

Nick Picerno elected Commissioners' Chairman

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Nick Picerno of McLendon Hills will return to the Chairman's seat on the Moore County Board of Commissioners, placed there by the unanimous vote of the Board to approve a nomination made by new Commissioner Craig Kennedy and seconded by former Chairman Tim Lea during the Board's Monday, December 6 meeting. Picerno served as the coun-

ty board's Chairman in 2008, the first year of his term; Lea has served as Chairman for the past twelve months.

On a motion by Larry Caddell, seconded by Kennedy, and unanimously approved, Jimmy Melton will serve as the Board's Vice Chairman. Caddell and Melton were both re-elected to the Board in November. They, along with Kennedy, who successfully challenged Cindy Morgan in the Republican primary, were

sworn in at the opening of the meeting.

Picerno wasted no time in assuming the mantle of leadership, laying out what he jokingly called "St. Nick's Christmas List" -- seven "ideas" that he said he would "like the Board to consider" in the coming year. He asked his fellow Commissioners to explore:

- Selling the Village of Pinehurst the portions of the
- (See "Commissioners," p. 27)

Zielsdorf resurrects Lake & Dam Committee

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

In an unexpected announcement during the Monday, December 6 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board, President Randy Zielsdorf announced his intention to resurrect the Lakes & Dams Committee, a group he disbanded in April 2009.

In previous meetings, Zielsdorf explained that decision was based on his desire to shift responsibility for the monitoring, care and maintenance of the dams from

volunteer to management's supervision -- in effect, swinging back the pendulum after the committee was created and provided exceptional proactive service following many years of deferred maintenance and what many characterized as minimal oversight by former manager Dalton Fulcher. Zielsdorf acknowledged that failure, but cited concerns that at least one committee member had been working with contractors on behalf of the Association in an inappropriate manner and that while

substantial funding had been channeled into dam maintenance, he was not con-

(See "SLLA" p. 25)

Special Meeting Wednesday on Closure of Auman Dam Road

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Members of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] will gather on Wednesday, December 15, for a Special Meeting on the closing of the roadway over Lake Auman Dam.

But exactly what will take place during the meeting -- the second member-called Special Meeting in the Association's history -- remains very much an open question.

No agenda for the meeting has been published, no ballots have been issued, and the meeting's parliamentary is not sure what, if any, question might be put to a

vote of the membership during the proceedings.

What is clear is that members who hope to vote, speak, or otherwise participate in Association business conducted during the meeting better arrive early in order to find their place in the registration line.

Community Manager Joan Frost told *The Times* that CAS, Inc. will pull in extra staff to handle registration for the meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm.

"We will begin registering landowners at 6:00 pm," Frost said, "and we will stop the registration at 7:00 pm."

Members will need to know their lot number, in order to place themselves in the prop-

er registration line, Frost said. They should also bring photo identification.

Each lot is entitled to one vote at the meeting, so husbands and wives or other co-owners of property will be able to register only once.

Members holding proxies that entitle them to vote on behalf of a landowner who cannot attend the meeting may register those proxies the evening of the meeting, or may drop by the SLWLA office during regular business hours to register their proxies in advance, Frost said.

In addition to establishing that they are Association members, Frost told *The Times*, registrants will be

(See "Special," p. 16)

For the love of Scouts



Dwane Parsons, who spearheaded the drive to build a new Scout Lodge in West End, relaxes by the lodge's massive stone fireplace following the dedication of the facility. [See story on page 4.]

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Seven Lakes Chapel meets fundraising goal

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

In less than a month of fundraising, The Chapel in the Pines successfully met its pledge drive goal to raise \$300,000 for a new two story addition that will house classrooms, a kitchen, offices and a fellowship hall.

"We met our goal and even a little more," said Rev. Don Welch. "The generous response of the congregation was very gratifying and we actually completed the fund drive in less than four weeks. I thought that was spectacular!"

