, wrought iron for the garden, signs, and maybe even a kitchen sink!



Come walk through my Mimi's gardens and see all her quirky ideas for the garden. From her bottle tree to keep the bad spirits away to her rain boots with plants,

there are always great ideas for your back yard!



Mimi & Poppy sure are having a good time. Mimi says it does not feel like work because she loves Junk! (She is a lot like Cookie Monster and his cookies!)

We visit sometimes, but now there are five of us!



I'm the oldest, then there is Andianna, Mason, Riley, & Allie Belle!

Thank you for helping to make Medleyanna's the #1 Junk Shop in the County!



It was good talking with you guys again!
Medley, CEO of Medleyanna's

P.S. This weekend (July 23 & 24) 30-50% OFF Both Shops & Garden Necessities!

P.P.S. Go by and visit my Mimi and Poppy & tell them I sent you!



Our Upcoming Events Are:

2nd Annual Tomato Sandwich Day – August 21

Saturday Night on the Porch – Sept. 11
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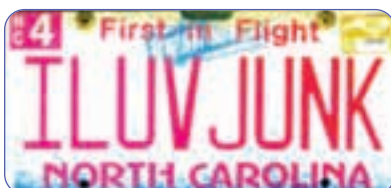
Customer Appreciation Day – Oct 2
(Door prizes, refreshments)

Christmas Open House – Nov. 6
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In memory of . . .

Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Jones, 69, of Seven Lakes North, formerly of Fountain St., Clinton, NY, died at home on Thursday, July 15.

She was born in Staten Island, NY and was the daughter of John Vincent and Faith McGee.

Mrs. Jones attended New Dorp High School on Staten Island, NY and the State University of New York at Oneonta, where she received her Teaching Degree.

She married Kenneth P. Jones after graduation and moved to Clinton, NY, where she taught elementary school in Clinton and Westmoreland for 34 years.

After retiring in 1997, she and her husband moved to the Outer Banks and spent time traveling around the country before settling in Seven Lakes, to raise their grandchildren.

A memorial service was celebrated on Sunday July 18, at the West End Presbyterian Church. A memorial was also held on Wednesday, July

21, at O'Brien Funeral Home, Brick, NJ. A graveside memorial service was held at the Westmoreland Cemetery, Westmoreland, NY on Friday, July 23.

Mrs. Jones was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Jones and her brother William McGee.

Survivors include her daughter, Lisa M. Jones of Whitefish, MT; son William K. Jones of Venice, FL; her grandchildren Arielle and Andrew Jones of the home; sister, Bonnie DeFalco of Brick, NJ.

Memorial donations may be made in honor of Elizabeth Jones to FirstHealth Hospice, PO Box 3000, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

David Russell Miller, 21 of Seven Lakes, son of Mark and Florence Miller, died Thursday, July, 15, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

A Requiem Tridentine Mass was held Wednesday, July

21, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. The Rev. Paul M. Parkerson officiated. A Rite of Committal was held at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, Southern Pines.

Mr. Miller was a 2007 graduate of Union Pines High School and was in his junior year at UNC Greensboro.

He was preceded in death by a grandfather, Edward D. Miller.

Survivors include by his father, Mark Miller of Seven Lakes; his mother, Florence Kasten Miller of Southern Pines; brother, Bill Miller of Southern Pines; his grandparents, Roy and Barbara Kasten of Las Vegas, NV, and Margaret R. Miller of Seven Lakes.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of David Miller to The Pope John Paul II Catholic School, 320 North

Ashe Street, Southern Pines, NC 28387

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family

Sally Jane Jordan, 78, of West End, died Friday July, 9, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. Ms. Jordan was the daughter of the late Graham Jordan and Myrtle Simmons Jordan of Moore County.

She graduated from West End High School, joined the US Air Force and served four years. Upon her separation from the Air Force she received an Associates Degree in nursing and worked at Moore Memorial Hospital. She was a member of the West End Baptist Church and active in the Sandhills Assembly of God Church, Southern Pines.

Funeral services were held Sunday, July 11 at Boles

Funeral Home, Seven Lakes. The Rev. Bryan Rainbow officiated. Burial followed in the West End Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Edward Jordan and Donnie Jordan; half brother, Albert Clendenin, and nephew, Scott Jordan.

She is survived by her brother, Floyd Jordan of West End; sister, Carolyn Brown of Robbins and nephew, Ted Jordan of West End.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Sally Jordan to Sandhills Community College, School of Nursing, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374 or Sandhills Assembly of God, 6481 Hwy 1 North, Southern Pines, NC 28387

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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Crawfords planning trip to South America

A trip to South America will mark the 21st year that Peggy and Dudley Crawford have organized for Seven Lakers and Foxfire residents.

The upcoming South Amer-

ica trip will include a 12-day cruise around the cape of South America through Patagonia and the Chilean fiords, plus a land tour in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

Highlights will include two days at Iguazu Falls, the world's largest waterfalls, in a colonial-style hotel at the edge of the falls, plus tango and samba performances in

Buenos Aires and Rio. Transportation between Seven Lakes and the airport is provided.

The tour is planned for January 21 to February 11, 2011, with AAA Carolinas handling the arrangements. Anyone who would like information about the trip may contact the Crawfords at 910-673-0680 or peggycrawford@nc.rr.com.

Over 450 people have traveled with the Crawfords since 1990. Many are repeat travelers, but each trip adds new faces to the group. Bill and

Lillian Schafer hold the record for the most trips – 14 to date – and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a trip to Scotland.

The 20th trip was to France, May 2010. During the days in Normandy the group toured the memorial sites of WW II to appreciate anew the Allies' heroic D-Day planning and courage. The group also spent time chateau-visiting and wine-tasting in the Loire Valley and ended up with several days in Paris, with an evening cruise on the Seine River.

A very different peach cobbler

Last week, an old friend from Davidson County told me about a recipe for Peach Cobbler that I couldn't believe, until I tried it. Like she told me, it was delicious! You gotta try it. It is very rich.



from Lucy's
Kitchen

Lucy Ingram
Seven Lakes South

Peach Cobbler

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.

Spray an 8"x8" or 9"x9" pan with Pam®.

In the pan bottom of your pan, spread 5 or 6 peeled and chopped medium sized peaches. Mix in 1/2 to 1

teaspoon of almond flavoring into chopped peaches.

Next, remove the crusts from 5 slices of white bread and cut in cubes. (I used sourdough bread in my recipe) and arrange it on top of the peaches.

In a sauce pan, over medium heat, melt 1 stick butter (1/2 cup), add 1 cup sugar and stir, add 1 egg (beaten) and mix well, pour this mixture over the top of bread.

Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

This recipe can be used with other fruits as well.

Happy eating and enjoy the peaches.



Seven Lakers on the Crawford tour in France at the Chateau de Beaulieu.

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Storm strikes Cooper tree

by Ray Cooper
Seven Lakes

A red maple tree in the front yard of June and Ray Cooper's home was struck by lightning in the pre dawn of July 9, and peeled the tree like a banana. Some of the electronics in the house were knocked out, but no one in the house was injured.

This was most fortunate since the Cooper's daughter, son-in-law and five grandchildren were visiting and asleep in the house at 167 Firetree Lane, Seven Lakes North. The tree had extensive damage, splits up the main branches, and became a safety hazard. It had to be removed.

This was a sad day for Mr. Cooper, because 18 years ago, he planted that sapling to add fall color to the front yard. Thank goodness no one was hurt.

Remember take cover inside when a lightning storm approaches — lightning kills.



Lightning literally knocked the bark off of the Coopers' red maple tree.

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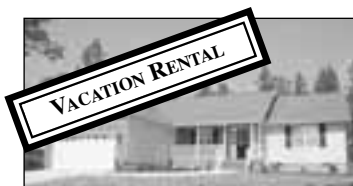
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Plenty to be thankful for in Seven Lakes

Despite the hot dry weather during June, July has been somewhat different weather-wise. Last week several thundershowers drenched our area with five to six inches of rainfall. Weather forecasters and researchers at NC State indicate that July will be this Summer's heaviest month for rainfall. Hopefully, these showers will continue and keep our landscapes green and beautiful.

It's hard to believe that Mary and I have lived in the Sandhills for more than thirty-eight years — eight years in Scotland County and thirty here in Seven Lakes. We have seen many changes transpire in the area. New communities have sprung up.

When we moved to Seven Lakes, we purchased the Moore County Garden Spot Center and were in business for almost eighteen years.

All of us should be thankful for Fred Lawrence because of his dreams, aspirations, ambitions, desires, and persistence. Seven Lakes became a reality — a place to cherish, love, and call home.

We are fortunate to be part of a growing community with a number of churches, plenty of civic organizations, and even our own newspaper.

Many individuals have

given tremendous time, energy, and effort to make Seven Lakes and the Sandhills a wonderful place in which to live: hats off to all our present and past leaders.

ous concern. If you are tired of pulling weeds, several herbicides are available. Special and specific recommendations and instructions for use are on the label. If you need additional information

or clarification, contact your plant or garden center.

Handle all chemicals safely and remember to keep them out of our lakes.

If you haven't pruned and cut back your azaleas and rhododendrons, do it as soon as possible so that new bloom buds and growth will form next season.

Prune and cut back chrysanthemum for the final time to enhance compact

Also in the absence of a soil test report, fertilize your azaleas and rhododendrons and other permanent evergreen shrubs with a premium slow-release 10-10-10 or equivalent, at the rate of one tablespoon per foot of plant height by the end of July.



