

Future Potters of America



New kiln at West End Elementary — That high tech looking piece of equipment is a new pottery kiln for use in WEE art classes. WEE Fourth graders Blake Nesbitt and Keeley Copper of Seven Lakes West, along with Northsider Logan Thompson, inspect the new addition.

Board votes to close dam road permanently

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor

No more dam road.

That will be the verdict if the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors ratifies in two weeks a 6-to-2 decision to permanently close Longleaf Drive over the Lake Auman dam.

The Board voted to accept the recommendation of its Dam Committee during its Tuesday, September 14, Work Session. Several directors, including Secretary Karen Milligan and Treasurer Joe Sikes, argued that the dam road closure should be deemed a matter of significant interest to the community,

which would have triggered a 60-day public comment period before the decision was made final. But, when President Ron Shepard called for the question on his motion to permanently close the road, only Milligan and Sikes voted in the negative. [Director John Hoffmann was not present at the meeting.]

Paul Kirst presented the Dam Committee's recommendation, which, perhaps surprisingly, rested principally on concerns about the liability the community would face in the case of a dam failure.

SLWLA Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks, who designed

(See "Dam road," p. 18)

Foxfire says yes to bees, no to chickens

by Laura Dougalss
 Times Reporter

A new land use ordinance that allows beekeeping within the Foxfire's corporate limits received a nod of approval, but a second ordinance on farm animals hit a snag at the Tuesday, September 14

meeting of the Village Council.

As recommended by the Planning Board, the farm animal ordinance prohibits livestock within the Village except for areas zoned for agricultural purposes and limits equine to one animal

per three acres of pasture, and bovine to one animal per two acres of pasture. However, a second part of the ordinance related to keeping rabbits and fowl raised concerns.

The ordinance limited the number of small animals, included guidelines for the placement of their housing, and prohibits roosters and potbelly pigs, but still came up short with Finance Director Leslie Frusco.

"It's not rabbits, but fowl — geese and chickens — that I have a problem with," she said. "This ordinance addresses the RA-30 zone which is what most houses are around the golf course. If we have chicken coops, even with a limited number of animals, within fifty feet of the

course? I don't want to hear them. My neighbors don't want to hear them...This is a huge mistake: to allow them inside the corporate limits."

After closing the Public Hearing, Mayor George Erickson called for a motion to table the farm animal ordinance while an amended version eliminating fowl is drafted and resubmitted for Council discussion and approval in October.

However, the recommended beekeeping ordinance received unanimous support. As written, honeybees are allowed in Foxfire Village under certain restrictions. Hives are to be kept in sound and usable condition, inspected annually, and can not be placed within twenty-five feet of any public or private prop-

erty lines. A complete copy of the ordinance, which includes several additional restrictions, is available at the Village office.

Recreation District Zoning

Following a third public hearing at the Tuesday, September 14 meeting, the Council approved a new zoning designation specifically developed to encourage and preserve recreational and open space in the Village.

Recreation District Zoning is defined as an area in which the primary use of the land is predominantly reserved for privately-owned recreation, club house, recreational support structures, and bodies of water while prohibiting residential, com-

(See "Foxfire," p. 36)

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West End Elementary gets pottery kiln

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A grant from the Moore County Public Education Foundation together with seven years of accumulated fundraising efforts and setting aside classroom space finally paid off for West End Elementary art teacher Jill Hart-

sell when she purchased the school's first pottery kiln this Summer.

"I've been saving up over the years and bought the kiln, but then I didn't have enough money for supplies," explained Hartsell. "I had never written a grant but my aunt encouraged me to try

and my daughter helped me write it."

The \$715 grant allowed her to purchase the necessary kiln shelves, clay and glazes to get started.

In early September, Hartsell flipped the switch for her first test fire. Since the octagonally-shaped kiln gets warm to the touch, the kiln is only turned on overnight for safety. This year, every grade from kindergartners to fifth graders will have the chance to mold two pieces of pottery.

Hartsell thanked Sally Larson of Fireshadow Pottery in Eagle Springs with helping her to develop lesson plans and projects.

"We worked all Summer. Every Tuesday she would help me put together lessons and samples," she said, implementing the important role of pottery in North Carolina's cultural history, particularly here in Moore County.

Kennel Club Show

Moore County Kennel Club will be holding their annual All Breed and Obedience Show on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19 at the Harness Track, Pinehurst.

The show begins each day at 8:30 am and Best In Show is around 3:00 pm. There will be about 750 to 800 dogs at the show and this is a good chance for the public to learn about different breeds, or just

watch their favorite breed. There is a fee of \$5 per car fee, but no individual fees.

A Microchip Clinic will be held daily at 11 am to 3 pm and Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday only, 11 am to 1 pm.

There will be many other attractions at the show and vendors on hand with products to sell.

Questions? Call Show Chair Janet Dalton 692-9341.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Oct. 1	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 8
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3
Dec. 22*	Dec. 16*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Meet the Merchants slated for October 2

"Meet the Merchants" will be held on Saturday, October 2, 11 am to 3 pm.

The return of this popular event is a great way for the community to become aware of the great businesses and services available in Seven Lakes.

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Post Office 'reneges' on boxes for West Side

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The US Postal Service has thrown a monkey wrench in Westside plans for a new mail house to replace the aging structure that sits in the middle of the Lakeway Drive Mall.

For years, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board, the Long Range Planning Committee, and a host of volunteers, including the indefatigable Gus Danielson, have labored to win for the community the option of having home mail delivery.

After repeated refusals from various levels of the vast postal service bureaucracy, the Association received a final "no" from the office of the Postmaster General earlier this year. The Board asked the Long Range Planning Committee to look at the options, and, during the Board's August 26 Work Session, President Ron Shepard presented the committee's recommendation: to build one or more new mail houses, at a cost ranging from \$200 to \$335 per member.

Those cost estimates

included architects' fees, permits, site preparation, parking, lighting, land acquisition (for a second or third mail house), and the structures themselves.

What they did not include was mailboxes, because the Mail Delivery Planning Committee was relying on a commitment from the US Postal Service to supply the boxes.

"I have in my hand a letter that should be entitled 'Post Office Reneges,'" Bud Sales told the Board of Directors, as he prepared to formally present the committee's recommendation during the Board's September 14 Work Session. Dated August 23, the letter states; "Recent investigations reveal the current structure that houses the mailroom to be sound and accommodates the homeowners [sic]. With that noted, there is no business rationale for the USPS to endure costs for the construction and remodeling of Seven Lakes West entrance [sic]."

"We have no way of knowing what those post boxes are going to cost," Sales said, though he later indicated that USPS approved boxes

are available from a number of vendors. The amount of space required for those boxes, however, will depend on their size, as will the cost of the building or buildings that house them. The recent letter from the Postal Service, as a result, rendered the committee's cost estimates obsolete.

Why a mailhouse?

Despite that setback, Sales soldiered on and provided the rationale for the committee's recommendation. Recounting the community's long struggle to secure home delivery, including involving Senator Richard Burr and Senator Elizabeth Dole, Sales said home delivery was no longer an option, given the recent refusal from the Postmaster General's office.

Developer Fred Lawrence was forced to build a mail house, Sales said, because

the West Side's then-dirt roads and their soft shoulders were unacceptable to the Postal Service. It was placed in its current location because that's how far the pavement extended. Its twelve parking spaces serve more than 950 homes -- and would have to serve 1,900 when the community is fully built out. Lakeway Drive carries 4,000 vehicle trips per day, and the mail house parking lot services 1.2 vehicles per minute between Noon and 6:00 pm -- including residents of Pinnacle and Parkwood, who use the parking lots as a pass-through to the entrance or exit lanes.

"Whether or not it was adequate at some point, it's bursting at the seams right now," Sales said. While complimenting the recent volunteer painting of the structure, he said it has

significantly deteriorated, adding that "you can put all the paint in the world on it and it's like putting lipstick on a pig." The mailboxes are tiny, with the result that mail delivery is often delayed.

Westsideers could be asked to rent boxes at the West End Post Office. But the average box there costs \$56 per year, Sales said. He expressed doubts about the feasibility of adding 900 vehicles per day attempting to enter NC Highway 211 from Woodlawn Drive by the Post Office.

The resulting recommendation from the committee is to build one or more mailhouses. "There is strong sentiment on the committee," he said, "to build two or three," because that would put almost every Westsider within walking distance of a mail house.

(See "Westside," p. 16)

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West Side introduces snazzy new website

by Jean Downer
Seven Lakes West
Communications Committee

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] has a new and

improved website. The new site offers many of the same great features as the previous site; however, enhancements have been made to provide an interactive and more user-

friendly layout as well as an updated look with expanded functionality.

The primary mission of the website continues to be one that will serve the needs of the association membership and provide a public interface for those internet visitors interested in learning about the community.

While the web address, www.sevenlakeswest.org, remains the same, a new web host company was selected that offered the ability to employ some new and desirable features.

One goal of expanding the website functionality involved offering information to the general public about what it would be like living in Seven Lakes West. The general public will have the ability to

view a brief history of SLW development, explore the area around us, see the type of activities everyone enjoys, read about the association governing policies and peek into Seven Lakes West world using the photo gallery.

The primary goal of the website is to better serve the needs of the membership. Most importantly, the new website is a tool that will be utilized to help facilitate communication. The website helps everyone to communicate effectively with fellow residents by posting announcements, newsletters,

meeting minutes and official documents and forms. Communiqués can now be exchanged from members to the administration and from administration to the membership. Specifically, this tool will enable residents to effectively communicate with the Board of Directors and Association Management.

Information about upcoming events, board meetings, car and boat registration, and annual dues and fees are only a few of the issues addressed on the website. The home page will feature an

(See "Website," p. 19)



The Home Page of the new Seven Lakes West website features a slideshow highlighting the beauty of the community.

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Prancing Horse comes to McLendon Hills



Prancing Horse board member, Nancy Piscopo, and President Judy Lewis welcomed visitors to the McLendon Hills Southern Living Idea House. This Summer, a portion of entry fees to view the house were dedicated to the program. On Thursday, September 9, Tom Carr of McLendon Hills presented Prancing Horse with a \$1,000 donation.

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

McLendon Hills has partnered with Prancing Horse Center for Therapeutic Riding to offer a second satellite riding facility in Moore County. In operation for twenty-six years, Prancing Horse offers therapeutic riding for people of all ages with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Using two satellite facilities, one in Whispering Pines and the McLendon Hills, the program now has more capability to serve those with special needs, especially residents in western Moore County and neighboring counties.

"We are ecstatic to be at McLendon Hills and thrilled with the level of support in the community," said Judy Lewis, Prancing Horse Board President. "They have been supportive for years and now have kindly opened their barn allowing us to expand our program."

A well-established therapy for those with physical, mental and emotional challenges, the interaction between horse and rider is the key component for success.

"Developing core strength and balance, lengthening spastic muscles, and developing new self confidence are some of the therapeutic riding goals. Once the horses are chosen for the program, the rest is the "magic" that happens between the

student and the horse" explained McLendon Hills resident Nancy Piscopo, who serves on the Prancing Horse Board.

Lessons will be held each Thursday, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in a small arena behind the barn, and were designed to insure rider safety and also limit interference with ongoing resident activities. Riders will not use the established trail system within

(See "Prancing," p. 20)

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SLLA Board set to start on first road repair

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

If it's approved at the Open Meeting later this month, a \$31,000 paving contract to repair a damaged section of Firetree Lane near Echo Dam will be the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's [SLLA] first tangible step towards major repaving — a massive project that has dominated financial discussions and decision-making for years.

One of four high priority repairs identified, the roadway near Echo Dam was cleared for work earlier this year when it was classified non-jurisdictional by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Using plans drafted by Southsider Mike Cummins, a retired civil engineer, three bids were solicited, resulting in one proposal.

"It is a very good figure," Community Manager Alina Cochran told the SLLA Board at their Work Session on Monday, September 13.

Treasurer Denny Galford agreed, noting that original estimates suggested the work could cost \$80,000. He said the proposal was reviewed by both Cummins and another Southside resident, Tom Clark, who is employed by the State of Virginia as a road construction supervisor.

"This is not our practice - to accept one proposal -- but three bids were requested," Galford said. "Mike [Cummins] will provide surveying for the project and Tom Clark was very complimentary of his drawings. He said they are the reason we have a very detailed breakdown on bidding."

"I feel comfortable that even with only one bid, we've confirmed it is reasonable; and I recommend we approve it and move forward with this repair," he concluded.

Frustrated by the slow overall pace of the repaving projects, the Board briefly considering scheduling a Special Open Meeting which would

allow for a more timely vote on the proposal; however, at the urging of Director Kent Droppers, a decision on the contract was tabled until the Wednesday, September 29 Open Meeting.

"We won't lose that much time by waiting until the meeting to vote. Let's bring it out for discussion and avoid any issues that we're trying to ramrod it through," Droppers said.

Zielsdorf tries to speed up process

In a related discussion, SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf pushed for more information on loan sourcing and planning for the overall repaving project.

"I don't see a solid plan we're shooting for," said Zielsdorf. "How do we want to move forward with securing a loan?"