In early Fall, Welch announced an anonymous donor had agreed to provide a \$300,000 gift in a challenge match, dollar for dollar raised,

for the proposed \$600,000 addition.

Built in 1976 on one-and-a-half acres donated by the Limited Partnership of Peter V. Tufts and Associates, the developer of Seven Lakes South and Seven Lakes Country Club,

The Chapel was twice expanded, in 1984 and again in 1998, to reach its current seating capacity of 280. The new addition is to be located

immediately beside the Chapel and will share a similar size and architectural style. The two buildings will be connected by a corridor.

"Our plan is to make it look like it's been there forever," explained Welch.

He said the next step for the

Chapel is to tweak the proposed design to ensure it will incorporate exactly what they need and then to put the project out for bid.

Welch anticipates construction could begin as early as February 2011.

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

Deadline	Issue
Dec 16*	Dec 24
2011	
Dec 30*	Jan 7
Jan 14	Jan 21
Jan 28	Feb 4
Feb 11	Feb 18
Feb 25	Mar 4
Mar 11	Mar 18
Mar 25	Apr 1
Apr 8	Apr 15
Apr 21*	Apr 29
May 6	May 13
May 20	May 27
Jun 3	Jun 10
Jun 17	Jun 24
Jun 30*	Jul 8
Jul 15	Jul 22
Jul 29	Aug 5
Aug 12	Aug 19
Aug 26	Sep 2
Sep 9	Sep 16
Sep 23	Sep 30
Oct 7	Oct 14
Oct 21	Oct 28
Nov 4	Nov 11
Nov 17*	Nov 25
Dec 2	Dec 9
Dec 15*	Dec 23

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Chapel Christmas Fund

The Chapel in the Pines begins their 22nd year of holiday fundraising this month.

Slanted toward aiding needy children, adults, and seniors, the Chapel Community Christmas Fund encompasses more than Christmas. It also expends sums for the lesser privileged at both Thanksgiving and Easter. The money raised provides food vouchers and gifts to more than 50 families in the West End and Jackson Springs area.

"The source for these gifts is threefold: the Chapel's Benevolence Fund, the Seven Lakes area businesses, and individual con-

tributions," said Alice Shaughnessy, the Benevolence Committee's Chairwoman. "I would like to assure contributors that the Chapel works diligently with Moore County Social Services Department to ensure that the fund's recipients are appropriately selected."

With the continuing and troubling current economic conditions, the local need for aid has become urgent. The Chapel asks that everyone send their checks to: "Chapel/Community Christmas Fund, c/o Alice Shaughnessy, Box 3081 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376

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Zielsdorf says agreement with Club is close

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Final details on implementing the three and a half-year-old driving range agreement between the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] and Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] may be resolved by the end of the year, with attorneys from both sides meeting during Thanksgiving week to work out a few remaining differences.

"We're very, very close to the covenants being finished and agreed upon," President Randy Zielsdorf reported at the SLLA Open Meeting on Wednesday, November 17.

As the only current Board member who participated in the contentious 4-3 split vote that approved the agreement in July 2007, Zielsdorf has indicated his interest in seeing the matter finally put to rest.

Prompted by the SLCC's desire to sell the old driving range for residential development, the agreement lays out five bullet points concerning the future use of the five acre tract and the Club's other landholdings. Specifically, the agreement:

- Gave the Club the right to draft its own covenants limiting the use of all its property to golf course and country club operations, with review

and approval by the SLLA attorney;

- Granted the Association a ten-foot easement along Seven Lakes Drive to be written by the SLLA attorney;

- Required the Country Club to provide sufficient land for at least five additional parking spaces at the Southside Mail House;

- Subjected any future residential development of Country Club property to the Southside Covenants; and

- Allowed for construction of up to fourteen residential units on the old driving range property, with the SLLA pledging to work with any developer of the property "in an open, efficient and cooperative fashion."