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

Some general gardening reminders for July:

Check your flowering plants, shrubs, vegetable garden, and other plants for insects and, if damaged, treat with a safe recommended insecticide.

Weed control is a continu-



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Feeling Good is the Fun of It!

Sheriff's office works closely with town police

How much help can an incorporated Town of Seven Lakes expect from the Moore County Sheriff's Department.

Plenty, according to Sheriff Lane Carter and his Chief Deputy Neal Godfrey.

"If you incorporate and you have a police department, we are not going to walk away from Seven Lakes," Godfrey told *The Times*. "People who live in Seven Lakes, just like

people in Robbins, or Pinebluff or, Pinehurst — they are Moore County citizens, too. That's just how we look at it."

Why would anyone expect anything different?

Because UNC School of Government Professor Kara Millonzi, an expert in North Carolina incorporation, told a large group of Seven Laker just that. Once an area in-

corporates, the Sheriff almost invariably stops providing services, Millonzi said during a June 24 forum on incorporation hosted by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association.

Millonzi is away on an extended study leave, and so was unable to provide any further explanation of her comments for this article. But what she said doesn't square at all with what *The Times* heard from the Sheriff's Office, as well as the police departments of Foxfire Village and the Town of Robbins.

Robbins is large enough to have a police force that can patrol the town 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

"But that doesn't mean we don't swallow our pride and ask for help from the Sheriff when we need it," Police Chief J.A. Sheffield told *The Times*. For example, when a teenager was gunned down on a Robbins street last year, Sheffield asked the Sheriff for officers to help interview witnesses and suspects. Robbins handled the investigation, but the Sheriff's office pitched in with extra man-

power.

When Robbins needs some extra help managing the crowds and traffic at Farmer's Day, they call on the Sheriff's Office.

tainee to the jail in Carthage, the 9-1-1 dispatch center is notified and a Sheriff's officer handles any calls from Robbins.

"They are probably not going to patrol our neighborhoods and check our businesses like we would," Sheffield said. "But they are there to handle any calls."

Foxfire Village, with a two-man police department, has even more occasion to call on the Sheriff for that sort of back up.

Officer Chad Shue told *The Times* that the Village Police notify dispatch whenever they are off-duty, and calls are routed to Sheriff's deputies.

Both Shue and Chief Mike (See "Police," p. 37)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins
Times Editor



LANE CARTER
SHERIFF



(910) 947-2931
(910) 947-1668 FAX

May 3, 2010

Mr. Randy Merritt
Incorporate Seven Lakes
P.O. Box 409
Seven Lakes, N.C. 27376

Dear Mr. Merritt,
In response to your letter in reference to our position concerning the Sheriff's Office response within the corporate limits of a municipality.

Moore County has eleven (11) municipal police agencies throughout the county. Out of those eleven (11) agencies, at least 60% depend on us daily to assist them with calls for service. We supplement them whether it is investigations, domestics, etc. as they have neither the resources (equipment) nor the manpower to provide a twenty four (24) hour, seven day a week response.

In closing, let me assure you that if Seven Lakes became a municipality, we would do everything we could to assist you as we do all police agencies throughout the county with "no hesitation".

Sincerely,

Lane Carter
Sheriff

Sheriff Lane Carter says his office will provide any support needed by a new Seven Lakes Police Department.

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TIP OF THE MONTH

Q. What do I do if I lose power for a few days or longer?

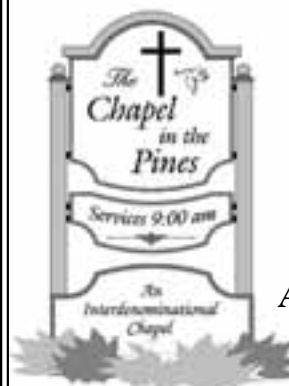


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FRIDAY, JULY 23

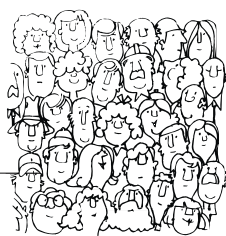
- **Casual Fridays** – Everyone welcome to “Casual Fridays” at the Seven Lakes Country Club. A night of socializing and/or game playing. Feel free to bring your own games or you can join in with others playing games that will be provided. One item entrée buffet is also offered for \$8.15 +tax & gratuity. Reservations suggested but not required. This is the place to be on Friday nights. For more details, call SL Country Club at 673-1100.

SATURDAY, JULY 24

- **Project Linus** – 8 am - 2 pm, will be a vendor during the Pilot Flea Market, at the Pinehurst Fair Barn. Project Linus will have an inside booth with lots of new items for sale. Please drop by the event and visit Booth #24. Call Pat Weber if you have any questions, 673-1457.
- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED** – 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$55. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. Fees are nonrefundable, but they may be applied to another course. 692-8571.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

- **Holy Eucharist** – 9:30 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Rev. Robert Brown, Vicar.



What's When Calendar

Pentecost
9, Proper

12. Gospel: Luke 11:1-13. 1145. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.

- **North Carolina State Symbols** – 3 pm, Most folks know that the Northern Cardinal is the state bird, but did you know North Carolina has many other symbols, including a state insect and state reptile? Celebrate North Carolina by joining a ranger to learn about these and other symbols, as well as the state's toast, motto & nicknames. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, Call 692-2167,

- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, The Rebecca Pronsky Band on stage tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204

E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JULY 26

- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of**

The Americas – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 (Exxon Station), just east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome. For more information, call 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, JULY 27

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 11 am to 3:30 pm, at St. Joseph of the Pines, 103 Gossman Drive, Southern Pines. Sponsored by St. Joseph. Call 246-1139 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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. Program leader: Jan Standing. All are welcome.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 340 S. Ridge Street, Southern Pines. Sponsored by Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Call 692-8571 for appt.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, monthly meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

- **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.
- **Standard First Aid Review** – 6:30 - 8:30 pm,

American Red Cross Review/Recertification Course. Certification fee \$25. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. 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.

Save Our Sandhills – 7 pm, speaker Alan Schultz to talk about Fort Bragg's commitment to conservation and wildlife management. Schultz is currently the Chief of the Fort Bragg Wildlife Branch. He leads teams of biologists, conservation officers, and public use specialists as they collaborate with others to enhance and protect the Sandhills natural resources. Join Save Our Sandhills for this informative and interesting evening, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Refreshments served.



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FRIDAY, JULY 20

- **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. Buffet \$8.15 +tax & gratuity. Reservations suggested but not required. For more details, 673-1100.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Fred Thompson, Priest Associate. Pentecost 10, Proper 13. Gospel Luke 12: 13-21. All are welcome.
- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, Christine Lavin in Concert tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY AUGUST 2

- **Introduction to Spanish** – 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse game room. Cost is \$5 (to cover supplies). Classes will meet each Monday night. If you have questions or need additional information contact Bill Yarrish at 687-0332.

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County (NAMI-MC)** – 7 pm, monthly education and support meeting. Guest speaker, Ann Remington, of the NC Vocational Rehabilitation, Pinehurst. She will discuss what services are available to promote employment and independence for people with disabilities. Held at First Health Specialty Center, Community Room, on Memorial Drive, corner of Page Road, Pinehurst. After Remington's presentation, a NAMI-MC Board member will be available for a support meeting. (910) 295-1053 or visit www.nami-moorecounty.org for further information. Meetings and programs are free and open to the public.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, Special presentation by Dr. Marks, the Dam Engineer of SLWLA, will be making a presentation at the West Side Community Center. Marks will present his recommendation on the Dam road and to answer questions related to the subject.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

- **Project Linus and the Seven Lakes Snack Shack** – a Summer event day from 2:00 pm to 4:00

pm. Project Linus will be receiving blankets, inspecting blankets and labeling blankets. Drop by, and sign the guest list and learn how you can help children in need in Moore County. Call Pat Weber if you have any questions, 673-1457. The Snack Shack will be offering a “Summer Special” during the event.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

- **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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr.,

Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist. Rev. Robert Brown. Pentecost 5, Proper 11. Gospel Luke 9: 28-36. All are welcome.

- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, Jeni and Billy on stage tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open 6:30 pm. 910 974-3051.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

- **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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Family Camp Out** – 7:30 pm, Sequoia Point. An evening of traditional Summer fun featuring s'mores & songs around the campfire, stargazing. Families are welcome to bring a tent and spend the night under the stars. Sponsored by the SLLA Recreation Committee, for more information call 673-4931.

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It is the most important layer. It is the local layer most under the control of local citizens.

Incorporation is not about what each individual gets back for their investment in the town — it is about what the town can become with that investment.

Under our plan the new town of Seven Lakes is being constructed as a low tax, low spend, small government entity. This is what the people of Seven Lakes have told us they want, and what the economic time in which we live demands.

Under our plan the gates are left alone. That will result in our community maintaining the distinctive character and marketability of our parts while making the sum of those parts more valuable, but at the same time forever protected from the encroachment of other municipalities.

Under our plan the Town of Seven Lakes will have access to over \$500,000 per year to spend on services chosen by your elected town council.

Our plan earns the citizens of Seven Lakes their “seat at the table” as an equal in any dealings with the county, state, or other municipalities.

Our plan provides for the gated communities what they cannot provide for themselves.

This includes enhanced police protection, a united legal voice beyond our boundaries, self determination now and forever, and the ability to control the types of development near enough to us to affect our property values.