Going around the table, the Board was surprised to learn that only Director Bud Shaver had, thus far, received a copy of a road report drafted by former Community Manager Dalton Fulcher. Shaver said he had reviewed the report but, along with Director Melinda Scott, encouraged Zielsdorf to delay discussion on borrowing money until after the Reserve Study is completed.

A comprehensive review of all Association assets, includ-

ing roads and buildings, the Reserve Study will be conducted in late September. Results are anticipated in October.

"We're all in agreement that road repair is a top priority, but the Study will give us a foundation to make a plan," Scott said.

Shaver, Scott and Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 29 with the consultant who is conducting the Reserve Study

Master Calendar

The new Talis-based SLLA website includes a master calendar of Board meetings and recreation, but Director Droppers suggested that it should also include recommended timelines for committee planning.

"Now is the time to start thinking about next year -- the next twelve months. When is the pool going to open? What day does it need to be inspected?" he said. "This year I felt like we were chasing the ball. We need a master calendar, so we can always look to see what is ahead in six months, twelve months."

Droppers said the calendar should also reflect the results of the Reserve Study.

"If we know, in 2020, we will need new stables, we

(See "SLLA," p. 34)

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Commissioners debate cost of new jail

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

It may be true that "a rose is a rose is a rose."

But it evidently does not follow that "a jail is jail is a jail" -- at least not according to a cost analysis of five recent detention center projects in North Carolina. The task of pulling together the data fell to Assistant County Manager Ken Larking, who noted before diving into his presentation during the Tuesday, September 7 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners that this was his first major presentation to the Board.

Critics of the planned Moore County detention center say it is too expensive, and point to a cost per bed that is nearly twice what Harnett County paid for its new jail. Defenders of the Moore County project say the price is fair, and point out that it's actually cheaper, per square foot, than the Harnett County facility. Both appear to be right, at least in part.

Sheriff Lane Carter says the difference in cost comes down to what the building was designed to do and whether it was designed with an eye to the future.

The Board of Commissioners are expected to take public input on the proposed public safety facility and

detention center and vote on awarding the construction contract for the project during their regular September 20 meeting.

Cost comparison

Larking found costs per square foot ranging from \$130 in Sampson County to \$304 in Onslow county, and costs per bed ranging from \$29,000 in Sampson to \$98,000 for an as-yet-unbuilt detention center in Yadkin County. The low bid for Moore County's new facility came in at \$27.2 million, yielding a cost per bed of \$93,500.

The five comparison facilities, three recently built, one under construction, and one tied up in litigation, were in Pitt, Onslow, Sampson, Yadkin, and Harnett counties. They range in cost from \$6.8 million to \$58 million and in size from 36,000 square feet to 191,000 square feet. Three, like the Moore County project, include both a detention center and a public safety complex, but the Pitt County project was an addition to their current jail, and the on-hold Yadkin County project is a stand-alone detention center.

Larking homed in on the \$21.5 million Harnett County facility, completed in Spring 2009, because it is roughly similar in size and cost to

the Moore County project -- and because Moore County's Major Capital Projects Task Force had taken a close look at the Harnett Sheriff's Office and Jail while planning the local facility. Harnett's jail cost \$206 per square foot, Larking explained, but only \$50,000 per bed.

Larking pointed to \$382,000 in utility preparation and other costs for the Moore County facility, as well as a \$900,000 construction contingency fund that may or may not be spent, to explain some of the cost difference.

But, according to Sheriff Lane Carter, the more important cost escalator for the Moore County facility is the different, less expensive, operational philosophy it is designed to facilitate, as well as the inclusion of support facilities that reflect prudent planning for the county's future needs.

Indirect supervision

Carter explained that the proposed Moore County design aims at keeping operational costs low and improving the security of jailers, by utilizing indirect supervision,

rather than the direct supervision employed in the Harnett County facility.

"We tried to keep the personnel costs low," Carter said "...working with the architects to have a limited number of people observing the inmates and a limited number of people walking the floor."

Direct supervision involves placing one or more officers in the cell block with the inmates. "That is not a good idea," Carter said. "They are in there where they can get assaulted very frequently by

(See "Jail," p. 32)

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County approves rescue contract with 7 Lakes VFD

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Correcting an longstanding oversight, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved a revised contract with the Seven Lakes Volunteers Fire Department [SLVFD] recognizing that the department has been providing medium duty rescue services in its district since the 1980s.

Fire Marshal Ken Skipper explained that a 2009 review of contracts with fire departments and rescue squads across the county had revealed that the county had no contract with any entity to provide rescue service within the Seven Lakes Fire District, even though the Seven Lakes VFD had been providing that service since the mid-1980s.

The county last year established new countywide standards for the provision of those services, Skipper said, and SLVFD had to acquire additional equipment and implement additional training in order to meet those standards, which it completed over the past year. During that interim, the county had contracted with West End Fire and Rescue [WEFR] to formally cover rescue duties in the Seven Lakes Fire District.

Now that SLVFD meets all county requirements, Skipper said, the rescue contract can be moved from West End to the Seven Lakes department.

He noted in his report to the Board that the new contract would cost the county \$1,500 per year in equipment maintenance costs, but added that, in the long run, the county would save money.

Currently, when there is an auto accident in the Seven Lakes Fire District, the 9-1-1 center dispatches Seven Lakes EMS, Moore County EMS, SLVFD, and WEFR. Under the new contract, West End Fire and Rescue would only be called if needed as backup for an accident that involves a confirmed entrapment.

"They meet the standards," Skipper said of SLVFD, adding that they had worked hard over the past year to meet the county's new rescue requirements. "All they need is a new contract."

The Board of Commissioners approved the new contract unanimously.

Board says 'No' to Water Authority Study

The Commissioners decided not to approve a resolution committing them to participating, with other members of the Moore County Summit's Water Task Force, in exploring the viability of a new regional water and sewer authority.

Members of the Water Task Force have asked each of the county's municipalities to pass a similar resolution, and a number have done so.

(See "County," p. 30)

The rumors are true!

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School Board finalizes this year's budget

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

With state budget funding figures in-hand, the Moore County Board of Education approved their \$108 million 2010-2011 Budget through a resolution on Monday, September 13.

Contributing up to two-thirds of the overall budget, this year's State Fund, at \$59.5 million, represents a nearly 10.9 percent reduction in the last two years. Since 2008-2009, the State Fund portion has decreased from sixty-six percent to fifty-eight percent of total revenue.

At \$26.3 million and \$3.2 million, the Local Current Fund and Local Operations Fund respectively, as approved in June by the County Commissioners, represents twenty-eight percent of the total revenue, a relatively stable portion.

Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin also reported the Local Capital Outlay Fund at \$1.4 million, Federal Fund at \$13.4 million and the Child Nutrition Fund at \$4.7 million.

Two budget resolutions are anticipated with additional Federal funding, including the Race to the Top program; however, at present there is very little information available.

Enrollment numbers are up
Moore County Schools kicked off the 2010-2011

academic year with 200 more students than anticipated and a fresh, new energy.

"There is a different buzz across our schools: a positive buzz," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser. "I am extremely pleased with the start of the year."

While the 200 additional students were spread across the county, three schools in particular – including West Pine Elementary – saw a bump in enrollment that required hiring an additional teacher.

West Pine Elementary is the county's newest facility, constructed in 2010 to reduce overcrowding at West End Elementary and Pinehurst Elementary.

SAT scores above average

Moore County SAT scores show a consistent pattern of maintaining averages above both the state and national scores.

"It is important to note that when we talk about test results, we cannot make a judgment about one set of scores. But when you look at the cumulative of the SAT, that our graduation rate is up ten points . . . we see positive things happening in our schools," said Purser. "It's not about the end, but what the journey is. These are indicators that we are making progress."

Inclement weather make-up days rescheduled

Each year certain days are designated as inclement weather make-up days. The yearly calendar also includes regular work days for teachers as well as unencumbered work days set aside that cannot be encroached on.

Last year's harsh Winter forced Moore County Schools to close multiple times. Designated make-up days were

used including the Memorial Day holiday.

"I regret that we didn't seem to have many alternatives," said Purser.

Administrative changes in recent months shifted the definition of when the school work week begins and ends, which would allow Saturdays to be designated as a make-up day. Purser reported that in discussions with staff and parents, most over-

whelmingly supported scheduling make-up days on Saturdays rather than during regular school holidays, such as Spring Break.

On Purser's recommendation, the Board eliminated Monday, May 30, 2011 [Memorial Day], as a designated make-up day and also approved the new policy which allows for Saturday make-up days.

(See "School board," p. 19)

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Few options on accessory dwelling units

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

A request for a Conditional Use Permit to place an accessory dwelling unit on a 5.58 acre parcel at the intersection of Union Church Road and Heritage Farm Road in Carthage was approved with no opposition or discussion by the Moore County Planning Board on Thursday, September 9.

However, this type of request has occasionally been

contentious and new laws have left the Board with little leeway to deny a permit.

"By and large we can't do anything about it because of state restrictions. We just have to be a rubberstamp," said Board Member Bernard Capstick.

With such little control over the process, he suggested the Board should only review exceptional cases; however, Planning Director Joey Raczkowski responded that

permit requests are already the exceptions.

Robert Hayter asked Raczkowski to provide a historical review of records to determine why accessory building requests fall under the Conditional Use Permit category.

"Most of these requests have enough gross property to divide their lot," said Hayter. "It would be good to know how we got here."

Home Occupations

Several unique requests for land use related to home occupations in the recent past presented Planning staff with an opportunity to review and recommended amended ordinances.

As proposed, home occupations would be grouped under two categories: standard home occupations and intensive home businesses.

Standard home business could utilize up to twenty-five percent of the gross floor area of the principal residence. Requests would be reviewed by Planning staff and eligible businesses include bakeries, beauty and barber shops, carpentry, contractor and subcontractors, business offices including professional and medical, and produce stands.

Intensive home businesses could utilize up to fifty percent of the gross floor area of the principal residence and a non-resident employee is allowed. Requests would be

reviewed and approved at the Planning Board level and eligible businesses include animal shelter and kennels, auto parts sales and service, boat sales and service, child care facility and centers, farm equipment sales and service, greenhouses, radio and television studios, sculpting, welding, woodworking and wood products.

With some members of the Planning Board expressing concern over the limitations imposed by the square footage recommendations, action was tabled pending further discussion and review.

Land Use Plan update

Raczkowski has met with representatives from Moore County Schools and Public Works to discuss updates to the Land Use Plan.

"We are putting together several options on how to proceed. We are making progress," he said.

Living Healthy at Seven Lakes Forum

The next sessions of the Forum will focus on Living a Healthy Life at All Ages. A series of four related sessions will be coordinated by Trey Waters in the Great Room of the Westside Park Community Center. The schedule for the sessions beginning at 4 pm each day:

Thursday, September 23

Healthy Eating, Healthy Life

Thursday, October 7

Weight loss. What you can do about it

Thursday, October 21

Cancer and the Immune system

Thursday, October 28

Importance of Detoxing and 'Gut' Health

All women and men who are Seven Lakes/Seven Lakes West association members are eligible to enroll in the four-part series. However, due to the popularity of the topic and the need to have Trey Waters and the speakers commit time and resources, tuition for enrollment in this series is \$25 per household. Enrollment may be completed at the Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe.

Contact Bill Mamel for details (673-8970).

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Seven Lakes Tennis gets new lease on life

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Under new management and with something for everyone – juniors, seniors, families, beginners and advanced players – the newly reopened Seven Lakes Tennis Center is ready for business.

Don and Susie Campbell, residents of Seven Lakes West who also own and manage The Lawn and Tennis Club of North Carolina said they are looking forward to the challenge of bringing the Tennis Center back to the place of prominence it held years ago.

"Twenty-one years ago we bought Lawn and Tennis and started with four courts. Now we have seven – all lit – 200 memberships, and tons of programs. I saw a similar situation here, without a lot going on yet," said Campbell. "We love it out here. The people are so excited and we feel this is a good opportunity. We're looking to be team players and work hand-in-hand with the Country Club."

Campbell said that Frank and Barb Horan had done a great job of keeping a base on the courts and had been very helpful in organizing and keeping things going at the Center. After taking over operations in September, Campbell was pleased to have twen-

ty-two Pinecrest High football players come out to repaint the fences.

The facility offers six clay courts and a fully-stocked pro shop that will be open regular hours. Membership fees for the Seven Lakes Tennis Center are \$35 for individuals and \$55 per month for families. Courts may be reserved in advance. Proper attire and smooth-soled tennis shoes are required and, at the completion of play, members are encouraged to drag and line their court for the next group. Illuminated night play is available until 9:00 pm. Guest fees are \$5 per day and all guests must be accompanied by a member.

Private and group lessons are available for members and non-members.

Hourly lessons for a group of five costs \$10/\$11 per person; private lessons are \$35/\$40 per hour. Four week clinics will be offered and cost \$35/\$40 with a minimum of four participants. Ball machine rentals are also available.

A Junior Program to introduce new players to tennis and to provide existing players with an opportunity to improve their game includes afterschool lessons and clinics.

Lessons are designed with an emphasis on fun and improvement and good sportsmanship. Classes generally run from 4:00 to 5:00 pm weekdays, and Saturdays starting at 10:00 am.