In addition to final review and approval of the covenants, Zielsdorf said

other outstanding issues under discussion between the SLCC and SLLA attorneys included a request by the Club that the additional land for mailhouse parking spaces revert to the Club if, at some point, the Association no longer needs the extra parking. The attorneys are also working to clarify the final sentence of the original agreement, which states the Association will work with a proposed future developer of the old driving range in an open, efficient, and cooperative fashion.

"What is open? What is cooperative?" asked Zielsdorf. "It's open to interpretation, so we've asked both attorneys to get together to draft a letter of understanding to be an addendum to the original agreement."

Former SLLA director Donna Stephan questioned

Zielsdorf about progress on (See "SLLA," p. 13)



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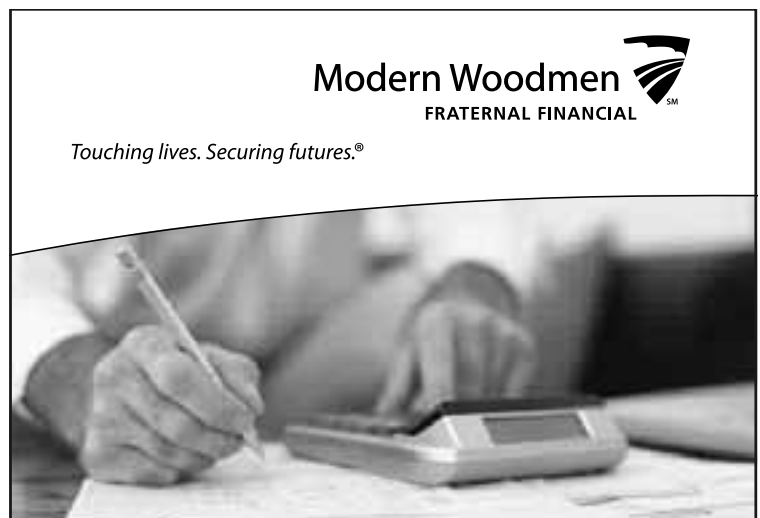
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Scout Troop 98 dedicates West End Lodge

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Earning the hiking and camping merit badges are basically a given for any boy who joins West End Boy Scout Troop 98. Make no mistake; this is a very outdoorsy group. Yet even the best campers need a good solid shelter now and then.

Organized sixty-five years ago, the troop met in basements and abandoned homes, the old Stanly Plant, fire stations, and more recently in the Fellowship Hall of their sponsor, West End United Methodist Church. But on Sunday, December 5, following an inspiring flag-raising ceremony to dedicate the West End Scout Lodge at Johnson's Park, Troop 98 finally settled into its first permanent home.

Built on seventeen acres of woodlands along Carthage Road, the 4,000 square foot lodge was approximately seventy-five percent complete before an August 2009 fire gutted the facility – it was a total loss.

Wiping away tears and soot, local builder and former scoutmaster, Dwane Parsons, soldiered on using insurance funds, donated materials and an army of volunteers. Last Sunday, under a sunny Winter sky and in the company of several hundred well-wishers, current and former scouts, building volunteers, firefighters and emergency personnel, military servicemen, donors and contributors, Parsons proudly saluted as the American flag was

raised outside the newly rebuilt lodge.

Upon this rock

It's true – it all began with a rock and a joke.

Heavier and a little bit bigger than a brick, the rock first made its appearance about six years ago.

"The kids would sneak water bottles and rocks into each others packs to make the loads heavier," explained

Parsons. "One time this large rock showed up in a pack and before we passed it to another, we'd carve in our initials."

He describes this group as the core leadership of the troop at the time, the ones who always went out on the hikes and camping trips. Around the campfire, they decided the time had come for a lodge; a place to call their own.



Keystone Rock survived the Scout Lodge fire and now has a place of honor in the fireplace.