In the four months since our plan went public, more than 500 local citizens have signed our petition, making this their plan. If you would like to make it your plan, it is as easy as coming to one of our meetings or petition locations and signing up. **WE WELCOME YOUR HELP.**

INCORPORATION: MYTH VS FACT

MYTH: The Moore County Sheriff’s Dept. will not patrol the Town of Seven Lakes.

FACT: Sheriff Lane Carter has confirmed in writing that the Sheriff’s Dept. will continue to service the public safety needs of an incorporated Seven Lakes — as they do now for over 60 % of the incorporated towns in Moore County.

MYTH: The Town of Seven Lakes can’t provide services with a .05 ad valorem tax rate.

FACT: More than 20 N.C. towns do quite well with such a low tax rate, including Pleasant Garden, Wallberg, Unionville, Tobaccoville, and Fairview — all of which closely approximate our population and projected budget without the benefit of Gated Communities.

MYTH: Landowner Association gates must be removed to incorporate.

FACT: The Town of Seven Lakes will have no control over gates. The status of gates rests solely with the landowners of each association.

MYTH: The gates don’t really provide security.

FACT: Seven Lakes has one of the lowest levels of crime in Moore County. Gates prevent casual traffic, which lessens the incidence of crimes of opportunity.

MYTH: The town of Seven Lakes can’t survive if tax increases are limited to 5% per year.

FACT: The people you elect to represent you will be forced to spend only what you give them or be prepared to let you vote to authorize higher spending.

MYTH: Proponents of incorporation have control of the proposed town budget.

FACT: The actual budget and services provided by the town of Seven Lakes will be decided by the duly elected Seven Lakes Town Council.

MYTH: Folks inside the gates will be paying for Business District roads to be paved.

FACT: No locally collected taxes will be used to pave or maintain any roads.

A SHORT HISTORY

Nearly two years ago, a group of local businessmen formed a committee to study the pros and cons of incorporating Seven Lakes. A little over one year ago, armed with a lot of facts, but just as many questions, the group, with the help of County Commissioner Nick Picerno, arranged a meeting with State Representative Jamie Boles and State Senator Harris Blake.

The purpose of the meeting was to investigate possible exceptions to the law passed in 1999-2000 which required incorporating municipalities to have more than 50% of their road mileage open to the public in order to receive their share of most state collected sales and use taxes. With no exceptions available, the group presented their plan for the incorporation of Seven Lakes as a collection of autonomous gated communities, and were assured by the legislative contingency that, if shown public support for the effort, they would make it happen.

October 2009 – As members of the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council, incorporation supporters Randy Merritt and Darrell Marks attempted to pass a resolution authorizing the involvement of the various landowner association boards in a cooperative effort to study incorporation, with the stipulation that no action would be commenced that would compromise the individual communities’ right to maintain their gates and private amenities. The resolution was not passed.

November 2009 – The landowner association presidents who constituted the Community Council suggested an individual from the local community who might aid in the study of incorporation. Merritt and Marks, as well as the third member of their group, Vann Joyce, shared all of their gathered information for the purpose of expanding the pro-incorporation committee.

March 2010 – Merritt, Marks, and Joyce were advised by the leaders of what was now a separate incorporation movement that going forward together would require abandoning the commitment to maintain the gated communities.

Five days later, after more than a year and a half of investigation and study on the question of the incorporation of Seven Lakes, Merritt, Marks and Joyce presented their plan to the public via *The Times* and their website www.incorporatesevenlakes.com

PROPOSED YEAR 1 BUDGET			
Appropriations (General Fund)		Revenues	
General Government		Ad Valorem Taxes	
Town Clerk Salary & Benefits	40,000	Property Taxes(\$.05 per \$100)x 98%	467,460
Professional Services	15,000	Penalties and Interest	1,000
Dues	2,000		
Other General Expenses	1,000	Unrestricted Intergovernmental	
		Franchise & Business Licenses	12,500
Administration		ABC Store Revenue	0
Town Manager & Benefits	0		
Zoning/Finance Officer	42,000	Restricted Intergovernmental	
Tax Collection Fee	10,000	Powell Bill Funds	100,000
		Police Grants	0
Public Safety		Investment & Interest Earnings	1,000
Police Salary & Benefits	101,000 *		
Vehicles	84,000 **		
Equipment	39,000 **		
Other Public Safety Expenses	3,000	Miscellaneous	1,000
Contracted Fire Services	0		
		Total Revenue	582,960
Transportation			
Street Lights	0		
Street maintenance - Powell Bill	50,000		
Public Buildings		Notes –	
Town Hall/Police Dept Rent	30,000	* Police budget includes 3 full time officers	
Utilities	10,000	** First year capital purchases	
Other Public Building Expense	10,000	(cars, weapons, radios, computers) is \$97,000	
		Any police grants will help with purchase of	
Contingency - Streets	50,000	equipment or hiring additional officers	
Contingency	95,960	in future	
		Contingency = *20.5% of property taxes	
Total Expenditures	582,960		

Where Do We Go From Here ?

Without your help . . . NOWHERE.

If the people do not want incorporation, it will not succeed and we can all discuss for the next decade why it failed or what should have been done differently.

After almost two years of study, this plan was designed to accomplish the most good at the lowest cost possible. Fault us for thinking small, but don’t you really wish all governments did?

WITH YOUR HELP . . . We will become the Town of Seven Lakes — the third largest town in Moore County. We will sleep well at night knowing that forever we will be who we want to be, not what some other town would hope to make us. We will be unique!

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Be one of the remaining 150 signatures required to allow us to call for a referendum on this issue. If you haven’t signed, come to one of our petition locations and do so. If you have signed, bring in that friend or neighbor that has been slow to commit. Do something HISTORIC.

What your neighbors are saying —

“Incorporation is the beginning step in the creation of a township that will be much greater than the sum of its very extraordinary parts.”
— Jim Haggard, Seven Lakes West

“I think the greatest value in incorporation is that we get to determine locally how our community is to grow and evolve over the coming years.”
— Randy Merritt, Seven Lakes North

“I think history will confirm that the greatest value of incorporation was that it mobilized the talented and experienced citizens living here and gave them the opportunity to serve.”
— Darrell Marks, Phoenix Fashions

“Incorporation guarantees the ability of our community’s voice to be heard on all local and state issues.”
— Vann Joyce, Seven Lakes South

“Incorporation is the only way for Seven Lakes to get our seat at the county government’s table.”
— JoAn Moses, Seven Lakes North

“I would like to see three Gated Communities with a village center in which we can all take pride, and one which at very little extra cost can only enhance our real estate values in the years to come.”
— Ron Erskine, Seven Lakes North

“I’m in favor of incorporation because I didn’t buy a house in Seven Lakes to live in Pinehurst.”
— Susan Killmeyer, Seven Lakes South

“Incorporation means getting a proactive safety and security system enforced by sworn police officers. We cannot have this type of protection without incorporation. Let’s stop settling for less.”
— Bill Yarish, Seven Lakes North

“We think we should incorporate Seven Lakes and McLendon Hills into the third largest town in Moore County. We should have a voice in how our tax dollars are spent. By incorporation we can get some return on our gas tax that we pay the state and use it to make a better village.”
— Anderson and Jane Lowe, Seven Lakes North

“As an incorporated town, we have the opportunity to plan our future rather than have it planned for us. We need a seat at the county table when county and municipal leaders sit down to discuss the future of our county. A limited government that will protect our future will also allow us at the same time to supplement the Sheriff’s police protection with a police department of our own.”
— Alan Shaw, Seven Lakes South

“This is our community’s best — and perhaps only — chance for our 5,000 voices to be heard in Carthage and Raleigh.”
— Ray Pardue, Seven Lakes South



Seriously cute dog needs home; kid not included

Finding Mr. Right is not easy. I know this because my single friend tells me so.

A fellow dabbler in nerd arts and geek appreciation, she's tried matching gigs and online chatter, even once

posting a personal ad titled, Princess Vespa Seeks Lonestar.

She called it a litmus test: if he got it, maybe he'd get her too. Alas, no knight in shining mylar came to save this

Druish princess, though she did hear from a few Italian scooter fans.

Me? I just got lucky.

A friend had a friend: your basic recipe for a successful blind date.

Dumb luck is probably more accurate though, as is often the case when you look back and recall how a decision to work here, to move there, or just be in that place at that moment made all the difference in your world.

I doubt my dog does this.

Actually, this week it's a plural noun around the Douglass ranch: I doubt my dogs do this.

Yes, you heard it here. There's another four-legged mammal afoot in my house, though I'm counting this one as a foster child.

Starved, scared and neglected, he showed up in my yard the week before last. Apparently, the word is out in animal kingdom: when all

else fails, see Laura. I keep looking for that critter Welcome Mat. I know it's out there somewhere and I desperately need to amend it to read, No Admittance or, at the very

nally see the cute under the crud.

But, I really don't need another dog.

Let me say that again, I really don't need another dog: really, I don't.

Like a mantra or perhaps a chant, I keep repeating this and hope my heart will

Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass



least, Wipe Your Paws.

So there I was, eating dinner and watching this furtive fugitive wandering through my pine straw. Schmuck that I am, I ran outside with a handful of kibble and together with my incredibly tolerant spouse, carefully gained this little beast's trust.

A few good meals and lots of affection later, my guest's ribs no longer protrude, the ticks are gone, and I can fi-

get the message that my wallet and brain keep sending.

Maybe you can't find Mr. Right with a personal ad, but I can still try.

Your Own Best Friend – Mog Needs Home. One princely half-boxer, half-something else pooch with Velcro tendencies and a heart-breaking mug seeks cool tile to play on and warm feet to rest upon. See Laura for details.