Campbell said he is a strong supporter of youth athletics and believes that sports keep children busy and instill a sense of pride and the feeling of a team, especially since not every child is cut out for baseball or football.

"We hope to have USTA teams at different levels, juniors and both ladies and men's teams. We will bring out members from Lawn and Tennis to play and compete," said Campbell. "Teams motivate people to get out and play and the camaraderie is really nice. There is a social aspect to getting together."

Campbell noted that having a sister club will be a benefit to both facilities.

For a complete list of lessons, fees and membership information, call 673-1096 or email 7lakestenniscen-ter@gmail.com

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New Seven Lakes Tennis Center owner Don Campbell with some young Seven Lakes tennis players.

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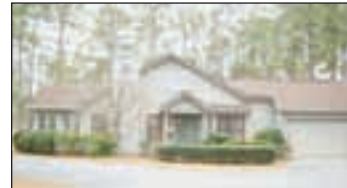
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Enjoy the fruits of the harvest at SCC

by Skip Ragland
Seven Lakes West

The Sandhills Horticultural Gardens are rather magical to begin with, but an event scheduled at the end of September will take the gardens to a new level.

Longleaf pines rustling in the breeze, soft, Southern air perfumed by legions of flowers and shrubs and music floating above diners' heads will make for a unique experience for participants at a special moment in the gardens.

What could be more romantic than sipping a delicious wine in the Horticultural Gardens as you and the special person you are with are served a wonderful meal prepared by the Culinary department of the college?

Experience this unique event on Thursday, September 30 (rain date October 1) when the Sandhills Horticultural Society conducts its first Fall Harvest Progressive Dinner in the Gardens beginning at 5:30 pm.

Participants will dine in

the exquisite setting of the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens and enjoy romantic music, special wines and a wonderful meal prepared by the Culinary Department, and the Music and Art depart-

ments of the College. Part of the proceeds will benefit these departments along with the Landscape Gardening Department.

Locally grown food will be featured.

The evening begins at 5:30

pm, Thursday, September 30. Prices are \$55 per person for Horticultural Society member and \$60 for non-members. Seating is limited.

Contact Tricia Mabe for a reservation at 695-3882.

7 Lakes Dance Group

The 7 Lakes Dance Group meets every Sunday from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Singles and couples are welcome -- whether you've never danced, want to practice, or are looking to learn a new step. For information, visit <http://7lakesdance.org/>



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One of the fountains in the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens.

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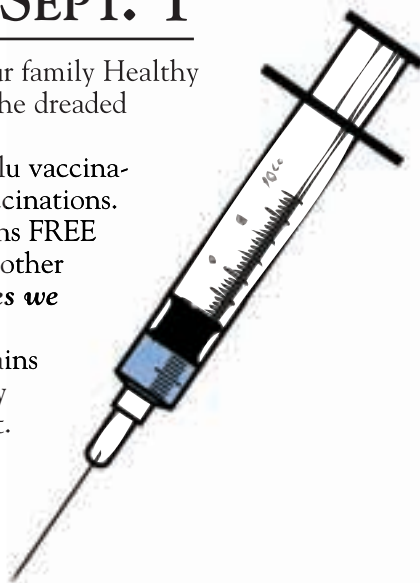
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In memory of . . .

Kenneth Francis Hale, 76, died Monday, September 13, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date in Rochester, NY and Seven Lakes.

Mr. Hale was born in Rochester, NY where he and his wife June lived until 1997 when they retired to Seven Lakes.

Mr. Hale was an outstanding basketball player at his alma mater Rochester Institute of Technology and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Mr. Hale and his wife, June enjoyed 20 years as members of Locust Hill Country Club, Rochester before joining Seven Lakes Country Club upon their retirement.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, June; daughter Lizbeth Hyatt-Armstrong of Pittsford, NY; sons Mark Hale of Groveland, NY and Robert Hale of Brooklyn, NY; and his grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376 or the Moore County Humane Society, PO Box 203, Southern Pines, NC 28388. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Melvie Burns Craig, 83, of Autumn Care & Rehab, Biscoe, formerly of Eagle Springs, died Wednesday, September 8.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 11, at Pleasant View Friends Church. The Rev. Jacelyn Jones officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Craig had retired from Itcha Industries. She was

preceded in death by her sisters, Madison Burns and Mamie Maness.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin Craig, of the home; sons, Howard Craig of Robbins, William Edward Craig of Eagle Springs, and Ronnie Craig of Robbins; daughters, Linda Sheffield of Robbins, and Debra Garner of Eagle Springs, and Katherine Rosdol of Greensboro; fifteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or Pleasant View Friends Church, 13942 NC 24-27, Eagle Springs, NC 27242.

Kennedy Funeral Home assisted family.

Virginia Lucille Wright Van Vliet, 84, of Southern Pines died Friday September 3, at St. Joseph of the Pines Health Center.

Mrs. Van Vliet was born in Hendersonville, North Carolina the daughter of the late Perry B. Wright and Emma Brown Wright.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at the First Baptist Church of Southern Pines on Friday, September 24, 6 to 8 pm. A celebration of life will be held at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, September 25 at 11 am.

She is survived by her husband Robert of Southern Pines; daughter, Jo Ann and son-in-law Hans Jurgen Guth of Tübingen, Germany; son, Alan Van Vliet and wife Elaine of McLendon Hills; sister, Doris Wright of Middletown, Maryland; and her grand-

children.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, at 322 Eight Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001 or online at www.alzfdn.org/Contribute-toAFA/makeadonation.html

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Joseph Edward Anderson, 79, of Seven Lakes, died Friday, September 3, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A memorial service was held Monday, September 6, at Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, Candor.

A native of Manhattan, NY, Mr. Anderson was the son of Rebecca and Joseph M. Anderson. He was a veteran of the Marines, serving in the Korean Conflict and was a road construction supervisor with the Civil Service of Nassau County, NY and a member of Our Lady of the Americas and Seven Lakes Country Club.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Ann Chase Anderson, of the home; daughter, Gail Lucidi of Bayville, NY; sons, Gary W. Anderson, and Jeffrey Allen Anderson all of Bellmore, NY; sister, Gladys Cochran of Dade City, FL; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of the Americas Capital Campaign, 298 Farmer's Market

Rd., Biscoe NC 27209.

Briggs-Candor Funeral Home assisted the family.

POW/MIA Remembrance

Chapter 966 Vietnam Veterans of America will present their annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, September 17, 6 pm at the Moore County Veterans Memorial Park in Carthage.

The Union Pines High School Navy ROTC Color Guard will present the colors. There will be a ceremony including the POW/MIA table setting, reading of reflections, the reading of names of NC POW/MIA, along with the laying of a wreath. All veterans and the public are invited to attend.

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5707.....Pond view, Walk to Pool.....\$34,500	487.....Great Price, Rare Lot.....\$26,900
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Moore Buddies at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On Tuesday, September 7, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis were visited by representatives from Moore Buddies organization.

Amy Blondin and Shandra Malloy presented an interesting program about the important part this organization plays in the lives of many Moore County youths, and their families.

With a well organized program of mentoring of disad-

vantaged and in-trouble youth, the group is helping to guide youth in the age range of 6 to 14 years of age.

The mentors supply help in all aspects of successful growth, and quite often become as important as their natural parents.

Because some of the problems stem from an unstable home life, there is also a parenting program which brings the families together for help and guidance in planning and implementing a healthy

and successful program that brings the family into society properly.

These parenting programs involve once a week, 12 week, classes for the parents, and if the child is involved, he or she must be 12-17 years of age.

The Moore Buddie is United Way funded, and the person or family involved must to be referred by either The Department of Juvenile Justice, a Church, or the School System.



Shandra Malloy and Amy Blondin of Moore Buddies

Quilt show coming up!

The Sandhills Quilters Guild in conjunction with the Village of Pinehurst Parks and Recreation will hold its biannual quilt show Quilting in the Pines IV in the restored Fair Barn on Beulah Hill Road (Rt. 5) in Pinehurst, on Friday, September 24 and

Saturday, September 25.

The show will be open both days from 10 am to 5 pm. Adult admission is \$5 with children under 12 admitted free.

In addition to over 180 quilted items, there will be a display of handcrafted char-

acter dolls, quilting demonstrations, a silent auction, a boutique of quilted goods, vendors, raffle baskets, and door prizes.

The purpose of our show is to share the talents of members with those who love quilts and want to preserve the art of quilting. Additional information including pictures can be found at www.sandhillsquilters.org and www.sandhillsquiltshow.org

Alzheimers Support Group

The Seven Lakes Alzheimer's/Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Chapel in the Pines on Seven Lakes Drive. For more information, call 673-5493.



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Plant some color for the cooler months

The last days of August and this far into September have been hot and dry with very little rainfall. The area showers that have occurred were widely scattered and sparse.

According to weather forecasters, 2010 will be one of the hottest Spring and Summer seasons on record, if not the one that breaks the record if temperatures reach ninety degrees another five days during September.

Landscape gardening began a little late during Springtime with abundant rainfall moisture, but became hot and dry during June. July was almost normal with frequent showers and warm to hot weather. Showers in mid-to-late August were few and hot days and nights dominated.

Vegetable gardens produced well for those who planted early. Some of us who planted late had reasonable success, but were plagued with weeds and grasses, insects, diseases, and nematodes on our plants. However, we were able to produce enough remaining food for rabbits, squirrels, birds and deer.

Here are a few suggestions for September gardens:

When signs of Fall appear, we normally think about what we can plant that will be

beautiful during the harvest season and throughout Winter. The perennials are chrysanthemums, hardy phlox, verbenas, and large and small evergreens, vinca and ground covers. Annuals that one can plant in September and October for Fall



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

beauty are pansies – which come in many varieties, colors, and cultivars – flowering cabbage and kale in normal colors of white, pink and red.

The pansy is the most popular Fall and Winter flowering annual. When planted now, in September, they will bloom periodically, survive the Winter, and flower profusely in the Spring, remaining beautiful until hot weather if managed properly.

Chrysanthemums or garden mums are available in many colors and varieties. The begin blooming in last August and normally continue flowering through October, until frost if properly maintained. Mums should be planted in the Fall preferably in a fertile soil medium

to high in organic matter.

Other perennials should be planted in the same soil. I recommend planting most annuals and perennials in Fall because it allows plants to become established and grow larger and better.

When planting your flower garden and bedding plant areas, remember little success can be realized from poor soil preparation. A

well-tilled and pulverized soil or seed bed is the first prerequisite for success. Other factors include proper soil, fertility need-levels, adequate watering, weed and grass control, and controlling other pests as needed.

There are several reasons

for Fall planting – it allows the plant to receive moisture from Fall and Winter rains and other precipitation and also promotes the transplants settling in and beginning new growth in the Spring.

I like to wait until shrubs and trees are fully dormant, when deciduous plants shed their leaves and evergreens go into semi-dormant state, before planting. These events

normally transpire in November and my personal favorite planting time is between Thanksgiving and New Years, anytime the soil isn't frozen.

Winter-producing vegetables that can be planted in September are kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mustard, spinach, onions [sets, plants, or bulbs], radishes, and turnips.

Rummage wanted!

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, October 16, at the Old West End Gym. Doors will open at 8:00 am and the sale will end at 2:00 pm.

Donations will be received

on Thursday, October 14, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm and on Friday, October 15, from 8:30 am to 12:00 Noon.

Anyone wishing to volunteer who has not already been contacted, please call Don Truesdell at 673-1970.

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123 Dennis Cr. **\$72,000**
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West Side

(Continued from page 3)

Because the refusal by USPS to provide boxes for a new mail house made the committee's cost estimates obsolete, the Board decided not to vote on its recommendation, which would have triggered the 60-day period allotted for community input into the decision, which the Board plans to treat as a "material matter."

Instead, President Ron Shepard suggested, they will "let the comments flow over the next few weeks," while the committee works to see whether the USPS refusal can be appealed and, if not, develops new cost estimates.

Incorporation reports

The Westside Board received the first of seven expected interim reports on various aspects of the incorporation question during its September 14 Work Session.

On behalf of the Property Evaluation subcommittee, its chairman, Legal Director Silberhorn, presented what he described as a consensus document aimed at presenting the committee's understanding of the relevant facts, rather than a specific recommendation for or against incorporation.

Any recommendation, he suggested, should come from the Board based on its review of the interim reports produced by his committee and the other committees working on various aspects of the incorporation issue.

The Property Evaluation Subcommittee included Silberhorn, Realtor Shannon Stites, Bud Sales, Don Friert, Kathy Kirst, George Jenner, and Roger Brooke. The committee consulted with outside appraisers, Realtors, and members of the business community.

Focusing on factors that might affect the demand for property and homes in Seven Lakes West, the group quickly found from appraisers that there was no objective way to put a value on the presence of the gates, even though each of the appraisers consulted felt that removing the gates would negatively impact property values. Retaining the gates, however, removes any opportunity of using tax revenues to enhance Westside infrastructure.

Improvements in the business community outside the gates would enhance property values, but may be able to be accomplished in part through the use of a county overlay zone rather than through incorporation. The committee was skeptical of the bare-bones budget proposed by the IncorporateSevenLakes.com group and felt that taxes would likely rise above the minimum required five cents per hundred.