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"This rock always showed up. It was never tossed aside and it became an honor to carry it. When we started building the lodge, we knew a keystone would be set in the

fireplace and we wanted to include our rock."

Parsons and Billy Barber built the massive fireplace entirely of local stones collected with permission from creek beds, road shoulders and hiking trails. The famous carved rock was carefully placed in a subtle location, down low along the right side in a place where it could be discovered by boys for generations to come.

However, in the aftermath of the devastating fire, many

(See "Scouts," p. 12)



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in Fayetteville on Friday, November 12.

A group of ladies from Rosemary's Quilting Room of

Pinehurst make the quilts and stockings each holiday season and they are then delivered by members of Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966, West End.

At left are Joe Kristek, President of the VVA State Council, Deanna White, Voluntary Service Specialist, VA Medical Center, Mike Pusillo, President, VVA Chapter 966, and Kathy Smith, Volunteer Ambassador, VA Medical Center.



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Ritter: SLCC working to fine-tune agreement

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] President Randy Zielsdorf has lately been the sole voice offering progress reports on the negotiations between the Association and the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] over the implementation of the three-year-old "Driving Range Agreement."

Recent statements by SLCC President Steve Ritter in a Club membership meeting had some members of both the Club and Association asking whether Zielsdorf and Ritter were on the same page regarding the negotiations.

The Times interviewed Ritter by phone on Wednesday in order to offer our readers a better understanding of the Club's position.

The five point Driving Range Agreement was signed after controversy erupted when the community learned the Club was interested in selling the old driving range, which lies between Seven Lakes Drive and Devonshire Avenue, to a residential developer.

But the recent talks have been more cooperative than controversial, Ritter told *The Times*.

"I believe what is good for the Club is good for the community, and what is good for the community is good for the Club," Ritter told *The Times*, adding that he and Zielsdorf have developed a cordial, productive working relationship.

Ritter admitted, however, that the process of implementing the three-year-old agreement has taken far longer than some might have liked.

Covenants

The first point in the agreement requires that the Club establish covenants on its property that ensure it can only be used for the operation of a golf course and country club.

Ritter confirmed what Zielsdorf has reported to his membership: the covenants are written and are currently

under review by the Club and Association attorneys.

Noting that the key concern of the Association is that the Club's property remain a golf course and not be put to other uses — for example, subdivided for residential development — *The Times* asked Ritter whether the draft covenants would include this protection.

Noting that he had recently built a home on the 15th Hole of Seven Lakes Country Club, Ritter said that he and other members of the SLCC Board were committed to ensuring that the golf course remains a golf course, and the draft covenants reflect that.

[The draft document has not yet been released to the public, and neither party has pledged to release it for pub-

lic review before it receives final approval by the respective Boards.]

Easement

The second plank of the agreement obligates the Club to provide a ten-foot easement on the old driving range along Seven Lakes Drive, the goal being to prevent any future owner of the property from opening a second entrance into the South Side. The Club has yet to provide that easement.

Zielsdorf said in the SLLA's November open meeting that he felt progress could be made toward finalizing this portion of the agreement.

Ritter told *The Times* that the Club — and the landowners who make up its Board — have no interest in seeing a

second entrance opened up through the old driving range. In fact, he said, he would

not vote to approve an offer from a developer that included
(See "Agreement," p. 8)



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Agreement

(Continued from page 7)

ed a second entrance, and added that he did not believe other members of the SLCC Board would be inclined to accept such an offer.

However, he said the granting of the easement is contingent upon the Club and the Association fine-tuning the meaning of language in the fifth point of the agreement, which is integrally linked to the fourth point.

Architectural Review

The fourth point of the agreement stipulates that any residential development on the old range will be subject to the South Side covenants, giving the SLLA's Architectural Review Board [ARB] authority to oversee the project.

The fifth point of the agreement obligates the Association to work with any future developer of the driving range property "in an open, efficient and cooperative fashion."