Jack Douglass & his pal Mog

The only incorporation 'plan' keeps the gates

Dear Editor:

Four months ago, when we started our petition drive, we didn't really know what to expect. We hoped that we would be further along than we are with regard to the number of signatures.

Perhaps, there are several reasons the rate of acquiring

new signatories has slowed. Among them would be the announcement of the Study Group's findings and their urging that the best way to incorporate is to take the gates down and enjoy the flood of shared state money. Hardly a day goes by that we don't see evidence of our

group, IncorporateSevenLakes.Com, confused with "the group that wants to take down the gates" (the Seven Lakes Community Study Group).

Another might be that our message might just be a little too complex and convoluted. One of the hallmarks of our effort has been to be completely honest and to share all that we know about the process of incorporation, but perhaps we have been guilty of sharing too much information. The deluge of facts and numbers from two groups with differing ideas has served to confuse and frustrate, and I am sorry for that.

Although there may be two ways to incorporate before you, there is only one plan, and that is ours.

The Study Group has no

plan to bring their ideas to an incorporation petition, and there is presently no group that is willing to do it for them. This is not meant to be a criticism of the Study Group. They are honorable people with honorable goals.

I just don't think their goals are achievable in light of the residents' overwhelming desire (at least those who are speaking publicly) to keep their gated neighborhoods gated.

So, where do we go from here. It's really very simple. Each resident has to decide for his or herself if the benefits of incorporation that we describe are, #1, actually benefits to them and #2, worth the extra 5 cents per \$100 of the tax value of their property.

IncorporateSevenLakes.com believes those benefits are, in

no particular order of importance: a strong, local, proactive police force, local zoning ordinances to protect the character of our community, an important municipal voice with the county and state, access to funds only available to towns that can be used to make our community a better place to live, protection forever from being annexed by a neighboring community because of our attractive \$1 billion in property value, and finally what we believe will be increased property values from all of the above.

For more information, please read our ad in the center of this newspaper or log onto www.incorporate-sevenlakes.com.

Randy Merritt
Seven Lakes North

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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More facts, less conjecture on incorporation

As a resident of Seven Lakes I am extremely concerned about the current movement to incorporate our community. The more I research the facts of incorporation, and talk with the council members of towns that have incorporated in the last ten years, the more concerned I become that the misconceptions being formulated will eventually result in poor decisions.

For example, there is much talk about "a beautiful town center" that will develop as a result of this incorporation. Unfortunately, there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that this will happen.

To expand our business area into a town center will require sewers – sewers that will allow existing businesses to expand and that will promote the development of new businesses. As anyone who has looked at the proposed Budget for Incorporation knows, the funding to provide sewers is simply not there. What does the history of towns that have incorporated show us?

There are eleven towns that have incorporated in North Carolina since the year 2000. Four of these have populations under 775 residents, so they are not suitable for comparison purposes. Of the seven remaining towns none (yes, that's none) that lacked sewers have been successful in their quest to obtain them, despite the fact that it has been a high priority since the year of incorporation.

One town in particular, after exhausting all options at obtaining grant money, contracted for a sewage service feasibility study and recently (April 2010) adopted a capital project ordinance for sewer construction at a cost of over \$1,000,000. To fund this endeavor the town has taken a million dollar bank loan.

Another topic receiving much attention is the proposed .05/\$100 ad valorem tax rate. I think there is a misconception that the cost of this additional property tax will remain relatively con-

stant over time. I'm not convinced this is even possible.

The tax rate is based on assessed valuations, and as we all know the assessed value of our homes has skyrocketed the past eight years. Every time your assessment goes up, the

duce what happens next: the tax rate will increase in order to keep revenues the same.

Again, let's turn to the actual budgets of the seven incorporated towns for some facts. Four towns already have tax rates in excess of the

.05 (they range from .075 to .25), two are at .05 and one is actually below that rate. Of the two towns with

amount you pay in taxes will go up, even if the .05 rate remains unchanged. There is always the possibility that assessed values will do down, but I believe we can all de-

the .05 tax rate, one has barely 3,000 residents and has seen little to no growth in the past 3 years. It's a lot cheaper to run a town of that size than ours, particularly

when the town has had no capital outlay whatsoever since incorporation. The other town that has maintained the .05 rate is the one I mentioned with the April 2010 capital project ordinance.

With over a million dollars in unfunded expenses, a sluggish economy and reduction in revenue sources, it is difficult to see how they will maintain this rate.

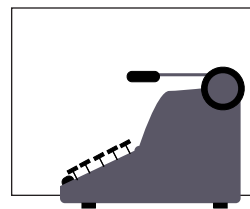
Let me summarize what I found when I looked at the budgets of these towns: with-

out exception, those with little or no increase in tax rates since incorporation have been able to maintain these rates primary because of the significant increases in assessed valuation. These increases in valuation range from a low of 45% to a high of 123%.

The point is this: If we are going to incorporate then let's do it for the right reasons and let's be more informed and more realistic about our expectations.

Your Turn

Mercedes Herdrich
Seven Lakes West



Thanks for the letters, but mind your length

The Times is always grateful to have your letters. Creating a place for the community to debate important issues is an essential part of what we do. But we need to make sure your opinions don't crowd out everything else we need to publish.

Please limit your letters to 300 words. Longer letters may be returned to the author for editing, or trimmed by our crackerjack staff of word-cutters.

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RELAXATION AND EXERCISE

Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life..

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summer is often a time for serious play, time off and deep relaxation. Many of us use the summertime to rebuild our reserves for the rest of the busy year. In our work-crazed society we can lose sight of the benefits of slowing down and taking time to rest. Now that summer is in full swing, it's time to enjoy the restorative powers of reconnecting to your body through movement and relaxation.

Summer is a unique time of year when we can do both our relaxation and our movement out in nature. Take a nap in a hammock and enjoy the smell of freshly cut grass. Go to the park and meditate or read under a favorite tree.

One of the greatest places to rest in the summertime is by the water. There is something magical and restorative in water, and we naturally crave to be near it, by it or in it. Heading to the water, whether it is the beach, a lake or a kiddie pool, can be relaxing and rejuvenating.

Just as much as the body loves to relax, the body loves to move. Even though our body is healthiest when it is getting appropriate physical activity, we often feel dread and boredom when we hear the word "exercise." Think for a moment of what type of movement you would consider fun as opposed to tortur-

ous. Perhaps you loathe the idea of a gym, but miss taking dance classes. Maybe you secretly want to try yoga or rollerblading. You could play touch football with your kids, walk with a neighbor in the mornings or go for a swim.

The summer offers so many choices – it's simply up to you to choose which style of movement excites you. Your heart will thank you, your soul will be gratified, your limbs will be more fluid and you'll sleep better at night.

Whether you are relaxing, exercising or both, notice that being outside in nature has a profound way of quieting the mind and reconnecting us to ourselves. Often this relaxation and peace of mind are what our bodies crave the most. So while summer is with us, strap on your sandals and enjoy to the fullest the rich elements of sun, wind and water and the nourishment that they bring.

*Adapted with permission
of Integrative Nutrition*

*For more information
about Holistic Health,
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info@sevenlakesmassage.com or
(910)673-2000.*



Stop the misinformation on incorporation

Dear Editor:

Unfortunately, the peace of this community is being disrupted by two separate but equally misleading campaigns to incorporate Seven Lakes, and many residents don't even understand that there is another option . . . that of leaving well enough alone.

Incorporation cannot save us money. The claim of a \$.05/ \$100 entrance to the tax pool is an underestimation of a reasonable long term total costs. Other incorporated towns operating at this rate have imposed other local fees, added permit fees and have greatly increased property assessments to balance local budgets. Any tax funds gained locally can potentially encourage the county and state to increase taxes to offset their expenses.

At her last presentation, Kara Millonzi illustrated that county services, such as the County Sheriff, will be discontinued unless provided by a subcontract. Our county water rates will be most likely be jeopardized by a status change, and we will still have little control over the county distribution of our collected taxes. We will continue to support our individual communities through our landowners' association

dues, funds used directly in our communities.

Loss of control. We have been told the community could write its own charter, but even if it includes carefully worded protective restrictions, the State General Assembly can change this document at will. Protection of our community properties, including our parks and lakes could be changed to suit policy makers in the state. The Charter will be ours in name only.

State funds may not be available. The state of North Carolina is currently cutting back its budget by 30.5%, the sixth highest reduction rate in the nation. This is not the time to rely on using state or county funds for a new municipality.

It is important that our residents become proactive in expressing their skepticism of the current pushes to incorporate Seven Lakes, and realize it will not be the panacea the proponents want us to believe. The benefits may be minimal, and the costs high.

Incorporation should not be done as a defensive move against implied threats of annexation. Let's leave well enough alone.

Jennifer Forsman
Seven Lakes West

Thanks for scoop on Town of St. James

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest Laura's article on the Town of St. James in your July 9th edition. Shortly after they incorporated several members of their Town Board paid a visit to our end of NC 211, Seven Lakes West. This was five years ago, July 14, 2005 to be exact.

If my memory serves me correct Tony Robertson, Jim Meikle, Lois Rocco and I met with them in our new Community Center and exchanged thoughts and ideas. I have had the pleasure of playing on a couple of their

golf coursed several times and was familiar with their development and surrounding area. They were interested in our amenities and we were curious about how and why they incorporated their gated community.

Laura did an outstanding job of ferreting out the answers to most of the questions Seven Lakers are now asking and thinking about. Thanks Laura for a great job and your community service!