The committee's full report [available at sevenlakes.times.net and wiki.sevenlakestimes.net] also includes an objective numerical ranking of the importance of the various factors that impact property values and whether those factors would be affected positively, negatively, or not at all by incorporating with or without the gates.

The Board discussed at length how it might best present the interim reports to the membership and whether they could or should be modified based on public input before being finalized. Though that discussion led to no firm conclusion, it appeared the reports would be published once the various subcommittees considered them final, and then any feedback would be incorporated in a final, board-authored report consolidating the findings.

Other Business

In other business during

its Tuesday, September 14 meeting, the SLWLA Board:

- Reviewed substantive changes to the rules and regulations that arose from a comprehensive proofreading effort by volunteer Jim Johnson.

- Heard from Infrastructure Director John Goodman that work will begin within the next two weeks on some major road patching which will require the use of flagmen for safety reasons.

- Heard from Community Events Direct Jane Sessler that the events calendar is packed with activities and

classes this fall, among them an Oktoberfest scheduled for the evening on October 16.

- Heard from Community Manager Joan Frost that 102 compliance letters have been sent out since the last work session. Cooperation from those receiving the letters has been good, Frost said.

- Heard from Treasurer Joe Sikes that his Finance Committee is investigating the possibility of refinancing the West Side Park mortgage as well as beginning a study of the feasibility of a dues structure based on property valuations.



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Dam road

(Continued from front page)

the dam remediation completed in the Spring of 2009, has recommended against reopening the road, Kirst explained. In the Final Approval to Impound — the official North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] document approving the repairs to the dam — state engineers stated: "Though we do not consider road closure a requirement for continued operation of this dam, you as the dam owner may wish to consider the design engineer's recommendation in this matter."

"We have a sword hanging over our head right here," Kirst said.

Should the road be opened and the high hazard dam fail, causing property damage and/or loss of life at the twenty-one homes that lie in the flood plain below, "whoever is going to sue us is going to say, 'You were put on notice.' We would be held liable and it would be so overpowering," Kirst said.

"I don't care to stay around here and hold the bag for something like that," he added.

Noting that the committee had explored the idea of pursuing a second opinion from another engineer, Kirst said, "We could likely find another engineer who would say it's okay to build the road. Marks said we could rebuild the road, given enough money."

"But that doesn't absolve us of the liability issue."

In addition to recommending the permanent closure of Longleaf over the dam, the dam committee plans to explore both an alternate route to carry traffic that would have traversed the dam and the possibility of opening a second back gate for those who live on the west side of the dam. A plan is already in the works to allow emergency vehicles to drive across the top of the dam.

The Committee's recommendation to close the road was initially unanimous, but committee member Bob Van Houten later changed his vote, feeling that a second

opinion should be sought.

Other members of the committee include Kirst, Director Mick Herdrich, Bob Fewkes, Mary Anne Fewkes, and Director John Goodman.

Board Discussion

President Shepard's motion to accept the committee's recommendation and close the dam was seconded by Director Goodman, who said he could not in good conscience subject Westside property owners to the potential liability that would be incurred by allowing traffic over the dam. He estimated that the cost of a new road over the dam would exceed \$1 million and said he could never agree to that.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn said he was persuaded by Marks' arguments against reopening the dam and agreed that, no matter how well engineered a road was constructed across the weaker west side of the dam, nothing could erase the potential liability of a failure.

"The liability is never going to go away," Shepard agreed.

Resident Ralph McCormick asked whether the community didn't have the same liability in case of a failure, whether or not the road were reopened. Silberhorn replied that the Association has been proactive in maintaining the dam and had followed the advice of experts in repairing

it, and so does not find itself at as great risk as would be posed by reopening the road against expert advice.

"The liability is too great to do anything other than what is absolutely the safest," another resident opined.

Jim Johnson, a resident and retired engineer, said he had discussed the case with the engineer in charge of dam safety for a major municipal water system, who had agreed to review the relevant data on the Lake Auman dam. He asked the Board to deem the dam road closure a "material matter," in order to allow time for public input on the decision.

Silberhorn, Sikes, and Director Adam Wimberly all

argued in favor of the longer public input period.

"I have no problem declaring it a material matter, because it is," Silberhorn said.

Shepard and Goodman both resisted delay. "I can't imagine anything that would modify the facts that have been brought forward," Goodman said, noting the matter had already been before the public for more than 30 days.

Noting that Shepard's motion called for the permanent closure of the road, Silberhorn said, "You used the word 'permanent.' I would not like this matter to be raised again. I would like some finality; and I think the more procedurally correct

we can make this, the better."

"We have to make the decision, but I would also like to see it put to rest so that it doesn't become an on-going issue for future boards," he added.

Noting that the Board had invoked the "material matters" clause to gather public input on building a new mail house, Director Milligan said she found it "ironic that we wouldn't invoke the same procedure for something as major as the closing of the dam road."

Wimberly suggested, as a compromise, that the Board vote on Shepard's motion during subject to a ratification of that vote during the

(See "Dam," p. 19)

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School board

(Continued from page 9)

“I wish it [policy] could be clean cut, but the weather isn’t very clean cut,” said Purser, noting that the calendar revision was modeled on what other North Carolina counties have already implemented.

Sustainable initiatives

All twenty-four MCS campuses and support areas,

such as the Central Office, are included in a comprehensive energy management program that utilizes automatic controls over HVAC systems and computers and monitors, and the use of energy efficient equipment. Altogether these initiatives save approximately \$300,000 in energy costs each year.

Addressing the Board, Deputy Superintendent Dr.

Larry Upchurch reported that other sustainable initiatives include tweaking the standards for new construction to more effectively use the sun, the use of day lighting, a comprehensive window shading effort, light sensors in new buildings, and a natural approach to landscaping.

Recently, Sustainable Sand-

hills received a Federal stimulus grant through the North Carolina Energy Office that will allow a partnership with Moore County Schools to fund a ‘Green School Intern’ to assist with new and ongoing conservation efforts and planning, including pollution control, environmental education and solid waste reduction.

Over eighty eligible recent college graduates have already applied for the forty-two week paid internship, reported Jon Parsons, Executive Director of Sustainable Sandhills.

Appointed Board Members Kathy Farren, Laura Lang, Charles Lambert, and Pamela Thompson to serve as the delegates at the NCSBA Annual Conference.

Thanked Dr. Larry Upchurch and his staff for their work in building Crain’s Creek Middle and West Pine Elementary, both new schools completed this year under Phase I of the MCS Facilities Master Plan.

Website

(Continued from page 4)

announcement section that will alert visitors to critical and time-sensitive information. Forms and documents can be leisurely read and printed 24/7 thus making it easier to obtain while reducing the burden on office staff. Additional benefits of posting official documents online ensure that everyone has the most current resources and information at their fingertips.

Member registration allows each member to electronically fill out personal data and complete their profiles with their personalized user name and password. This one-time registration process grants access to the restricted portions of the website and enables data management and access to various features. This data can be used to send mass email notifications. This will benefit the community by reduc-

ing costs associated with printing, copying, postage and other administrative costs.

Another new feature of the website will allow management to employ the use of surveys to solicit information. While the design of a website hopes to achieve certain goals, it is important to evaluate whether a site is performing its goals as intended. Responses from users utilizing the contact or survey features provide a way to obtain visitor feed-

back. The contact us page provides the mechanism to communicate questions, concerns or comments. Occasionally, surveys will be offered providing a more generic way to express opinions.

The redesigned website was initiated to better meet the needs of our current and prospective members. It is hoped that the structure, design, simplified navigation and enhanced functionality make visiting this site interesting and informative.

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Dam

(Continued from page 18)

September 28 evening meeting, after taking input from the public.

The Board then voted six-to-two to accept the dam committee’s recommendation, including the supporting Powerpoint presentation [which is available at sevenlaketimes.net], and permanently close Longleaf Drive across Lake Auman dam, subject to a ratification vote on September 28.

For more on the Tuesday, September 14 SLWLA Work Session, see page 3.



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McDonald's Chapel Music Circle

Blending both old and new bluegrass-style music, the Acoustic Music Circle meets monthly at McDonald's Chapel near Foxfire. Both musicians and music-lovers are welcomed.

A core group of musicians are members of the circle, including David McDonald of the April Fool's; David and Jill McCloy, and Sharon McDonald. Instruments include guitars, banjos, a gallon jug, spoons, and a hammered dulcimer.

The Acoustic Music Circle next meets on Sunday, September 19, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, in the fellowship hall at McDonald's Chapel on Foxfire Road. For more information, call Jayne Cummings at 295-5220.

Prancing

(Continued from page 5)
McLendon Hills.

Piscopo invited any resident horse or boarder for consideration into the program. Basic requirements include a calm temperament, and the ability to walk, trot and stop on command. Volunteers are also needed. Currently, seven horses have been certified and fourteen volunteers trained to make sure the new satellite program runs smoothly.

For more information, visit www.narha.org and www.prancinghorsecenter.org

The 2010 Horse Farm Tour will be held Sunday, October 17. An annual fundraising event for Prancing Horse, the self-guided tour visits six beautiful barns and homes and includes jumping, dressage, polocrosse, and carriage driving demonstrations. Advance tickets are \$20 [\$25 day of event] and children under twelve are free. To order tickets, call 246-3202 or send check to: Prancing Horse, Inc. Box 327, Southern Pines, NC 28388



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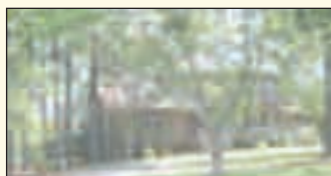
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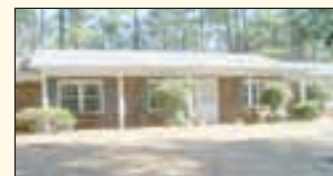
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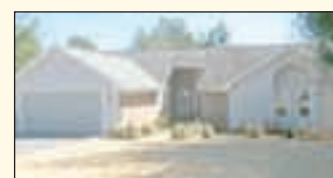
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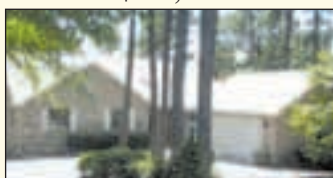
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

• **POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony** – 6 pm, hosted by Chapter 966 Vietnam Veterans of America. Union Pines High School Navy ROTC Color Guard will present the colors. A short ceremony including the POW/MIA table setting, reading of reflections, the reading of names of NC POW/MIA, with the laying of a wreath. All veteran service organizations and the public are invited to attend. Ceremony held at Moore County Veterans Memorial Park, Carthage.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

• **Seven Lakes Chapel Fundraiser** – 7 am to 10 am, a fund raising pancake breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant. Located on Sandhills Boulevard, Route 1, Aberdeen. The breakfast is to raise funds for a future building project for the Seven Lakes Chapel Community. Applebee's Restaurant will be serving short stacks of pancakes for a tall cause. For tickets or information 672-2118. Tickets are \$7 each.

• **Moore County Kennel Club Show** – holding their annual All Breed and Obedience Show & Sunday, September 19 at the Harness Track, Pinehurst. Show begins each day at 8:30 am and Best In Show is around 3:00 pm. 750 to 800 dogs at the show. Fee of \$5 per car, no individual fees. Microchip Clinic held daily, 11 am - 3 pm. Rabies Clinic on Saturday only, 11 am - 1 pm. Many other attractions at the show and vendors on hand with products. Questions, call Show Chair Janet Dalton 692-9341.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

• **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – Holy Eucharist 9:30 am. The Rev. Fred Thompson, Priest Associate. Pentecost 17, Proper 20. Gospel Luke 16.1-13. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.

• **Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church Celebrates 156th Homecoming** – 11 am, Dr. Vernon

Tyson will lead the Homecoming Celebration. Marcus Chanel Choir will provide special music. Dinner on the grounds picnic will follow the morning worship service. Everyone should bring their favorite picnic covered dish to share. Myron and Barbara Dice serve as Co-Pastors of the Sandhills Circuit.

• **Birds, blooms, and butterflies** – 3

pm, September at Weymouth Woods means lots of blazing stars, blue chaff seeds, asters, goldenrod, and many other fall wild flowers. Join the ranger to take a closer look, not only at the flowers, but also at the creatures who visit them. Bring binoculars and bug-spray for hike. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167, weymouth.woods@ncdenr.go

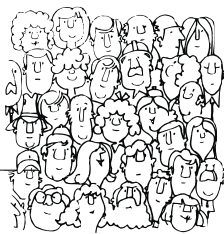
• **The Rooster's Wife** – Sundays at Six music series. This week's featured artist is Cliff Eberhardt. Admission Charge. Poplar Knight

Spot, 114 Knight Street, Aberdeen, doors at 6 pm. 910-944-7502.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

• **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

What's When Calendar



• **Shag dance and line dance lessons** – at

Seven Lakes West Side Community Center. No charge. Lessons will start at 6:15 pm for beginners, 7:00 pm for those with any shag dance experience and at 7:45 pm, new steps and review. For more shag and line dance information contact Paul at 673-8180.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• **Healing Service** – 11 am, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Intercessory Prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.