Ritter told *The Times* — and Zielsdorf told SLLA members in the November Open Meeting — that this language is open to interpretation and needs further definition to satisfy the Club.

Noting that "there has been a lot of consternation" in the past over the possible development of the range, Ritter told *The Times* the Club wants to make sure that any future buyer is comfortable with the role the ARB will play in approving the development.

"We want it to be nice first-class development," Ritter explained. "We know ARB will want it to be a nice first-class development. We just want to make sure ARB doesn't go overboard. That's what a developer's concern would be."

The language aimed at alleviating that potential concern is under negotiation and review by the attorneys representing both sides, Ritter said.

Mailhouse Parking

The third element of the agreement requires the Club

(See "Agreement," p. 9)



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Agreement

(Continued from page 8)

to provide ground for five additional parking spaces at the South Side mailhouse. Ritter said this item is no problem, adding that he had deposited a rough sketch of the Club's proposal in Zielsdorf's mailbox earlier in the day.

Why revise the agreement?

While both Zielsdorf and Ritter report that progress — albeit slow progress — is being made on implementing the three-year-old driving range agreement, the question remains: Why does an

agreement already approved by both the SLLA and SLCC Board's need to be renegotiated?

Ritter told *The Times* that he sees the existing agreement as "a living document, not as a document that was made to stay in concrete."

"Neither Board is a permanent Board," he noted, explaining that Zielsdorf is the only remaining member of the SLLA Board who actually voted on the agreement and that no current member of the SLCC Board was serving at the time the agreement was approved.

"It's a dated document," Ritter said.

"We've never disagreed with any of those bullet points. We're just hoping to keep that document open until we can cover every one of those elements . . . We're working towards it. We're checking off the parking spaces, the

covenants . . ."

New representation

Ritter said the club, not finding a local developer interested in purchasing the old driving range, has listed it with NAI Carolantic Realty, Inc. in Raleigh, a regional firm specializing in market-

ing properties for residential development. The asking price for the five acre tract remains \$240,000.

The goal remains finding a developer who will place homes on the property.

"We're not interested in putting a Tank & Tummy out there," Ritter said.

Morning Glories Wreath



Morning Glories: Ginny Heerema, Isabel Lang, Roberta Robinson, Dottie Spark, Alice While, and Peggy Ussery

The Women of Seven Lakes Morning Glories, a Monday morning ladies group, submitted their Christmas wreath, to The Festival of Trees. The event benefits the Sandhills Children's Center, and was held at the Carolina Hotel.

The wreath entitled "The Night Before Christmas" was well received and raised over \$260 for the Center.

Marge Button of Seven Lakes and John James of Heavenly Pines donated jewelry adorning the wreath.

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In memory of . . .

William Thomas Williams, 44, of Eagle Springs, died Saturday, December 4. Funeral services were held Monday, December 6, at Rock Hill Friends Church, Eagle Springs. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

A native of Moore, County, he was a self-employed carpenter working for the US Women's Open and US Men's Open in Pinehurst.

He is survived by his son, Trevor Thomas Williams; his mother and father, Dorothy and George Williams of Eagle Springs; a brother, Wayne of Eagle Springs; sister, Linda Sutton of Asheboro; and several nieces and nephews.

Kennedy Funeral Home assisted the family.

Isobel D. (Issy) Dantzer, 77, of Seven Lakes, died on Saturday, December 3, at her home.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, December 8 at The Chapel in the Pines. Interment will be later at Lakewood Cemetery, Cooperstown, NY.