Ray MacKay
Seven Lakes West

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Sign the petition! Let's vote on incorporation

Dear Editor:

As many people may know, I have looked at the idea of Seven Lakes becoming an incorporated area for many years. With our location in the County and our total population it is time for Seven Lakes to stand up and become a Town (or Village).

I have read with interest the many stories of people and organizations who have

weighed in on the incorporation efforts. Some have been positive and some have been negative. Some believe that incorporation will threaten their way of life. Some embrace the idea. And some want to form seven different committees to see how well they can control this issue.

This potential incorporation will be a group decision made by the residents of

Seven Lakes North, South, West, McLendon Hills and surrounding areas not some faceless committee.

The facts are simple: As an unincorporated area we have *no* unified voice to speak for us. Seven Lakes has no say on our own police protection, no say on how or where are water comes from, and no protection (under current law) of being annexed

into another town, or having another town being able to have a say on our zoning.

As the third largest population area in Moore County, it is time for us to incorporate and take control of our own destiny.

It has been said that incorporation will only benefit the business area in Seven Lakes. People wake up and look around. One day you will want to sell your home and would you like to have potential buyers driving around the current village area, or in one where the streets are curbed and paved, Seven Lakes police vehicles driving around, maybe streetlights, sidewalks, uniform zoning?

I ask that if you have not

signed the petition, please do so. This will allow the process to move forward so we can eventually all vote on this issue.

Do not let a small but vocal minority keep Seven Lakes from growing and controlling its own destiny.

Oh, and by the way, the gates are staying put.

Village of Seven Lakes — VSL or Town of Seven Lakes — TSL (personally I like VSL, because it will look great on a small decal on the back window of your car).

Michael Florence
Seven Lakes North

St. James a model? Maybe not

Dear Editor:

St. James a model for Seven Lakes?

Think again . .

The article in the last issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* about St. James Plantation presented an interesting view of a master planned resort community that incorporated in 1999. However its use as a vision for Seven Lakes is a bit of a stretch, to say the least.

St. James can boast the retained tax of \$.05, and their homeowners association dues are currently at \$756 and due for an increase this year. What wasn't mentioned is residents also incur steep additional fees for their own amenities such as pools and all club memberships. There are more than eight separate condominiums and

townhouse sections throughout the development, all of which have their own homeowners associations with additional dues for their own upkeep, ranging from \$1300 to \$4000 per year. Dry dock boat slips are separately purchased, and start somewhere around \$15,000, wet docks at \$60,000. There are many other additional fees to the idyllic life in St. James Plantation.

Their current population is around 3,000, but estimated to reach 10-12,000 when the community is completely built out. Another major difference: the availability of short term, vacation rentals, and resort packages

available within the gated community.

Their incorporation was done within their original gates. They have no downtown, no stores, and have maintained those gates. All sections of the incorporated town were already part of the same landowners association, already sharing a developer, roads and infrastructure.

St. James sounds like a great town, but there are far more contrasts than similarities. In fact, this comparison is not apples to apples . . . its cherries to watermelons.

Jane Sessler
Seven Lakes West

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Dr. Pete MacKay will ride in MS benefit

Dear Family and Friends:

Every year about this time, since 1994, finds me writing a letter to generate donations for the effort to help overcome the terrible disease of Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This year is no different, Multiple Sclerosis is still a devastating disease, but your donations have helped bring about some new methods of treating those with Multiple Sclerosis that were not even available when I began my effort to help the cause. I will be riding in the Tour to Tanglewood, September 25 and 26, in a two-day cycling event that raises funds to support people living with multiple sclerosis in Central North Carolina and throughout the United States. Money raised through this event funds MS research, programs, services, and advocacy. This year, over 2000 cyclists and volunteers will participate in the event in hope of raising over \$1 million to create a world free of Multiple Sclerosis.

This year, I find this letter extremely difficult to write. I have been thinking about how I would do it and what I needed to say for several months now. You see, my wife, Mary has recently diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. This has been a major mental and physical problem for Mary and our family. I feel she has done a better job of dealing with the situation than I have. I admire

how she dealt with challenge, she has to face. She takes care of things at home for Kate, Kelly, Megan and me. She is a fantastic wife and mother. She also has a challenging and demanding job working to help others that suffer from chronic pain.

I often think of Bob Dylan's song, "A Simple Twist of Fate" and that's really what life is. Things happen in our lives all of the time that may change our lives forever after that, and all it takes is a simple twist of fate. That is how it is. One day things are okay and the next day, things are different. We just have to keep on and, as in the Isley Brothers song, we have to "Shoot Your Best Shot and Keep on Living."

It is through generosity, as shown by donations from people like yourselves, that medicines to actually treat Multiple Sclerosis have been discovered. The research efforts of those studying MS are, in a large part, funded by your donations. 1994 was the year of the first medicine to be used to treat Multiple Sclerosis and now, there are four medicines that can be used. All of this represents the beneficial treatments that those with MS can now have. This progress in managing the disease needs to continue.

Please help this effort with with any donation you can provide. All help, in any

amount, will be appreciated by many people . . . especially Mary!

Your donation checks should be made payable to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. If possible donation checks could be sent

by August 25. (If this is not convenient, donations will accepted up until the event.)

I will be dedicating my bicycle ride this year in the Tour to Tanglewood to Mary. Please help me help those with Multiple Sclerosis.

I thank you, in advance, for your help. Donations may be mailed to my office address of PO Box 628, West End, NC 27376

*Dr. Pete McKay
Seven Lakes*

Inner substance

What is it that can make one rivet attention on someone else? Is it physical attractiveness or some subtle or outward mannerisms like gentle and approving responses to others, or just whole-hearted exclamations that can lift the spirits of those nearby?



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

An almost instant appreciation of the uniqueness of many persons we run across is a blessing that is handed to us as a gift. Sure, there are lots of residents of our world who are imprisoned by a too routine or repetitive existence that virtually nothing unique seems to emanate from them.

But then there are those who are blessed with inner joy, and imagination, and feelings nurturing in a continually pleasing way the gifts they

have inherited from God. It's uncanny but seemingly true that those who have such depth seem to instinctively let it benefit the spirits of others.

Depth of spirit is the secret, but it's not so easy to come by. That's a trait whose birth can often trace to the impact of one's generational history. Like remembering and adopting without realizing it, such as that endearing trait of the widowed aunt you grew up with.

Isn't that the kind of friend you'd like to have? Or already do?

Learning from the best in others: a healthy assist on the road of life.

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Talis: Cost too high, while services cut

Dear Editor:

I agree with Steve Hudson's letter to the editor dated July 9, 2010 regarding the cost of Talis Management.

I think the cost is too high for the services we as a community receive, and I am sure that many members of the community feel the same. I will take it one step further to point out the not only is the cost too high for the services provided, the services to the community have decreased. I will point out just a few below.

- The pool opened late, over two weeks late. I know the reasons that the pool opened late and I also know that after talking to several guards that have been working at the pool for several years that pool management knew about the drain cover issue. Talis Management was also tardy in hiring a pool manager, as late as the first week of June there was an ad in *The Pilot* for a pool manager. *The Seven Lakes Times* reported on discussions regarding the drain cover issue that involved the Community Manager and Board members in public meetings that occurred well before mid-May. I am sure that Talis Management knew about the issue as their job is to run communities and I am sure that many of those communities that they run have pools. How could Talis Management not have taken the time to check to see if the pool complied with the Federal Law? Not acceptable especially from a professional community manager and company that runs communities.

- There is no swim team this year. This goes along with the tardiness of the pool opening. There is no swim team this year because the pool opened late. How can we as a community provide a strong community and safe environment for our children, if we are losing services for our children to utilize. The swim team helped foster community spirit and now that a company runs our community, the community

spirit is not their priority, profits are.

- Day camp hours are a joke, 9 am to 2 pm? How many working families can take advantage of those hours? I have spoken to the people running day camp and through the first two weeks attendance was 1. Over the past few weeks, the attendance has risen to a sparse 3 to 8 participants. That is a significant drop over last years attendance of 25 or more when the hours were 8:30 am -5:30 pm. Sparse participation for day camp is a telling sign that the hours were a mistake and hopefully they will learn from their mistakes. Again,

another loss of services for a community that desperately needs services as they are disappearing.

These are just a few items that have changed since Talis has come to run our community. It makes me very concerned for the future of our community and our relationship with Talis Management. How can we as a community justify the amount of money that Talis is being paid and have our services decrease?

We need to foster a community and make it a great place to live. With a company running our community, I do not see that happening. I do not understand how

someone that is in Raleigh can run our community. I am worried that when it comes to other activities that we previously had for our young people and children will also go by the wayside because of the fact that we allowed our community to be

run by a company and not a person who has a vested interest in the community.

As we all know, a company has one goal that goal is to make money and profits, not foster a community.

*Edward Rosenthal
North Side Resident*

Clarification

Steve Hudson, in a letter published in the July 9 edition of *The Times*, suggested that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association has the services of a community manager only four days a week under its contract with Talis Management. Community Manager Alina Cochran asked that we clarify that she works for the SLLA five days a week.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)

an opportunity for input from the public.

The first County-Seven Lakes meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26 at 5:00 pm, with the location to be determined.

The Council had sent their initial request for a seat at the table to Commissioners Jimmy Melton and Nick Picerno, who indicated they had not received the Council's letter but nonetheless apologized for failing to respond.