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• **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, the League kicks off with Commissioner Tim Lea to discuss "Future Issues Facing the Commissioners: 2010 and Beyond." Meeting at Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. Cost: \$12. Reservations required. Call Charlotte Gallagher, 944-9611.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• **Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Day at Sandhills Community College** – 9 am – 4 pm. On the grounds near Dempsey Student Center. Event is open to public. Law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical agencies from Moore and surrounding counties available to talk to the public, various demonstrations and information regarding gangs, drug and DWI awareness. DWI Simulators, Police K-9, Demonstrations, Ambulances, Fire Trucks, and a mock Helicopter Evacuation.

• **Moore County Chamber of Commerce** – 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, hosting the Community and Military Series event at the National Golf Club. Presenter will be Col. Johnson, Commander of Pope Air Force Base. Col. Johnson will speak about the changes at Pope Air Force Base. Luncheon fee \$25 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. Register at www.moore-countychamber.com or call (910) 692-3926, or e-mail info@moorecountychamber.com. Program held at National Golf Club, One Royal Troon Dr., Pinehurst.

• **Seven Lakes Forum** – 4 pm, Forum will focus on Living a Healthy Life at All Ages. A series of four related sessions coordinated by Trey Waters of Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe. Today, Waters will speak on Healthy Eating, Healthy Life. In the Great Room of the Westside Park Community Center. Forum open to Seven Lakes residents and guest.



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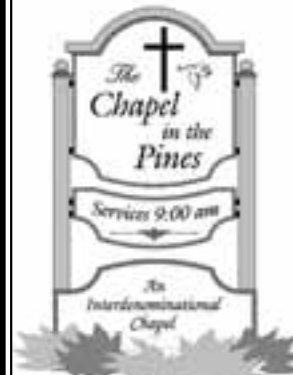
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**September 19th
Jessica Traversino, Flute**

**September 26th
Glenda Clendenin, Soloist**

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- **LA Cabinets Ribbon Cutting and Open House** – 4:30 pm -until, 1125B Seven Lakes Dr. Come out to celebrate LA Cabinets newly remodeled showroom. Meet local artisans, builders and home owners while enjoying light hors d'oeuvres, wine and music. Register to win fabulous door prizes.
- **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, SEPTEMBER 24

- **Sandhills Quilters Guild** – hosting Quilting in the Pines IV. 10 am to 5 pm, at the Pinehurst Farm Barn, NC Highway 5, Pinehurst. Admission is \$5 per person.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **Moore County Humane Society Fall Tag Sale** – lots of gently used items, Moore Humane Society merchandise, a bake sale, drinks and more. Arts & crafts table for kids, adoptable dogs and cats on site, face painting and music. At First Casualty Insurance Group, 190-A Turner Street, Southern Pines (next to the Goodwill Store). If you have items you would like to donate, please drop

them off at the FCIG office, 190-A Turner Street in Southern Pines no later than Thursday, September 23. www.moorehumane.org.

- **Sandhills Quilters Guild** – hosting Quilting in the Pines IV. 10 am to 5 pm, at the Pinehurst Farm Barn, NC Highway 5, Pinehurst. Admission is \$5 per person.
- **Bensalem Presbyterian Church** – 10 am - 3 pm, holding its annual Ingathering. Raffles, music, crafts, home-cooked food, auctions, and games for kids! Plenty of fun for all ages. Everyone is welcome. Information, 673-1982.
- **Kool Kids Parent Date Night** - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Recreational play for kids grades K-5th. Go on a date with your sweetie, start Christmas shopping, or just relax at home. Cost for 3 hour evening is \$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes,.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – Holy Eucharist 9:30 am, The Rev. Fred Thompson, Associate Priest. Pentecost 18 Proper 21. Gospel Luke 16: 19-31. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are

Welcome.

- **Belford Baptist Church Ushers Anniversary** – 3 pm. Guest speaker will be Pastor David Wooley of McAuley Memorial Church, Mt. Gilead. Everyone is welcome. At 925 Windblow Rd, Jackson Springs.
- **Sandhill Squirrels - Nature's Nutcrackers** – 3 pm, Flying, fox, and gray squirrels are all found in the Sandhills. Program will focus on the adaptations and life histories of these rodents. Meet in the auditorium for a short slide talk, and then a short half-mile hike to look for fox squirrels. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 692-2167.
- **Interfaith Community Worship Service for NAMI** – 4 pm, to increase public awareness of brain disorders and help eradicate the stigma associated with these illnesses, National Association of Mental Illness Moore County is offering an interfaith worship service to the community. Guest speaker is Suzanne G. Martin, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Dr. Martin will bring a message of hope and resilience. Congregational Church of Pinehurst, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst. 910-673-5493 or visit namimoore-county.org

- **The Rooster's Wife** – Sundays at Six music series. This week's featured artist is the Honey Dewdrops. Admission Charge. Poplar Knight Spot, 114 Knight Street, Aberdeen, doors at 6 pm. 910-944-7502.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Intercessory Prayers for the sick or troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. All are Welcome.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society** – 5:30 pm, along with the Sandhills Community College Culinary, Landscape Gardening, Music and Art departments hosting a Fall Harvest Progressive Dinner in the Gardens. Part of the proceeds will fund these programs. Enjoy good food, music and art in the beautiful Sandhills Horticultural gardens. \$55/person for Horticultural Society member and \$60/person for non-members. Reservations call Tricia Mabe at 695-3882.
- **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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

- **"Meet the Merchants"** – 11 am to 3 pm. Come meet your local merchants, businesses, & civic organizations from Seven Lakes. Booths free to Guild members, just \$25 for non members. Free food furnished by Phoenix Fashions, Seven Lakes Friendly Mart & Quality Care Pharmacy.

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The first two lives of Licorice . . .

My cat has a secret.

Well, he's probably harboring more than just one, but this was a real surprise.

He's been shot!

There is an actual chunk of metal fragment concealed deep under that glossy black fur and supple feline muscle.

I had no idea.

And I would still have no idea if he hadn't collided with a solid object of indeterminate size and source.

Blunt force trauma was the diagnosis, but it was the vet's x-ray that finally revealed Licorice's secret steel stash.

Thankfully cats are quick to heal and come with plenty of spare lives. Strike two for

Licorice . . . or perhaps six or seven? Only he knows and he's not talking.

A gorgeous deep shadow of perfection, our hero snuck onto my doorstep a few years back and . . . well, you know my story.

Unlike Noah, I seem to attract animals one-by-one. Like heat-seeking missiles, they find their way to my place.

Fix 'em, feed 'em, and find 'em a home is my motto—though I usually eek out a low C-average grade on that last part.

As for Licorice? Him, I kept for myself.

Calm, free-spirited and

loyal, he's actually more dog-like than any typical cat. In fact, now that I think about it: my sunbathing, lazybones dog is more Garfield than Snoopy. Strange things are



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

afoot or rather 'apaw' in my domain.

Back home from the doctor's office and not satisfied with silver-plated photo-

graphic proof, my nine-year-old son decided to launch his own investigation.

Beep, beep, beeeep!

Using last year's Christmas gift, an annoying beach-style metal detector that trips on scraps of garbage but never coins, Jack was unable to locate the pellet.

Not that this is a bad thing.

Let's just say Licorice didn't wait around for a second pass of the electronic wand.

Scrambling for the door,

he first stretched and then casually crossed the threshold on his three good legs.

I want to stop him. I want to protect him. I want him to sit at my feet and keep me company, but, shrilly and repeatedly, he makes his demand known.

I force myself to take a deep breathe, step aside, and let him pass.

If he can keep a secret, so can I.

His surgery is scheduled for first thing in the morning . . . shh.

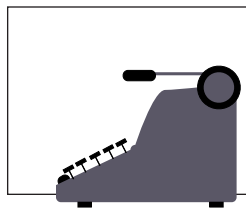
I won't tell him if you don't.

Real Estate 101: What drives property value?

Almost everyone thinks or asks at one time or another, "What is my property worth?" The real question should be "What is it that gives real estate value?" And, more to the point, "What affects property values in Seven Lakes?"

The simple answer is that real estate values here, or anywhere else, are a classic example of supply and demand. When there are more sellers than buyers, prices tend downward over the long term. Conversely,

when there are more buyers than sellers, the opposite occurs. That's simple enough but how and why this ratio fluctuates



Your Turn

Bud Sales
SLCC Member
Seven Lakes West

can be fairly complicated. Demand is influenced by many factors. Most factors

are local, but some are regional and some are national in scope. Whatever effects demand, effects value.

There are several axioms in the real estate business and most have a basis in fact.

Axiom #1:

The three most important factors in real estate value are location, location and location.

We know that when more people want to live in a place than that place has available homes, prices rise. (Supply and Demand) We can't change where we are located. Seven Lakes is near, but not part of, the "Golf Mecca of the US." Properties in Pinehurst are higher priced than like properties in Seven Lakes. For example: Recent listings of golf front homes with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths show: Beacon Ridge: \$299,900; Pinewild: \$394,900 and National: \$469,000. Obviously, there are probably differences in interior finishes, design and possibly lot size. But, it's location that adds value. Of course, when the expansion of Route 211 is completed (assuming it is in our lifetimes) we'll be a bit closer. The key here is buyer perception of value which affects the demand side. We can't change our location, but we can make Seven Lakes more attractive to those coming into the area.

Axiom #2: "Perception is fact." In other words, all things being essentially equal,

if the buyer perceives that a property at National or Pinewild is of more value than in Seven Lakes, it becomes a fact. And to a great extent, at least in a fairly limited area like Moore County, perception is based on marketing. While marketing creates value, it also creates opportunity since other communities can also utilize marketing. Currently, Seven Lakes isn't considered among the top tier communities in and around Pinehurst. This feeling affects demand, and yet, when you list the amenities available in our community against amenities available elsewhere we rank near the top of the list. We may be the best kept secret in Moore County. It hurts demand.

Axiom #3. "You have to sell the community before you can sell the home." Few folks lay out six or seven figure checks when they aren't sold on the community. Seven Lakes has more amenities than any of the competition. We all have golf courses (See "Real estate," p. 27)

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Vision should be focus of incorporation debate

The discussion on incorporation should be about vision.

What is your vision for Seven Lakes? We can start by making some assumptions. The first assumption is fairly clear. Things will not stay the same. We might like the status quo, but Seven Lakes will change. In the 12 years I have been here, things have changed. The community has gotten younger and houses have gotten larger.

In Seven Lakes West, people with vision built a community center that included a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a playground. In the Business District, a couple with vision and imagination opened a wine shop, and now on Thursday nights it's the "in" place to be. Bob and Leslie Rose won the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award, beating out people in Pinehurst and Southern Pines. Wouldn't it be nice to have more shops like that? Just one problem — if you are an entrepreneur looking to start a new business, do you want to have to pave your own streets?

Seven Lakes is made up of several developments and each has its own personality. Seven Lakes North was developed first and has amenities which they own.

They have the original "seven lakes," the stable and their community center. They don't have the Seven Lakes Country Club. That's on the South Side.

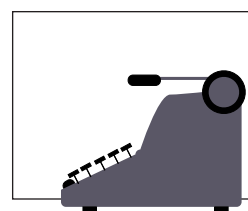
The South Side has its own personality and amenities, but it's closely connected to the North Side.

When the West Side developed, it had a different set of amenities, including Lake Auman, Beacon Ridge Country Club, Johnson's Point and recently, West Side Park. Eventually McLendon Hills developed to meet the needs of horse-people, and McLendon Hills became a close neighbor.

With our four gated communities and our small business district, we could make the assumption that we can continue to live just as we have been living, but that's not the vision I see for Seven Lakes and I don't think it's even realistic. We will either move forward or we will drift backwards, but we won't stay the same.

Having been part of the larger Moore County system, serving on the Commission on Aging, and attending Commissioners meetings, it has been apparent to me for a long time that Seven Lakes does not exist outside our own gates. Yes, the Com-

missioners are meeting with us twice a year, but we really are not a village or town with the same recognition that real towns have. We are just a part of the County. Frankly, that's not



Your Turn

Mary Price
Seven Lakes West

good enough.

We can assume that it will be a few years before someone else incorporates us, but it will happen. The tax revenue from one billion dollars in assessed value won't be unattractive to our neighboring towns forever.

My vision of our community is one of integrated diversity. We don't have to all be one big happy family, but we do have to work together on the big issues that confront us. We do need more than a community council that has no power to make decisions. We do need a business district that makes a good first impression on newcomers

thinking about Seven Lakes as a place to live.

I have a vision of more shops like The Sandhills Winery. I'd like to see more fine restaurants, shops and small businesses choosing to come to Seven Lakes. I don't mean to diminish the businesses we already have.

I love to shop at Phoenix Fashions. I enjoy sharing the Italian Table with the folks from Pinehurst and appreciate our other good restaurants. I admire the fact that we have our own newspaper with an editor who covers our news fairly and in great detail.

We have a lot to be proud of, but all these businesses

need our support and our vision for an even brighter future.