Mrs. Dantzer was born in

New York, New York, the daughter of George E. and Ann Hyde Doty who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Dantzer attended William Smith College and worked in school administration in Wayne, PA as her children were growing. After residing in Sweden for four years, she returned and became a docent tour guide in historic Annapolis, MD. In retirement, the Dantzers moved to Seven Lakes West.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughters, Ann Dantzer and Sarah DeHart; sons, Robert, Dantzer Jr., Douglas Dantzer; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Foundation Cancer Center or Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Edna Bowers McInnis, 87, of Jackson Springs, died Friday, December 3, at Hospice Haven in Rockingham. Funeral services were held Monday, December 6 at Briggs-Candor Funeral Home Chapel. Services were con-

ducted by the Rev. Scott McInnis. Interment followed at Jackson Springs cemetery.

Mrs. McInnis was born in Manchester, England, the daughter of the late Joseph Henry Bowers and Mary Davies Bowers. She served in the British Royal Air Force Women's Army. She was a retired employee of Stanly Furniture.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Coolidge McInnis, in 1996, and by sons, Alan Raymond McInnis and Kenneth Lee McInnis.

She is survived by her son, Paul McInnis of Jackson Springs; daughters, Lorraine Bruinsma of West End, and Karen Wilkerson of Rockingham; twelve grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Richmond County 1119 U.S. Hwy. 1, Rockingham, NC 28379.

Edna M. Smith, of Foxfire Village, formerly of Tecumseh, Michigan, died Thursday, December 2. Funeral services were held Friday, December 10, at the Pinelawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Southern Pines.

Mrs. Smith was born in

Detroit, the daughter of Edward J. and Annie M. Dawson. She attended Northwestern High School and Business School. She married Donald Smith and worked with him in their restaurant.

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Florence LaCasse; and two brothers-in-law, Roger A. LaCasse and William H. Brown.

Memorial contributions

may be made to the Sandhills Woman's Exchange, Box 215, Pinehurst, NC 28370, or The Village Chapel, PO Box 1060, Pinehurst, NC 28370.

Powell Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Robert D. Thornton, 76, of Seven Lakes, died Monday, November 22, at his residence. Mr. Thornton was the son of the late Martin Sylvester Thornton and Mary Greeley Thornton of Westchester County, NY.

A Funeral Mass was held Friday, November 26 at Our Lady of The Americas Catholic Church, Candor. The Rev. Ricardo Sanchez officiated. The Rite of committal will be at a later date with military honors in Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Mr. Thornton was preceded in death by his brother Martin Thornton and sister Anne Anderson.

Mr. Thornton is survived by his wife of fifty four years Julianne Thornton; sons, R. Scott Thornton of Palatine, IL; Thomas Thornton of Lake

Zurich, IL; daughters, Jill Winckler of Littleton, CO; Katie Patterson of Virginia Beach, VA; brother, Thomas Thornton of California; sisters, Mary Irwin of Florida and Margaret Welch of New Jersey; and twelve grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Robert Thornton to First Health Hospice & Palliative Care at 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home assisted the family.

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The New Horizons Band is a band for anyone over 50 who played an instrument years ago and wants to get back to it or never played an instrument, but always wanted to participate in a band.

The New Horizon's Band will play a free concert at the Senior Enrichment Center Tuesday, December 14, at 3:30 pm. The Senior center is located at 8040 U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

The next practice for the new year will be Tuesday, January 11, at 3:30 pm, at

the Sandhills Community College band room. For more information contact Ronnie

Milligan, 673-1462 or Jan Gustafson, 673-4099.



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Scouts

(Continued from page 4)

of the hearth stones were so heavily damaged that Parsons had no choice but to dismantle the fireplace and start anew.

"We went looking for our rock and, because of the debris and its location, it was unscathed. It had been protected."

The keystone was carefully chiseled out and Parsons said he made sure to fit it in the exact same spot when the new stones were laid again for the fireplace.

"That rock has a lot of miles on it. The committee that started this building – their initials are on the rock and it is only fitting it is there," said Parsons.

"It's a small thing. Those initials will be forgotten – one day they'll wonder who those people are but they'll know that they worked on this fireplace. This building will be here and it's a special place for our community, for our youth."