Picerno responds to critics

Commissioner Picerno used his time during "Commissioner Comments" near the end of the meeting agenda to respond to criticism recently aimed at him and Commissioner Larry Caddell, primarily by opponents of the new jail and public safety building planned for downtown Carthage.

Reading from a prepared statement, Picerno said "many, statements, accusations, and, in my opinion, outright lies have been published in newspapers, blogs, and even in spoken comment periods of our meetings." Some of the hottest rhetoric directed against Picerno and Caddell has appeared in internet forums hosted by the Southern Pines newspaper, most of it posted by users who do not disclose their identities but instead comment anonymously.

"Families, companies, and individuals have been vilified without any basis in fact," Picerno added. He then proceeded to clarify his own position on three issues that have recently generated controversy — the proposed public safety complex and jail; Southern Software, a company founded by Picerno and managed by Caddell; and approval of the FY2010-2011 county budget. Picerno cited chapter and verse from the Board of Commissioners' minutes to support his points.

Jail. On jail and public safety complex, Picerno argued that the minutes show that no record of a Commissioner voting against locating the structures on the Grimm

property in downtown Carthage, though one Commissioner objected to the price. Though Picerno did not mention the fact, that opposition would have come

from Commissioner Lea.

From the time that purchase was first discussed by the Board in June of 2007 until June of 2009, Picerno said, there is no record of

public opposition to the location of the complex being located on the Grimm property.

He added that he could find no record of any Board

discussion about seeking a public referendum in order to issue general obligation bonds, rather than the limited obligation bonds that (See "Commissioners," p. 37)



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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

land Circle Extension that had not met specifications is still not acceptable, Foxfire consultant Tom Collins reported.

"We are back to square one," said Collins. "The three items not accepted are permanent erosion control, outfall structures, and paving."

Collins said no payment would be issued to the contractor until corrective action is taken. He recommended the Council not accept a offer from the contractor to extend the warranty from one year to two, in lieu of further work.

"We feel it is only fair to the Village to not pay for something that is not completed as per specs and plans," Collins said. "I feel it is not responsible to accept the warranty, because you are not getting what you paid for."

In particular, Collins noted, the extended warranty had limiting language regarding construction traffic that could easily invalidate it.

He recommended that members of the Council visit the site and inspect the work for a better understanding of his concerns prior to any meetings with the contractor.

Regional Water Authority?

After attending a recent water summit meeting with officials from other local municipalities, Councilman Ed Lauer said he was surprised and disturbed at the group's interest in pursuing a study of the Wagram water and wastewater treatment plant and the potential of a regional water authority.

Anticipating the high cost to run water lines from Wagram to Moore, Lauer argued water rates could increase from \$2.05 to \$6.00 or \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons -- a three to four times rate increase.

He also cautioned against a regional water authority, noting that, while some are successful, he believed it could end up driving up rates for Foxfire residents.

"Regional water concerns me," Lauer said. "The driving powers behind it are Pine-

hurst, Aberdeen, and Southern Pines. I see little or no value to small, independent water systems, like us. We don't have sewer systems, and a number of issues don't apply to us."

Shifting his attention north, Lauer said he was watching with interest the Town of Robbins' intent to renovate their mothballed water plant. He said the facility would need to double its current capacity of 500,000 gallons a day to be of any value -- particularly to Seven Lakes.

Village Green Park

Memorial benches in honor of Kate Erickson and Carl Munro have been placed near the playground at Village Green Park. Embossed plaques will be installed soon.

In addition, Mayor Erickson reported, residents Helen Munro and Barbara Arnold will be submitting a plan to the Council in August, requesting approval to establish a memorial garden near the pavilion that will include a lighted flagpole. The project

will be funded through private donations.

With high hopes for extensive long range improvements to the park, Erickson said the Village's grant application, which also includes upgrades and expansion of the community pool area, were reviewed by the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Foundation [PARTF] on Friday, July 16. This is the third consecutive year that Foxfire has submitted a request.

During a report on streets, Councilman Koos said that small animals are damaging the Village Green Park irrigation drip system by chewing holes in the plastic pipes.

"The system is not being vandalized. These are little holes," said Koos, noting that, once repaired, the pipes will have to be deeply buried to prevent future occurrences.

Long Range Planning

A community survey developed by the Long Range Planning Committee [LRP] is available for download from

the Foxfire Village website, and hard copies can be picked up the office.

"We're hoping for a good response to the survey and will use that information to further develop our focus groups," said LRP Chair Mick McCue. "We have already identified several issues through interviews with staff and the Council, including vil-

lage governance, policies and procedures, ordinances, infrastructure and capital improvement, and public safety."

Finance

The Village's General Fund stands at \$599,371, which includes \$72,241 in checking, \$443,515 in a money market

(See "Foxfire," p. 30)



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Foxfire



Mary Spotts, here with Mayor George Erickson, was recognized by the Foxfire Village Council for her outstanding service and lasting contributions to the community as a member of the Appearance Committee.

(Continued from page 29)

account, \$37,472 in Powell Bill funds, \$20,974 in the Stonehill Pines account and \$25,017 in a capital reserve fund. In addition, the Village has \$800,918 set aside for the Woodland Circle Extension project.

Deputy Finance Officer Sharon Sanchez provided the financial report for Councilwoman Leslie Frusco, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Water Fund stands at \$339,489, which includes \$79,421 in checking, \$244,163 in a money market account, and \$135,348 held in escrow for a new well.

Two bank loans are due in July: \$28,514 for Village Green Park from the General Fund and \$41,144 from the Water Fund. In April 2011, bank loans for the Woodland Circle project include \$269,864 from the General Fund and \$19,070 from the Water Fund.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, July 13, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Heard from Mayor Erickson that a Public Hearing will be tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, to consider a voluntary re-

quest to extend the Foxfire Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] to encompass the 750-acre Wilson property. This will be the final step in the process.

- Heard from Erickson that one certificate of occupancy was issued for a home in the ETJ; and that Zoning has received plans for a new, custom home in the Village.

(See "Foxfire," p. 31)

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Entries

(Continued from front page)
plans, Goodman told *The Times*. Detailed plans will be needed in order to implement the proposed changes, and cost and other factors may result in specific elements of the plan being changed or omitted.

Pushing the front gatehouse further into the community -- near the location of the current mailhouse -- will allow for much more traffic stacking and improve safety, Goodman told the Board. It also means that the community must resolve its mail delivery dilemma before the plan can be implemented.

"One of the things that the

community likes is the [front] entry to our community," Goodman said. "As we build out, it would be nice to give the back gate a similar appearance." He noted that work to enhance the back gate area does not necessarily have to be done at the same time as improvements at the front entrance.

The back gate Master Plan includes the possibility of locating a mailhouse on property the Association already owns. The committee also provided a vision of a more extensive back gate complex that could be developed if the Association acquired three adjacent lots: one a well site

owned by Moore County and two that are currently residential lots in the Stonegate subdivision.

Goodman said the well site might revert to the community in 15 to 20 years, assuming the county retires the well. Converting the residential lots to common area would be more complicated,

because of restrictions in the Westside covenants.

Mail Delivery Decision by Year End

At the urging of President Ron Shepard and Director Goodman, the Westside Board on Tuesday set a December deadline for reaching a decision on how mail de-

livery will be handled in the future.

Goodman pointed out that any progress on reconfiguring the front entrance to the community is contingent upon resolving the mail delivery question, because the new Entries Master Plan envisions razing the existing

(See "Entries," p. 32)

Foxfire

(Continued from page 30)

- Heard from Mary Anne Lauer concern that comments made during the June meeting, comparing Foxfire public safety to municipalities such as Pinebluff were unfair. "That frightened some residents into thinking we have some big crime wave -- and we don't. The makeup of our community is different -- we don't have a school or lots of stores -- you cannot compare us."

- Heard from Koos that Wildwood Lane and several adjacent cul-de-sacs will be repaved in the near future

using approximately \$50,000 in Federal Powell Bill funds.

- Received a letter of appreciation from Cub Scout Pack 98, thanking Foxfire Sgt. Chad Shue and Sandhills K9 Officer Frank Ringelberg for their recent presentation featuring K9 Officer Justice.

- Tentatively scheduled an all-day Village Council Retreat for Wednesday, August 25. Erickson said he has asked representatives from Stonehill Pines to participate and provide a project update, if possible.



Seven Lakes West's Master Plan for the front entrance. Download a copy at sevenlaketimes.net or view large maps in the lobby of West Side Park Community Center.

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Westside Board

(Continued from page 5)

meeting. His Legal Liability subcommittee was scheduled to meet on Friday, July 16.

Director Hoffmann said his subcommittee on Security would be holding a public meeting on Monday, July 19

and Director Goodman reported that he had begun to assemble his subcommittee on Infrastructure.

Interim reports are expected from the committees in September, with final reports -- and a possible Board recommendation on incorpora-

tion -- scheduled for December.

President Ron Shepard reported that the Presidents of the Seven Lakes and McLendon Hills Landowners Associations had asked whether their communities and/or Boards could partic-

ipate in the Westside study process. But his fellow directors were cool to that idea.

Shepard suggested allowing the other communities to submit questions that might be taken up by the Westside subcommittees.

"I like that idea," Director Goodman responded, "but they have to understand that we may or may not take them up, because we want to look at this from the perspective of Seven Lakes West."

"I don't understand why they wouldn't have the wherewithal to do their own study," Director Silberhorn said. "I already have my committee and scope and assignments. To, at this point, bring in another fact or question is a little difficult."

"In the spirit of compromise," Director Jane Sessler said, "I would expect a lot of these questions will be common questions that we are already handling. So, why not? If it's being handled by our groups already."