We need to think seriously about incorporation and have the vision to step outside our gates, join hands and start talking about the best way to move forward. Incorporation needs to happen. If it doesn't happen now, it needs to happen soon. We need to work together in a positive way to become a people of vision and plan for a future that puts Seven Lakes not only on the map, but at the top of the list when people talk about where they want to live.

Seven Lakes has always been the best kept secret in Moore County. We aren't a secret anymore. Let's try to make our story a positive one.

The secret is out.



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Let's figure out how to open the dam road

A Letter to the Board of Directors of 7 Lakes West:

Why does 7 Lakes West Board of Directors continue to oppose the majority of residents by keeping the dam road closed?

It's very evident residents want access over the dam, the fire department wants access over the dam, EMS wants access over the dam, and I believe the county police would benefit from access over the dam.

With so many people and judicatories demanding access, the Board of Directors continues to keep their proverbial heads in the sand by presenting one obstacle after another and thus refusing to work together to find a solution to open the road to

thru traffic.

The board says a portion of the dam is unstable. The board says we can't afford to maintain a dam road. The board says traffic will impact load the dam. These objections are sounding like a carnival shoot. Now the Board says the "real problem" is that a western portion of the dam core is unstable.

Hey, wait a minute, didn't we just pay over a half million dollars to fix the dam core? Something sure smells fishy at the lake dam.

Other than "tow the company line," I've never heard the Board offer a single alternative or solution to keeping the road open other than close the dam road. How can such a narrow-minded Board

serve a constituent community?

I'm sure we'll endure considerable expense to maintain the dam road should it be opened to thru traffic. In quick passing, I can identify one source of revenue without raising landowner fees: eliminate construction of a new mail house. I've never seen all the parking slots filled at the current mail house. This eliminates spending \$365,000.

In fact, I see nothing wrong with eliminating the mail house and referring residents to the West End USPS. Why not move the current gate facility into the existing mail house? Even better, eliminate the gates altogether. From my experience, our

gates can't even keep out unwanted vendors and solicitors, let alone the bad guys

As I read about a new guard facility, mail house construction, and other capital projects taking revenue away from maintaining the dam road, I can't help but think our board's been infected with "Pinewild Envy" a disease of keeping up with the neighbors.

In closing, do the right thing. Serve put your collec-

tives heads together and figure out how to get the dam road open.

If you can't figure it out and the road continues to be closed to thru traffic, how much of our landowner fees will be reduced to compensate us for our loss of infrastructure amenity? I believe that is the Board's current phrasing for landowner fee justification.

Tom Wittel
Seven Lakes West

Take this plan & shelve it

Dear Editor:

The presentation in support of building a new mail house in Seven Lakes West assumed a clear and present danger that doesn't exist.

The existing mail house ain't broke and does not need fixing right now. Actually, it's recently been made quite attractive by the diligent effort of a number of volunteers, and judging by the availability of parking is quite functionally adequate. Land owners were blessed this year with a dues increase driven by the dam repair and are not anxious for another increase needed to implement the proposed plan.

About 56% of available lots in Seven Lakes West are built upon according to figures from the SLWLA office. Supporters of this "field of dreams" should back off and do a thorough needs-assessment including a projected future time at which demand will outstrip mailbox availability.

Right now the demand appears nonexistent. Perhaps, it's something to do with the economy. Furthermore, it would be nice if the as yet imaginary new homeowners were given the oppor-

tunity to help pay for the beautiful new mail house.

Until this unnoticed elephant in the room is

addressed, please take this plan and shelve it.

Bruce Macdonald
Seven Lakes West



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Sandhills Animal Rescue League says 'Thanks'

Dear Editor:

Sandhills Animal Rescue League would like to Thank the following people for their donations to help homeless pets until they can be adopted and given a good "forever home."

Pete and Rita Pena – in memory of Garcia

Jim & Ellie Kilpatrick – in memory of Malcolm

Donna Rouse – in memory of "Little One"

Alice Foster – a monthly contribution

Paige Walters – in honor of

"Hooch"

Yvonne Simpson

Patricia and Bill Obringer

Art & Flo Berkoski – in memory of Mimi (Whisper)

Anyone who would like send a donation in honor or memory of a beloved pet or

person, can send a tax deductible contribution to: Sandhills Animal Rescue League, 396 Thomas Road,

Jackson Springs, NC 27281.

Lou Atkins
Sandhills Animal
Rescue League

Real estate

(Continued from page 24)

es and golf club houses, of course, but most of the communities aren't gated, many don't have community centers and community pools and tennis courts and none have the variety of lakes we can offer. So what is the difference? Potential buyers head to locations they have heard about. That's Pinehurst. They deal with real estate people (in greater Moore County) who don't know much about Seven Lakes, so those folks just don't "sell" Seven Lakes. This means, with the limited number of potential buyers in today's market place, many never even get to consider Seven Lakes. This decreases demand.

Axiom #4: "You don't get a second chance to make a first impression." The first thing a developer does, before there is a shovel in the ground, is to market the community. Then they construct an impressive main entrance. That first impression is just as important for a community as it is for an individual property. Just as you would "dress up" or "stage" a home you want to sell, a community needs staging. There are a dozen or so residential communities in this area with four or five more planned for the future. These are Seven Lakes' competitors. If there are fewer potential buyers making their way out to Seven Lakes, it is important that when they do arrive they are impressed enough to take a fair look at what we have to offer. Size sells...and increases demand.

Axiom #5: Finally, "If you stand still, you fall behind." Good maintenance practices, as well as keeping up with changing times, are both critical in maintaining property values whether in your community or in your home. A dated house can not maintain its value any more than a dated community can. Buyers are looking for up to date infrastructure, services and amenities. If a community looks old and tired, if the maintenance practices are not up to date, it will not be competitive with other communities in the area. Demand will suffer and property values will decline.

There has been a lot of discussion about whether this

or that future event will improve or decrease property values in Seven Lakes. When you are considering this, think about location, perception (marketing), the first impression and competitiveness. Will "whatever it is" improve the demand side of the equation or will it hurt it? Will more, or fewer, potential buyers be motivated to look in Seven Lakes? Each of us has a considerable investment riding on the answer.

(Ed. Note: Sales was a licensed Real Estate Appraiser and Broker for over 25 years with a degree in Real Estate Law.)

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The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club meets at 10:00 am, the first Saturday of the month, at the Club's meeting house located at 3280 Jackson Springs Road in Jackson Springs. The SPBC is open to anyone interested in the pointing dog breeds. Dog ownership is not required. Call Donna Boyce at dboyce@nc.rr.com or 246-0190.

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Who among us doesn't love sweets? The sweet flavor releases serotonin in our brains, the chemical responsible for our sense of well-being and contentment. But when it comes to sweeteners, not all are created equal.

There are side effects and health risks from refined sweeteners like white table sugar and high-fructose corn syrup, and from artificial sweeteners like NutraSweet, saccharin and Splenda. Because they have been stripped of vitamins, minerals and fiber, refined sweeteners can spike blood sugar, which can often lead to cravings and mood and energy fluctuations.

Instead, using naturally and minimally processed sweeteners can reduce cravings for sugary things, level blood sugar ups and downs, stabilize moods and have a dramatically positive effect on long-term health.

Here are a few natural sweeteners to substitute in drinks, food and baking. Since they are all approximately 1.5 times sweeter than refined sugar, you can use less. You can find them in most supermarkets or natural food stores. When replacing sugar with liquid sweeteners in a recipe, reduce the amounts of other liquids.

Raw Honey

Everyone seems to love honey, one of the oldest natural sweeteners

on the market. Honey will have a different flavor depending on the plant source. Some are very dark and intensely flavored. Wherever possible, choose raw honey, as it is unrefined and contains small amounts of enzymes, minerals and vitamins.

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Agave is made through the extraction and purification of the juice of the agave cactus. It does not stimulate insulin secretion as other sugars do, so it does not create a "sugar rush." It has a delightfully light and mild flavor.

Maple Syrup

Maple syrup is the concentrated extract of the sap of maple trees. It adds a rich, deep flavor to foods and drinks. Make sure to look for 100% pure maple syrup, not maple-flavored corn syrup. As with all sweeteners, organic varieties are best.

*Adapted from
The Cane Mutiny, New Age
Magazine, March/April 1999*



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Let's show West End some respect

Dear Editor:

While I am pleased to read that the County Commissioners are listening to Seven Lakes, I am sad to read that some residents took this meeting as an opportunity to criticize our neighbors in West End for an "unauthorized flea market" at the intersection of NC 211 and NC 73.

One resident describes the area as "trashy," according to *The Pilot*. *The Seven Lakes Times* reports that the Seven Lakes Council asked the County Commissioners "what could be done" about the area. Obviously, a lengthy discussion followed, as a *Pilot* editorial stated that "too much time was spent discussing" this "unauthorized flea market." "Further," this editorial concludes, "the discussion might have been more profitable had it been directed at legitimate zoning issues within the development."

Where one resident sees "trashy," I see a place where hardworking people are trying to make a living in a terrible economy.

While many residents want something "done" (Translation: We do not want to see these people and their wares as we pass by on our way to our gated communities.), I see our neighbors who deserve to be treated with respect. What I fail to see is how this "flea market" is the business of anyone living in Seven Lakes and why some residents are attacking it with such venom, as if it were a personal affront to them.

Is this the image we desire for Seven Lakes: that of a group of elite and small-minded people? As a native of Moore County and a resident of Seven Lakes West, I pray that this is not the case.

Pamela A. Martin
Seven Lakes West

Planning for all your years ahead ... But are you sure you have all the facts?

There's a lot of information out there about retirement living, and it can get confusing. So our members would like to have a word with you about your plans for the future and encourage you to more intentionally explore The Village at Brookwood. They know you have questions, and they have the answers.

Q Aren't retirement communities too expensive?

A The Village at Brookwood is one of the best-valued LifeCare communities in North Carolina. The fact is, you may have a disproportionate amount of equity dollars tied up in your current house, which only provides shelter. And your house will never provide a clubhouse, restaurants, tavern, fitness center, indoor pool and the valuable access to the health care services you may need in the future that a LifeCare village provides.

"On my plan, most of the entry fee for The Village is returned to my estate. Plus, I've eliminated such expenses as property tax, lawn service, home repairs and utilities, while gaining services such as housecleaning, dining, fitness center and pool, entertainment and more. Long-term care is built in to my membership and provides significant tax advantages. So I'm actually ahead financially!"

- Lowell, member since 2003



Q All retirement communities are the same, aren't they?

A All retirement communities are different. The Village at Brookwood is one of only 10 LifeCare communities in North Carolina offering resident members a full complement of health care services built in to each membership.

"I decided early on that I wanted everything under one roof in the Village Landing – even though I could have chosen one of the single-family Garden Homes. Retirement communities that offer both are not so easy to come by. We found everything we needed here at The Village."

- Martha, member since 2009



For more questions about retirement living answered by our members, visit our web site:

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You're Invited

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The VILLAGE

AT BROOKWOOD

Tea time for the Women of Seven Lakes

A jolt of caffeine and fun kicked off the Women of Seven Lakes new season with a special presentation by Marian Caso of Lady Bed-

ford's Tea Parlour in Pinehurst on Thursday, September 9.

A native plant of China, tea means "peace," and there

are four major types, explained Caso; white tea, green tea, black tea, and oolong tea. Versatile, inexpensive, and compatible with many flavors, tea is second only to water as the most consumed beverage worldwide.

Caso offered an interesting overview of both the history and traditions of tea, including information on the many health benefits derived from drinking tea regularly.

WSL President Lois Ann Eisel thanked Southern Grace Flowers and Gifts for providing the monthly door

prize, a most appropriate and beautiful teapot, won by Northsider Angie Haan.

The Women of Seven Lakes meet the first Thursday of each month; visitors and guests are welcome. Monthly benevolence is offered to the West End UMC Food Bank.

Upcoming WSL Events

• **Thursday, October 7** - Mike Ventola, Sandhills Community College professor and coordinator of the golf course and turf management program, will discuss the history of golf

and course design in Pinehurst. All are welcome.

• **Thursday, November 4** - Fall Fashion Show & Luncheon featuring men's and women's fashions by Belk's. Tickets are \$20, call Rosemary Weber at 400-3024.

• **Sunday, November 14** - Benefit Bingo to support the Seven Lakes EMS Ambulance Fund. Co-sponsored with the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club, prizes will be Pampered Chef products with lunch and delicious refreshments included, call Joan Matula at 673-3464.



Y2K savvy — Lions got the scoop on Y2K readiness from First Savings Bank's Kim Bailey, shown with Howie Pierce.

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LOCAL OWNERS, RANDY & RHONDA MERRITT

County

(Continued from page 8)

Moore County itself, however, has only recently begun to participate in the task force, an ad hoc group facilitated by the Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

"We've just now returned back to the Water Summit table," Commissioner Picerino said. "I would recommend that the board pass on signing any resolution until we have more understanding of what the the Task Force's end goals are."

County Attorney Misty Leland had reviewed the resolution at the Board's request and advised them that "you are really just agreeing to an exploration, but everything [in the resolution] up to that point states a lot of intent."

The draft resolution does in fact note in its "whereas" clauses that "no single governmental body . . . has the goal or power to address future water needs of the county as a whole," and "the legal formation of a regional water and sewer authority . . . can have the power, license, and ability to address general and specific needs for the county's water future."