The massive lodge building was designed not just for scouts and community youth, but also with the intention that, if necessary, it could be operated off-the-grid using generators. Equipped with showers and a full kitchen, the building can be used as a disaster relief assembly hall. Other features on the property include a nature trail, several campsites, and an amphitheater and fire ring for outdoor ceremonies.

A call to service

During the dedication ceremony, Parsons learned that he has been selected to receive the President's Call to Service Award, a commendation in recognition of over 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

Humble and appreciative, he said he was surprised by the honor and had simply followed a family tradition of service and dedication to scouting.

A charter member of Troop 98 in 1946, Parsons' father chose a career in the military and while raising his four sons and a daughter all over the world, he made sure his

children were always involved in scouting – both at home and abroad.

"He found a pack or troop in every place we went and I was able to advance in scouting and do a lot, and have a lot of experiences in places the public wasn't even allowed," said Parsons.

After retiring, the senior Mr. Parsons brought his family back home to West End and to Pack 98.

Dwane and his three brothers – Doyle, Dwight, and Darrell – all reached the rank of Eagle Scout, as did both of Dwane's sons, and the entire extended clan continues to be involved with the troop and the lodge.

"We're becoming the guys in the back row that you don't hear about. There are so many people involved in a program like this, so many that tirelessly work and you

never hear their names. This lodge would not have been built without the guys in the back row," said Parsons.

But it's his time spent as the leader, in the scoutmaster role, where Parsons' fondest memories reside.

"I've been at this a long time. It's emotional – you watch these kids grow up," he said. "Scouting teaches responsibility and life skills. We're trying to raise children into young adults and for them to be pillars, to be leaders in the community. I wouldn't trade the time I spent with my children in scouting for anything. It was the best quality time you could ever spend with your kids."

"You can't put a price tag on reaching children, of having an impact on them. Scout leaders can talk to kids a little more candidly, be a little

more blunt. We can provide an interaction between adult and child – a connection between generations that is often lacking."

He continued, "In scouting there's competition and events, the opportunity for advancement and a positive channel for all that energy. It is a good environment. They learn to be a leader and to be prepared. That's our motto, to be prepared and I hope that's what we do: prepare them."

A few unmet needs

The lodge still has a short wish list that includes furnishings, folding tables and chairs, a refrigerator/freezer, an electric oven and microwave, plus serving pans and tongs for the kitchen.

Donations are welcome, however, and can be directed to the West End Scout Lodge through West End United Methodist Church, PO Box 276, West End, NC 27376. The church's phone number is 673-1371.



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 3)

the ten foot buffer easement.

"I have met with [Steve] Ritter [SLCC President] and he said he would not sign an easement until someone buys the land," Stephan reported.

Zielsdorf responded that a lot has changed and there has been movement to get the issue resolved.

"In meeting with Ritter, he understands the need for the easement," said Zielsdorf.

Director Bud Shaver, who is also a member of the SLCC, also weighed in.

"There is not a person on this Board who is not aware that the easement needs to be resolved. We are unanimous," said Shaver.

Directors wanted — no experience necessary

Four seats will be open for election on the SLLA Board this Spring; and, with few candidates showing interest thus far, SLLA Nominating Committee Chair Melinda Scott is concerned about voter interest and turnout.

"I want residents to understand how important this process is," Scott said. "Voting in landowner's elections is typically low, and that is unacceptable."

"We have a community that is changing rapidly, and your input and feedback is so import to what this Board does in the future," she continued. She said Seven Lakes is increasingly diverse, but many residents are looking for an enhanced feeling of community.

Scott reported that the Nominating Committee is developing a survey that touches on "big picture" questions, such as, "Where do you envision the community in five years?" and, "What are the top three priority issues you see facing the community, and what does the Board have to do to effectively address those concerns?"

The survey has been emailed to residents and is also available at the office and in the mail houses; it should be returned by December 13.