Director Herdrich said he

expected the results of the Westside study would be made public and that ninety percent of its content would apply as well to the other communities.

The Board ultimately approved inviting the Boards of the other communities to submit questions through the Community Manager no later than July 31. Directors Sikes and Milligan, who opposed a "Westside-only" study of incorporation from the beginning, opposed the motion.

Denise Duncan Resigns

Denise Duncan, an 18-year veteran of the Westside landowners office, told the Board during their Work Session that she had submitted her resignation, effective July 23, in order to devote time to family caregiving responsibilities. The Board applauded her service and asked the Human Resources Committee to explore options for additional recognition of her contribution.

(See "Westside," p. 33)

Entries

(Continued from page 31)

mailhouse and moving the gatehouse further into the community on Lakeway Drive.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn noted later in the meeting that the recently completed settlement of a lawsuit with Lakeside Development, which resulted in the Association taking possession of the gatehouse, stipulates that the gatehouse will be moved by June 2015.

Shepard said the recent refusal by the US Postal Service to provide curbside mail delivery in the community left the Westside with four options:

- Building a new mailhouse at Westside Park to serve the entire community.
- Building two mailhouses: one at Westside Park and one at the Back Gate.
- Using neighborhood cluster boxes sprinkled around the community, perhaps in conjunction with a new mailhouse.
- Eliminating delivery inside the community in favor of having residents rent boxes at the West End Post Office.

Shepard said the Long Range Planning Committee [LRP] would work to develop cost estimates for each of these options over the next two months, leading up to a September presentation to the community. The Postal Service is currently preparing a study of the optimal locations for cluster boxes, which will feed into the LRP's work.

After the September presentation, the Board will take input from the community, with the goal of reaching a decision in December.

"The question becomes: How do we decide as a com-

munity?" Goodman said. "A lot of the answer to that is tied up into budget alternatives. We'd like to have the board think about and discuss over the next thirty days how we make this decision."


"We can't borrow money to build new mailhouses," Goodman added, "so part of the decision is how to get the capital to build it." Under the North Carolina Planned Community Act, the Association can use common property as collateral only if eighty percent of all landowners approve -- a difficult hurdle to overcome.

Even if the Board makes its decision in December, that

will likely be too late to include the financial impact of that decision in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget, Treasurer Joe Sikes cautioned. The Association must publish its proposed budget by January 31, so that members have time to examine it before the Annual Meeting in March.

"Even if it had to be delayed another year, we still have to set a deadline to move this forward," Goodman replied.


Director John Hoffmann asked that Goodman be "an integral part" of any cost estimates developed by Long Range Planning.



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Westside Board

(Continued from page 32)

Community Manager Frost reported that Alisha Bryant would also be leaving the Association. Katie Patnode, who previously served as the office assistant, will return to Seven Lakes West to assume Duncan's duties, and a new employee, Molly Talent, will man the front desk.

Compliance

Frost told the Board that resident Mike Ellison has been handling some compliance inspections during Duncan's recent absences and would continue to be utilized for that purpose over the next few weeks, as the office completes its personnel transition.

She explained that the community has been divided into ten quadrants with the goal of covering two sections a day for compliance issues and rules violations, so that the entire community can be covered once a week.

Director Hoffmann suggested that the Neighborhood Watch patrols could also be on the lookout for compliance issues during their regular patrols, reporting any problems to the office. The Board voted to extend the patrol's charter to encompass that additional duty for sixty days, after which it will evaluate the success of the experiment.

Director Herdrich asked that Frost provide the Board with a list of rules violations in each Work Session.

Boat Registration Fines Waived

Director Herdrich reported that the office has issued 45 fines to landowners who registered their boats but failed to put the stickers on their vessels by June 18.

"In a moment of weakness, I drafted letter to waive the fine if they come in with a letter certifying that the decal is on the boat," Herdrich said, noting that the process was "not designed to fine people," but to "ensure compliance." The Board unanimously approved the waiver, but Herdrich added that fines issued to ten people who failed to

register their boats will not be waived.

The board discussed the possible need to mark coves with buoys in order to better enforce speed limits, as well as the possibility of creating a special area within the ski zone for wake boats, but took no action on either suggestion.

Director Herdrich reported that he will be working with a contractor to test an inexpensive method of lengthening the Johnson Point boat ramp. He noted that, particularly when the lake level is down, some vehicle boat combinations have experienced problems dropping off the end of the ramp.

Work will soon begin to implement a plan developed by Engineer Dan Marks to add rip rap on the east end of the dam to help stop erosion in that area caused by the wake from boats.

Presentation on Dam Road Planned for August

Herdrich said he expects to schedule a visit from Dr. Marks in early August, in which the engineer will make presentations to the Dam Committee, the Board, and the community on why he has recommended that Lake-way Drive remain closed over the dam. [The community meeting with Dr. Marks has since been set for August 3 at

7:00 pm at the Community Center.] After that presentation, the Dam Committee will make a recommendation to the Board on whether it feels a second opinion is needed.

If the road is to be re-opened, it will first have to be repaired, a project that will require approval from state engineers. Herdrich said the Board will also need estimates for the cost of the repairs, in order to work those into budget planning.

"The state has said in writing that we should follow Dr. Marks' recommendation," Director Goodman replied, "so I don't see that as a probability."

Financial Criteria Set

Treasurer Sikes reported that he had established three criteria for management of the Association's financial assets: safety, liquidity, and return on investment.

"So, in general, I will be asking that our funds be invested in the highest rate of return investments possible, assuming that they are insured," Sikes explained. He added that he expected to maintain approximately \$250,000 in liquid assets at any given point in time, noting that amount would cover about two months' expenses.

Sikes said he was assembling a finance committee

(See "Westside," p. 34)

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Westside Board

(Continued from page 33)

and would be presenting the names of its members to the Board for approval at the next Work Session.

The SLWLA budget process customarily starts in September, when only six months results from the current budget year are available, a timeline that Sikes said he was "not crazy about."

Director Silberhorn noted that the need to publish the proposed budget well in advance of the annual meeting -- as well as the timeline for renewal of the contract with CAS -- dictates an early start for the process.

Sikes said he had prepared a FAQ document on the budget process that he would be circulating among Board members for comment.

Silberhorn asked what percentage of members had elected to pay their dues on a monthly, rather than annual bases. Sikes said he had thought nearly eighty percent had done so, but the recent receipt of some late payments would likely lower that estimate.

Community Events

Director Sessler reported that the events celebrating the Fourth of July were very well attended -- including the new children's parade, which she said would likely become an annual event.

A sailing school for teens began on July 21; six young people have signed up. Interest was not as high for a fishing clinic, which was cancelled.

Sessler said two young people -- Ryan Clark and Cheyenne Quintara -- have been working with her as community service volunteers.

The next Johnson Point Concert is Friday, August 6 and will feature the Fog Blues Band.

Sessler said the Westside library will have a new ergonomic ladder for reaching the higher shelves, as well as a scooter to help volunteers and patrons access the lower shelves.

Parkwood Annexation

Three of four property own-

ers in the Parkwood subdivision -- including developer John Garner -- have accepted the Board's offer of annexation, Silberhorn reported.

The fourth lot owner did not respond to Association attempts to negotiate a mutually satisfactory resolution to issues surrounding a non-conforming fence erected in their back yard, Silberhorn told *The Times* on Friday, July 16.

As a result, that lot will not be annexed, and the owners will have no right to use the amenities or common areas. The Association cannot legally deny them access to their property, so they will use the visitor's lane for entry, acquiring a renewable hang-tag.

Legal

Director Silberhorn reported that Charlie and Joann Merical, Bud Sales, and Mercedes Herdrich had volunteered to help out with the effort to digitize Association legal documents.

The Board approved a lot subdivision and recombination in which lot #3056 was divided between the two properties on either side.

Security

Director Hoffmann reported that lights will be installed on the walkway from the Johnson Point unloading area to the first gazebo. Light fixtures already owned by the Association will be retrofitted for the purpose.

One of the gate mechanisms at the back gate apparently took a direct hit in

a recent thunderstorm, Hoffmann said. And it appears that the loops that activate the gate arms in the visitors' lane at the front gate are beginning to fail.

"This has been a real bad year for the security equipment/maintenance budget line," Hoffmann noted.

Other Business

In other business during its Tuesday, July 13 Work Session the SLWLA Board:

- Heard from President Shepard that the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council had asked the Moore County Board of Commissioners for "a seat at the table" in the quarterly elected officials meeting that the County holds with town council members. Shepard said he had a commitment

from Board of Commissioners Chairman Tim Lea that the matter would be raised during the Monday, July 19, Commissioners meeting.

- Discussed the possibility of eliminating the continual "grandfathering" of boats that are over the Lake Auman length limit when they are sold to a buyer who owns property in the community. The issue was referred to the Lakes Committee.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 5)
n't look run-down. We want a good-looking community and to get the maximum benefit from our lakes."

Low participation threatens Summer Camp

Despite reducing fees to \$10 per day for all children, low enrollment continues to plague the SLLA Summer Day Camp.

Daily enrollment has varied from three to eight children this year; however, eleven participants are needed to break even and make the camp viable, reported Community Manager Alina Cochran.

"We made a commitment to do this, and we're losing money," said Director Bud Shaver. "But if we stop, we may upset families who planned on it. The question is, 'How much will we lose versus what is the impact of closing?'"

After discussion, the Board agreed to wait for a more comprehensive review of camp revenues and expenditures before a decision is made.