Leland said the intent expressed in a resolution can be very important because future boards and county staff will look at the "whereas" clauses to see what the current board was trying to accomplish in approving a resolution.

The Board of Commissioners several years ago disbanded the regional water and sewer authority MOWASA, which had been formed to manage the water systems in Pinehurst, Seven Lakes, and other areas now managed directly by the county.

County Manager Cary McSwain questioned whether it would ever be appropriate to turn the \$80 million in county assets represented by its water and sewer system over to another entity. He said the county had "put in the lion's share" to fund the McGill Study of the county's water needs.

"There has much been made of problems in the

water system and of shortages that really don't exist," McSwain said.

The Board decided unanimously not to approve the resolution.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, September 7 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Congratulated the Finance Department on receiving an Award of Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association for the twenty-second year in a row.

- Declared September Citizen's Voter Registration Awareness Month in Moore County.

- Heard a presentation by Planning Director Joey Raczkowski on an update of the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, which is getting underway in cooperation with the NC Department of Transportation. Commissioner Melton said the plan will be important to the future of the county and noted that the process will involve many opportunities for citizen participation and input.

- Approved a \$1 million reduction in the assessed value of the Sandhills Value

Inn on Route 1 in Southern Pines because thirteen of the Inn's 50 rooms are out of service and in the process of being converted to office and retail space.

- Scheduled a special meeting of 9:00 am on Thursday, September 16 to consider resolutions necessary to move forward on obtaining federal funds to support Phase 3 of the East Moore Water District.

- Tabled the acceptance of Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] funding for the Moore County Airport. The grant program requires a \$16,667 local match in each of three years to obtain a total of \$450,000 in FAA funding, and the county has already met that requirement in the past two years. However, Commissioner Lea expressed concern about the size of the Airport Authority's approximately \$900,000 fund balance, and Commissioner Melton moved to table the request to allow more time for the Board to study the issue.

- Accepted a deed for six acres from Marion Precision Tools, due to an alleged breach by the company of an economic development contract with the county.

- Approved a \$9,500 settlement of a lawsuit involving Silkworm Properties, Inc.

- Approved the purchase of a new drill by the Soil and Water District.

- Amended a contract with McGill Environmental Systems to increase payments by \$5,000 because of higher than expected production of composted bio-solids at the Addor Water Pollution Control Plant.

- Approved a lease agreement with the NC Department of Corrections to satisfy new a General Statute that requires the county to provide space for probation offices.

- Approved a map of the insurance district for the newly-created Cypress Point Fire and Rescue.

- Authorized a rewrite of the Board of Adjustment By-Laws to bring them into line with NC General Statutes.

- Changed the composi-

tion of the Subdivision Review Board to include one member from Planning and another from the GIS Department. Formerly, GIS was part of Planning.

- Awarded a \$275,000 contract to Sanford Contractors for the repair of a culverts in the Riverbend Community, washed out two years ago by Hurricane Hannah. Planning Director Raczkowski explained that the cost would be covered by a state grant with no local match needed.

- Approved and called a public hearing for September 20 on a grant application for \$500,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds to be used in the county's housing rehabilitation program. Raczkowski explained that these federal

(See "County," p. 31)

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Jail

(Continued from page 7)
the inmates."

Harnett County places an officer in the "day room" of each housing unit. The Moore County design instead places a single supervising officer in a separate control room from which he or she can observe activity in four housing units at once. According to Larking's analysis, that makes a big difference in the cost of operating the jail.

Harnett County's detention center has 300 beds and requires 54 full time officers to operate. Moore County's

new facility will include 192 beds and require 34 full time employees to operate, Larking said. Harnett County added 28 full time officers when the new jail opened; Moore County expects to need no additional personnel.

That personnel difference results in a significant difference in operational cost,

Larking said, with Harnett County spending \$4.2 million annually to man its detention center, while Moore County expects an annual budget of just under \$3 million.

Later in the meeting, in an exchange between Larking and Chairman Tim Lea, they discussed that Harnett County's facility houses and aver-

age of 150 local inmates per day. They have, in addition, allocated a portion of their detention center for the housing of federal inmates, for which they receive \$65 per inmate per day.

More support facilities

"The high per bed cost is a direct result of having nec-

essary support space for future expansion," Sheriff Carter told the Commissioners. He said members of the Major Capital Projects Task Force, talking with the officers actually operating a number of newer facilities, heard that the support space in those detention centers (See "Jail," p. 32)

County

(Continued from page 30)

stimulus dollars had originally been awarded to some of the state's larger communities, who failed to use them. They were recaptured by the state and are being made available to other communities.

- Approved two loan modification agreements for additional repairs to two homes under the county's housing rehabilitation program, and approved contracts for the rehabilitation of two other homes. Raczkowski noted that the county's housing rehab programs carefully screens applicants before asking the Board to approve repairs to their homes.

- Requested renewal of an \$83,000 housing rehabilitation grant from the USDA Rural Economic Development Center, which was on hold until the county could win other grant funds to match it.

- Dissolved the county's Government Efficiency Advisory Board [GEAB], on the recommendation of its lone surviving member, Dick Westcott, who noted in a letter to the Board that the GEAB, since its inception in 2008, had addressed a variety of issues including water and sewer rates, fiscal policy, and the county's Group Health Plan.

- Moved its Monday, October 4 meeting to Tuesday, October 5, at the request of Commissioner Picerno.



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Jail

(Continued from page 31)
was inadequate.

Both the Harnett County and Moore County facilities are designed with core facilities -- kitchen, laundry, medical, visitation, etc. -- that are supposed to be adequate to allow for future expansion of the detention center to house up to 500 inmates. But the support area of the proposed Moore County jail is roughly double the size of the Harnett County jail: 35,700 square feet, versus 17,300 square feet.

That additional space again appears to reflect differing operational strategies -- for example, in the medical unit, which takes up 1,900 square feet in Harnett County but will take up 3,500 square feet in Moore County. The Harnett County facility includes exam rooms but no infirmary in which sick inmates can be housed. The proposed Moore County Jail includes an infirmary with two isolation cells -- the goal being to reduce the cost associated with sending inmates to the hospital.

The proposed Moore County jail has twice as much space devoted to booking; a laundry five times as large, a magistrate's office four times as large, and video visitation facilities and a jail administration area that take up three times the square footage when compared to the Harnett County detention center.

The new Moore County jail will be connected to the existing detention center, providing an additional 68 beds, though those beds are not

expected to be needed for another 8-10 years. When they are needed, an additional five full time personnel will be needed to bring them into service. Larking said this will save \$3.5 million to \$4 million compared to the cost of building a similar-sized expansion onto the new jail.

Carter began his presentation by saying that Sheriff James Wise in 1995 asked the Board of Commissioners for a 175-bed addition to the Moore County Jail. He instead got 64 beds. "Had we listened to the wise sheriff," Carter added, "we wouldn't be here today."

The county's 110-bed facility regularly houses more than 110 inmates; Commissioner Picerno has noted in other meetings that the average population in July was 150.

Public comment

Members of the public who commented on the proposed Moore County public safety complex and detention center during the Board off Commissioners September 7 meeting were almost uniformly opposed to the facility as proposed.

While safety concerns raised by locating the jail in downtown Carthage have provoked consistent opposition from a group of downtown residents over the past several months, those voices were joined in Tuesday's meeting by a number of Pinehurst citizens who objected to the cost of the facility and the plan to borrow money to build it without seeking voter

approval for the additional debt.

In an unusual move, Chairman Tim Lea allowed citizens to express their opinion of the project not only during the regular public comment period, but also immediately following Larking's presentation. No Commissioner expressed opposition to the additional comment period, though, with one exception, the speakers were the same individuals who had spoken earlier in the meeting.

Doug Middaugh of Pinehurst said the Board had "failed the transparency test" by using limited obligation bonds to finance the construction of the new jail and public safety building rather first seeking voter approval. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Nick Picerno pointed out that none of the five recent jail projects Larking used for comparison had been financed using voter-approved general obligation bonds.

Libby Moody of Carthage asked why the Moore County is twice as expensive as the Harnett County facility on a per bed basis, and warned that a recent downtown detention center in Concord ultimately cost twice what the architects had estimated.

Barbara Schindler of Pinehurst said the new facility was "the wrong building in

the wrong place at the wrong time," and objected to a lack of citizen representation on the Major Capital Projects Task Force that designed the facility. That group included two private citizens -- retired architect Howard Warren and former Moore County Sheriff James Wise; three elected officials; Commissioners Tim Lea and Larry Caddell; and seven county employees representing administration, public utilities, public safety, and the Sheriff's Office.

Correcting what he called factual errors by jail opponents, who claim falling home prices will result in lower county property tax collections, Walter Bull of Pinehurst said the county is not due for another property tax revaluation until 2015.

Carthage resident Elizabeth Reiley objected to the idea of "a huge jail looming over this town" and said she was concerned for the safety of her children.

Gordon Ray of Pinehurst said that decision amounted to "taxation without representation," while John Marcum, who organized a public meeting in Pinehurst to gather opposition to the project, said "the public is basically outraged by this proposal" which he said was "featherbedded." He asked the Board to "suspend the rush to judgement and leave the time available to do it right."

Marcum also objected to the three minute time limit for public comment and the lack of an opportunity for citizens to ask questions and receive answers from the Commissioners during the meeting.

Board comment

Commissioner Lea picked up on Marcum's comments when it came time for the Board to discuss Larking's presentation, urging his fellow Commissioners to schedule a work session, including

(See "Jail," p. 33)

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Jail

(Continued from page 32)

more opportunity for public comment, prior to the September 20 meeting at which a vote is expected on the construction bids for the new public safety complex and detention center.

"This is the first time that we have had a public discussion on cost concerning the detention center," Lea said. He later noted that the Major Capital Projects Task Force had estimated the cost of the facility would range from \$25 million to \$33 million.

"You often design something, and, after you've designed it, you go to bid, and then, based on what the bid numbers come back at, you decide whether you can afford it or not," he said. "We haven't gone through that process. This is the first time that we've addressed the cost in this process since we started."

He pointed to the much higher cost per bed when compared to Harnett County's jail and objected to the fact that 68 beds in the existing jail will be sitting unused for a projected eight to ten years. "Why don't we build 68 beds less and save the money?" Lea asked, estimating that could save more than \$6 million.

"We went from an \$8 - 10 million addition that was being projected in 2004 to \$27 million now," he said, arguing that taking on the debt to build the jail and public safety building will make it impossible for the county to build new schools or a new administration building in the near term without raising taxes.

"Right now we have an opportunity to look at the costs," Lea said. "We need to slow down. This is not a time of the essence issue . . . I want to build a new detention center, but I also want it to be a cost-effective solution with a positive return on the taxpayers' dollars."

"I am asking the Board to schedule a work session for us to be able to go through these numbers and determine if there is a way that we

can downsize this facility and still accomplish the end goal, which is to build a new detention center," Lea said. "The cost is out of sync with what we should be paying, and we ought to be more conservative today in this economy than we have ever been before."

Though Commissioner Cindy Morgan supported Lea's call for a work session, which she said would give the Board more time to hear public input and then reflect on it before voting, Commissioners Picerno, Melton, and Larry Caddell showed little interest in the idea.

"I say we bring it up on the twentieth and let anyone who wants to speak, speak," Caddell said. "I am tired of postponing this. We have been at this four years . . . I'm not agreeing to postpone, postpone, postpone."

Caddell said the Board of Commissioners that voted to build the current jail gave then Sheriff Wise far less of a facility than he requested. "Now we are dealing with an issue that we should have dealt with years ago," he added.

Caddell also disputed the validity of looking at per-bed cost and suggested the cost per square foot is a better measure for comparison -- a measure by which the proposed Moore County detention center would be less expensive than the Harnett County jail.

"I think we need to open it up at our next meeting," Commissioner Melton said. "We can get input there."

Commissioner Picerno said his greatest concern was that overcrowding in the current jail is unsafe for both inmates and officers.

"The people that the detention center holds, in most cases, are people awaiting trial," he said. "They are not convicted of anything. They are citizens just like me and you, and they deserve a place that is not sleeping on top of another inmate or putting the jail personnel at risk because you have multiple people crowded into an area that was never meant to hold an inmate."

"I can twist numbers just as good as the next guy," he said. "The fact is . . . we have a serious need. We put a group of citizens together [the Major Capital Projects Task Force] including our sheriff and law enforcement personnel and a highly respected architect. They went and did the due diligence and this is what they brought to the Board. And that is what we are voting on."

Picerno said he was elected to make decision based on the facts he has before him. Noting that no opponents of the jail had called him to

discuss the issue, he said "I've have had a lot of people stand up here and accuse my company of doing wrongdoing, and accuse myself of doing wrongdoing, but I've not had anybody tell me how to solve it. Or give me any suggestions. Or sit down sit down and have a common sense one on one conversation about it."

Noting that no North Carolina county has used voter-approved general obligation bonds to fund jail construction in a number of years, Picerno said he would have liked to see it go out for a vote "a couple of years ago, when

we had time to react to it. But now we are at a point of solving a problem that has plagued Moore County for years and years and years, and now we're going to back track? I don't understand that."