The program is held at the Community Activity Center, Monday to Friday, from 9:00

am to 2:00 pm. All children ages five to fourteen are welcome. Activities include swimming, crafts, and games. No preregistration is required, and drop-ins are accepted.

Recreation

Group swim lessons began Monday, July 19, and will run for five weeks. Classes are held 10:30 am to 11:30 am and also 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, with lessons for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students. The cost is \$50, and preregistration is required with a minimum of three students. Registration forms are available at the SLLA office.

Twenty swim noodles with net chairs were donated by Talis Management, reported Cochran, and are actively used and enjoyed by both Summer Camp and morning Water Aerobics participants.

The Fourth of July fireworks display was a successful event; and Cochran thanked maintenance, security, and office staff for their assistance. In addition, an off-duty police officer was employed for the evening.

Addressing the broad range of recent recreation issues -

- the delayed opening of the pool due to necessary drain repairs, low camp enrollment, and limited planned recreation activities -- Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. suggested the Board consider hiring a part-time Recreation Facilitator to assist Cochran.

Galford recommended that any discussion on staffing should be included in upcoming planning for the FY 2011-2012 budget.

Noise at Sequoia Point

A four-piece rock band playing at Sequoia Point last weekend had lots of toes tapping and a few tempers flaring.

"I've had a lot of complaints, and I want to understand our rules," said Keyser. "If a shelter is rented for a party, can they have music?"

Director Kent Droppers said music is allowed as long as it is not considered a nuisance. He recommended that Security Patrol should be given a guideline to determine what is or is not a nuisance.

"Amplified is a definitive point. Rather than change our rule, let's just specify that nuisance is defined as amplified," said Droppers.

The Board also discussed establishing the policy that music in a common area must end at 10:00 pm. Parks will remain open until 11:00 pm.

Lake Water Testing

Cochran reported that lake water testing will be conducted by a professional laboratory in July and again in October. In future years, testing will be conducted thrice annually: in April, July, and October.

Last Summer, Northside resident Ron Erskine provided a low cost option for more frequent testing; however, in previous meetings, Cochran has shared concerns about the impact of publishing results of non-laboratory based water testing.

A central library?

Noting that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board had recently declined a request to expand the size of the lending library at the Westside Park Community Center, Cochran suggested that space in the SLLA Game Room could be used for their expansion needs.

Director Galford recommended looking at the Seven Lakes Library in the Business Village first. "I don't want to duplicate efforts," he said.


Northsider Joan DeBruin agreed, "We should work with Seven Lakes West and the village to create one central, accommodating library for everyone."

Community Standards

A community volunteer clean-up day on Saturday, July 10 was successful, and Droppers thanked all who participated.

He reported that the Community Standards Committee

(See "SLLA," p. 36)



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9 Tomato & Zucchini Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	10 Creamy Chicken Florentine Soup Two Bean Enchilada Dinner ♥	11 Mushroom Bisque Pot Roast Dinner	12 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Basil Shrimp with Feta Dinner ♥	13 Asparagus Vichyssoise ♥ Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥
16 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Salisbury Steak Dinner	17 Gazpacho ♥ Chicken Tetrazzini Dinner	18 White Bean Chicken Chili ♥ Chinese Pepper Steak Dinner ♥	19 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	20 New England Clam Chowder Pork & Green Chile Enchiladas Dinner
23 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Meatloaf Dinner Dinner	24 Black Bean Soup Chicken Paprikash Dinner	25 Chilled Cucumber Soup Swiss Steak Dinner	26 Summer Vegetable Soup ♥ Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	27 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner
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Study Group

(Continued from page 2)

property taxes of 5% without the approval of a majority of citizens unnecessarily inhibits future growth and improvements.

Forgoing approximately \$1,500,000 in the refund of

shared revenues from sales and use and other taxes from the state that would be available to an incorporated Seven Lakes municipality places Seven Lakes in an inferior position as we compete with the other area communities

for buyers of our property and business growth. Other municipalities are already receiving their share of these revenues—revenues that Seven Lakes could also be sharing—revenues which could be spent to run and

improve our community.

During the past several weeks, at the invitation of the Seven Lakes Civic Group, an organization that has been working for the good of the community for over a decade, members of the Study Group entered into two sessions in an attempt to unite our findings with those of the Incorporate Seven Lakes.com group. Unfortunately, those sessions were unsuccessful. Our suggestions were rejected by the Incorporate Seven Lakes.com group, along with the rejection of the support of the Civic Group for a united effort.

We do not share the fear of an attempt to annex Seven Lakes by Pinehurst or Foxfire or some other community in the near future. We believe that there is ample time to study and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation over the next several months, and we should all take the time to do so. We believe in the intelligence and good-will of the people of Seven Lakes. We believe that the vast majority want a progressive, united community portrayed in the vision statement, and

that we will find a way to incorporate that all of us can embrace.

We applaud the Seven Lakes West Side Landowners Association for beginning a six month study of incorporation, and we encourage the McLendon Hills board, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association to conduct similar studies. The members of our committee stand ready to provide the results of our research and any other assistance to all who wish them.

We intend to share our findings with Senator Blake and Representative Boles so that they will be aware of an alternate plan for incorporation that is gaining increasing support.

*Dudley Crawford,
Kathy Kirst,
Joe Krallinger,
Carolyn Mealing,
Don Welch,*

SLLA

(Continued from page 35)

tee was reviewing current rules regarding vehicle parking — and long-term storage of unregistered or inoperable vehicles in driveways.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, July 12, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Heard from Cochran that Security Patrol and Boat Patrol officers successfully completed the NC Boating Safety Course and that two team members would be attending a CPR First Class course this week.
- Heard from Cochran that several safety issues were recently addressed: replacing an aging bench grinder, securing compressed gas cylinders, and providing Material Safety Data Sheets [MSDS] in the pump room as well as

maintenance building.

- Heard a request from Zielsdorf to extend operating hours at the Yard Debris Site until dusk, at least on weekends. He said the current schedule, with the site closing at 4:00 pm, is too restrictive, particularly for working residents.
- Heard from Zielsdorf a report on the recent meeting of the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC]. He said Tim Lea, Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, had responded to a recent letter from the group and that the SLLA and representatives from McLendon Hills had asked to be included in the Seven Lakes West committees that are forming to study incorporation.
- Heard a suggestion from Droppers that the new

Talis-based SLLA website should include a master calendar of recreation events and lake information, such as approximate dates for water testing, herbicide application, and piezometer readings.

- Heard a request from Cochran to enter a new copier leasing agreement for an upgraded system that will include copying, faxing, and scanning capabilities. The new machine will increase the monthly cost by \$26, but Cochran argued the upgrade will improve office efficiency.

Directors Chuck Mims and Melinda Scott did not attend the meeting. Following the Work Session, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss legal issues.



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

the Board has voted to use to finance the project.

"I believe, if a voter referendum was appropriate, it

Police

(Continued from page 16)

Campbell are always on call, and will typically be notified by 9-1-1 dispatch at their residence if a serious call comes in.

"Those guys are constantly out here," Shue said of the Sheriff's officers, noting that deputies often patrol Foxfire's neighborhood streets, and also participate with the Village Police on roadblocks and license checks.

Chief Deputy Godfrey explained that the Sheriff's office often assists the county's municipal departments with the investigation of major cases. "For example, we consulted on the two bank robberies that they recently had in Vass," he said. He added that such assistance is not confined to the smaller towns. "We also work with Southern

Schools

(Continued from page 6)

ty teams nationwide. Under the guidance of their teacher Beth Walker, they competed against 37,000 teams, working after school to complete challenging math activities online.

The North Carolina High School Association Wachovia Cup was presented to Union Pines High School and Pinecrest High School. A symbol of sports excellence, the award recognizes overall interscholastic performance in four competitive classifications.

Moore County Schools won the 'Biggest Winner' Moore Fit Challenge contest sponsored by FirstHealth. Winning both the greatest overall weight loss and greatest percent of employee participation categories, MCS awarded their \$200 prize to the Moore County Public Education Foundation.

should have been done at the beginning of this project, before obligating the taxpayer with a \$3 million-plus expenditure," Picerno said, referring to the land purchase and architects fees already spent on the project.

Southern Software. Moving to the company that he founded and on whose Board he serves, Picerno said the County Attorney and the Board of Commissioners had worked diligently to ensure that the company's gift of software to the Sheriff's Department created no conflict of interest for Commissioner Larry Caddell, the company's CEO. An extensive resolution ensuring that the company could not gain value from using the county as a demonstration or test site was passed by the Board upon accepting the donated software. That resolution was approved by Commissioners Lea, Morgan, and Melton, Picerno said.

Noting that both state law and that resolution ensure that no conflict of interest is involved, Picerno continued,

"I believe that Souther Software has saved the county thousands of taxpayer dollars while providing it state of the art software. If other board members believe that this is now a conflict, then instruct public safety to begin the process of replacing it."

Budget. Finally, Picerno said an omnibus motion he offered during the June 7 Board meeting to adjust and approve the FY2010-2011 budget was "done in accordance with precedence, pro-

cedure, and law."

Chairman Lea had advocated a plan for adjusting the budget that would have involved separate votes on the budget for the public schools and Sandhills Community College, as well as a \$24,000 expense for software maintenance by Southern software.

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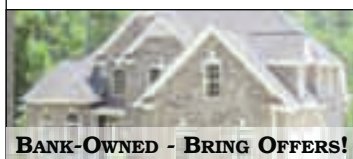
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