Next meeting

The Commissioners are expected to take up construction bids for the new detention center and public safety complex at their Monday September 20 meeting -- and to take public comment on that and any other items during the meeting, which begins at 6:00 pm.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 6)

start looking back to determine how much money we'll need to accrue in the years prior to get there. The master calendar will be skinny to start but it will grow," said Droppers.

Scott agreed, stating the improved calendar would have a two-fold purpose; to steer the Board on timeline decisions and to notify the community-at-large as to what is going on.

Vandalism = more cameras?

A report that increased petty vandalism, including graffiti and stopped-up commodes, is driving up maintenance costs prompted a lengthy discussion on whether new camera technology could provide better resolution and results than previous incarnations.

"The old camera system was expensive and didn't work well," said Zielsdorf. "I like the concept of wireless [cameras], but I want to see confirmation that it'll work before we invest any money."

Going around the table, it was noted that security contractors are reluctant to set up a test site, which prompted Northsider Donna Fentzlaff to offer her home -- which is already rigged for wireless connectivity. She explained that her property overlooks the back gate along Holly Grove School Road, and said she frequently witnesses trespassing and other violations.

Another Northside resident, Bob Racine, offered his son's remote camera as another potential testing device. Installed at a hunting blind, this type of digital camera is motion activated.

However, Director Chuck Mims said the cost of the cameras is not the only problem. The Board must also consider the expense of infrastructure and then monitoring.

"What we don't know is, do we have one bad kid doing vandalism over and over or do we have ten kids vandalizing the community?" Mims stated.

Always quick to advocate for youthful residents, Galford

said even a good kid could make a bad choice and questioned whether the cost of vandalism was enough to warrant a new camera system.

Zielsdorf suggested that adding more streetlights to common areas could be a less costly way to control crime.

Shaver agreed and asked Cochran to provide a summary of the cost of additional lighting, the impact on neighbors, and also a detailed report on how much the Association is spending to repair vandalism and to remove improper items from the yard debris site.

"There's no sense spending money on cameras if the cost is prohibitive to what the damage is costing," Shaver said.

Boating violations

Picking up on an earlier discussion about whether additional buoys could prevent boat operators from weaving in and out of 'no wake' zones, Community Manager Cochran said she believed the boaters were aware of the rules, but sim-

ply choose to ignore them.

"It's getting out of hand and will only get worse," noted Keyser, who said he had recently been contacted by Sgt. Mark Dutton, a NC Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] officer, who has asked to meet with the Board.

Mims argued that Boat and Roving Security officers do not have enough boat speed or authority and do not garner enough respect to control the problem of repeated and flagrant violators.

"We need to bring in Wildlife [NCWRC] to enforce laws before someone gets hurt," said Mims.

In addition to enforcing boating laws, NCWRC would also bring in the Corps of Engineers -- which is why many residents are opposed to allowing them jurisdiction, explained Mims.

Shaver reported there are 213 motor boats currently authorized to use the SLLA lakes.

"With a large number of registered boats, sooner or later there is going to be an accident," Shaver said. "We have people out there not

paying attention and doing dumb things. The question comes, are we liable? What have we done to prevent it?"

Droppers said it would be prudent to take an interim step: allowing Security to warn, cite, and fine operators using the Judicial Committee process, rather than taking the giant step towards state enforcement.

Noting that a significant problem is that Boat Security cannot catch the violators, Mims suggested amending the rules to state that, if Security attempts to approach and the operator does not heed, the boat will be identified and permanently removed from the lake -- regardless of who is operating it at the time of the violation.

Zielsdorf asked Mims to draft the amended rule for discussion and vote at the

September Open Meeting.

In addition, Directors Keyser, Mims, and Scott agreed to meet privately with NCWRC Sgt. Dutton.

Finance

A proposed collection policy will be reviewed a second time by the Finance Committee, this time including one minor change recommended by Community Manager Cochran.

"We've gone over this before and I'm very comfortable with actions taken this year," Galford said. "We do need to be sure we have a formalized policy."

He anticipated the document would be ready for Board review and vote at the September Open Meeting. If approved, the policy will become part of the Association's standard rules.

(See "SLLA," p. 35)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 34)

With the budget complete, Galford said the Finance Committee is now reviewing the current fiscal year and looking at the overall scheme of fees with an eye toward simplifying the process for next year.

"We want to send meaningful invoices to residents and not have all of these smaller items [for example, the \$3 dog registration] that residents must come into the office [to pay]," Galford explained.

Recreation

Lake water testing was conducted on August 12 and all lakes tested within limits, reported Cochran. Lake Ramapo had a higher reading but was still within safe parameters. The lakes will be tested again in October.

Northside Pool operating days were extended for two weeks, through September 19. Hours were also adjusted to 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm on weekends.

Once the pool is closed for the season it will go to the dogs -- literally.

"Dogs Day of Summer," a special swim day at Northside Pool just for dogs, will be held Saturday, September 25, from Noon until 5:00 pm. All residents dogs are welcome to splash and play; owners are responsible for picking up after their pets.

A bus trip to the NC State Fair in Raleigh has been scheduled for Thursday, October 21. Exhibits this year include antique farm machinery, Ark Animals, Village of Yesteryear, plus many others.

Admission to the fair is free with four cans of donated food and the cost for transportation is \$32. Participants will depart from the First Bank Seven Lakes parking lot at 8:30 am and return at approximately 5:15 pm. Kirk tours is handling reservations at 295-2257 or at reservations@kirkstours.com

Community Standards

A Fall Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, October 2.

Volunteers are needed to help collect and deliver yard waste to the debris site. Residents with trucks or yard trailers are particularly needed.

Fall is the perfect time of year to tackle landscaping projects. If you are unable to effectively maintain your yard due to health or physical limitations, this is a great chance to let your neighbors help out. If you need assistance, please contact the SLLA office at 673-4931 to schedule a pick-up.

Regarding a question over screening of a propane tank, Droppers said the rules were vague and that he would be proposing an amended rule that more clearly states what is considered a satisfactory screening material.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, September 13, the SLLA Board:

- Accepted the nomination of Director Melinda Scott to chair the 2011 SLLA Board of Directors Nominating Committee.

- Asked Cochran to distribute monthly management reports electronically with an agenda, summary, and attachments, to reduce paper consumption and cost.

- Heard from Cochran that an insurance check for \$3,970 has been received in response to a theft report filed on July 9.

- Heard from Cochran that the Association was cited for failures in tracking and management of firearms. Three handguns and several shotguns dating back to the SLLA Community Police Department were located and surrendered to the Moore County Sheriff's Office earlier this year.

- Tentatively scheduled a meeting on Friday, October 8 with Galford, Zielsdorf, and Cochran and three representatives of the former Lakes & Dams Committee.

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Foxfire council

(Continued from front page)

mercial, or industrial uses that would substantially interfere with that purpose.

The ordinance was developed by the Planning Board as preventive step to offer more control over potential future development in close proximity to the golf course, pool and tennis area, and Village Green Park. As written, it identifies permitted uses – some with conditions – and also site design and architectural standards.

“The intent was not to disallow residential development, but we don’t want a situation where the golf course could be plowed under at some point in the future for residential development. The ordinance offers Foxfire more protection,” said Planning Chair Craig Ramey. “The intent is to preserve open land. If a request is submitted we’re trying to make it not a right to develop the land as residential.”

The new ordinance does not automatically rezone property in these areas. Those identified tracts will go through a formal rezoning hearing and legal process before the Council.

Zoning

A request for a Certificate of Occupancy was declined earlier in the month, because

the exterior was not finished, reported Erickson. A second request was received on Tuesday, September 14 and another inspection will be scheduled.

Three members of the Planning & Zoning Board, each representing the extra-territorial jurisdiction [ETJ], were reappointed unanimously. Steve Martin, Bob Bonner, and John Stone will continue to serve on the Board through January 2014.

Water

“This is year that we do our grand maintenance of the water tower,” said Councilman Ed Lauer. “Every fifteen years we do painting and reconditioning.”

Residents will not be able to use the yard debris site in October since temporary water towers will be installed at that location.

Lauer also reported that some residents received incorrect water bills last month due to a demonstration of the electronic equipment used by the Village.

“During the demonstration, they took readings which should have been overwritten, but that didn’t happen. Some received smaller bills than reality,” said Lauer, noting that corrected bills and letters have been sent to affected accounts.

In a related discussion, Lauer explained that Foxfire Village must rewrite its phased water restriction and conservation ordinances to comply with state law.

For example, the state requires homeowners to reduce water consumption by a set percentage, depending on the phase stage, based on their water previous bill. Fines are imposed on violations.

“I understand they want something measurable, but a major problem is that many people in the Village are already below minimal [water] use,” said Lauer.

Erickson noted that, as a self-supporting utility, any reductions in consumption would impact Water Department revenues.

Water Summit resolution

A call for a motion to approve a draft resolution submitted by the Moore County Summit Water Task

Force died without action – neither declined nor accepted by the Foxfire Council.

“The County has chosen not to act on this resolution (See “Foxfire,” p. 37)



Page Coker was commended during Tuesday’s Council meeting for her faithful service to Foxfire Village. During her three year tenure on the Council, she represented Foxfire on the West End Fire Rescue Board, developed and implemented a Community Watch program, and provided leadership for the Foxfire Community Emergency Response Team [CERT]. Foxfire Mayor George Erickson presented her with a plaque and framed copy of the resolution honoring her service.



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Foxfire council

(Continued from page 36)

for good reason. By not acting, they are not endorsing the investigation of a countywide system," said Lauer.

He explained that the study is to determine the cost of purchasing a water plant in a neighboring county, but his concern is the significant cost that would be required to pipe the water into Moore County.

"It doesn't take a lot to figure out that it will be expensive. We looked at running a water line from Hwy 211 to the Village at about \$2 million," said Lauer. "The bottom line is: I'm opposed. I see no value to a small, independent water department. I see no advantage to Foxfire."

Public Safety

Residents along Richmond Road are irked at what has become a regular, twice daily fly-by from a local motorcyclist.

"I've had five complaints and the police are aware of the problem," reported Councilman Vic Koos, who then directly appealed to the offending resident.

"Please stop practicing nuisance actions, use common sense and slow down. I don't want to see our officers called to an accident scene to scrape up what is left."

In addition to speeding, operating a vehicle with such an excessively loud engine would also fall under noise ordinance violations.

Continuing the public safety report, Koos said that a sprinkler system is being installed in the Foxfire Fire Department building, which should satisfy all requirements to have a first responder on-site 24/7.

Salary clarification

The Times' September 3 report on the Foxfire Village Council's retreat accurately reported comments at the meeting that may have contained inaccurate information.

"There were a number of things said and reported . . . it came out that a salary had doubled and that is in error," explained Koos. "The posi-

tion went from part-time to full-time hours. It was not double pay but a new job. The difference in the total outlay today even with two new part time staff is actually less than previously."

Koos continued, explaining that when Sgt. Chad Shue of Foxfire Police was promoted it was decided at that time that there would be no salary increase because his duties had not substantially increased.

"We have budget problems right now, call it the recession or what you will but there was no doubling of any salaries," said Koos.

Finance

Frusco reported the General Fund at \$1,274,338, which includes \$758,757 in unexpended loan proceeds for Woodland Circle, \$50,018 in capital reserves, and \$20,975 in the Stonehill Pines account.

The Water Fund stands at \$308,578, including \$26,550 set aside for Woodland Circle. In addition, \$135,377 is held in an escrow account, restricted for a new well.

Loan payments in July included \$27,740 from the General Fund, and \$41,144 from the Water Fund. The first installment on the Woodland Circle loan — \$270,000 from the General Fund and \$19,000 from the Water Fund — are due in April 2011.

Tennis Court improvements

After multiple unsuccessful attempts at securing a North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund [PARTF] grant request to improve the pool and tennis court facility, Erickson asked the Council for permission to begin gathering bids and options for what work could be done in time for next year.

"It's gotten to the point that people are saying either tear it down or fix it up," said Erickson.

Koos supported preserving the facility but agreed that, if costs become prohibitive, something different would need to be done.

"My concern is that someone will get hurt the way it is

now," said Koos.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, September 14, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Heard from Long Range Planning Chair Mick McCue that the committee is analyzing survey results and preparing for

focus group gatherings to discuss topics gleaned from the surveys.

- Heard from Erickson that Neil Smith Engineering submitted recommendations for turning over the Woodland Circle project. The letter, addressed to the general contractor, includes a half dozen unre-

solved items.

- Heard from Councilman John Eltschlager that a waterline break on the Eastside had been repaired and the road was patched. In addition, he met with Tom Collins to inspect concerns at the Woodland Circle Extension project.

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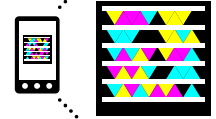
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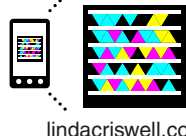


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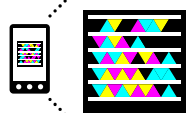
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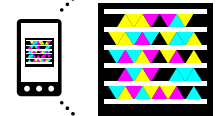
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