In addition to feedback, Scott said she hopes it will spur potential Board candidates to throw their hats in the ring.

"I want people to come forward who are really interested in the betterment of community," she said. "Some feel the need to identify specific qualifications to serve, but I feel that is an exclusive policy and could exclude people that are more than qualified."

"If you possess an open mind and enjoy being a member of problem-solving team, that is all the qualifications

you need to have. This is a team process. We all have a voice and say in the decisions, and this needs to occur in a cooperative and respectful manner."

If you are interested in learning more or would like to nominate someone as a candidate to the Association Board, please contact the SLLA office at 673-4931.

Vicious dogs

The SLLA Judicial Panel on Thursday, November 18, heard the complaint against the owner of two pit bull terriers that were declared vicious by Moore County Animal Control following an attack on another resident's pet; however, the outcome of that hearing and has not yet been made public.

"I have been in communi-

cation with Animal Control, and they have been in contact with the animal owners, and the Association is currently working to have the matter resolved," reported SLLA Community Manager Alina Cochran at the Open Meeting. In telephone interview with *The Times* on Monday, November 22, and Tuesday, December 7, Cochran confirmed that steps are being taken to resolve the issue.

Moore County Animal Ordinance
(See "SLLA," p. 14)

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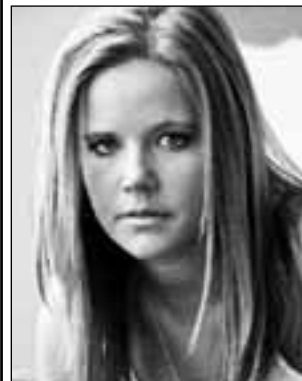
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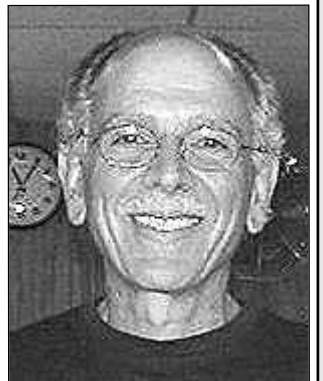
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 13)

nances allow vicious dogs who have engaged in one or two incidents to be kept under restricted conditions but, under a 'three strikes you're out policy,' the dogs are removed from the home following a third confirmed attack. SLLA regulations are more restrictive and community rules stipulate that keeping vicious or nuisance dogs is prohibited.

During an investigation of the original complaint, Animal Control Officer Bryant Voss determined that the two dogs involved in the attack were already on record for an incident dating to the previous year. In addition, neighbors have alleged the dogs have attacked on at least two additional occasions; however those incidents were not formally reported. Based on the two confirmed attack reports, Voss declared the dogs vicious and told *The Times* that he has been in frequent contact with the owners while the matter is under consideration by the Judicial Panel.

The SLLA Board urges residents to report any animal attacks, on persons or other animals, directly to the county. The Association can then obtain the proper documentation and an incident report. Moore County Animal Control can be reached at 910-947-2858.

Roving Security

Roving Security officer Steve McVey has been notably absent from his position following a late night altercation in early October with a driver involved in a single-vehicle crash on Echo Dam.

According to the police report, nineteen-year old Jonathan Buell, of Asheboro, ran off the road and struck a guardrail on Firetree Lane at Echo Dam. McVey told officers that Buell was verbally abusive when he arrived and attempted to leave the scene. McVey pursued him, and the incident escalated when Buell removed his belt and began swinging it as a weapon. McVey said he defended himself, striking

Buell once in the head with a heavy MagLite type flashlight, before handcuffing him.

As a result of Buell's injuries, charges were filed against McVey.

During public comment, Northsider Pearl Keene pushed the Board for answers.

"The security guard was discharged for doing his job -- why?" Keene asked.

However, both Cochran and Zielsdorf refused to answer, citing that the incident was a personnel issue with personal information involved that could not be disclosed.

Finance

In what he called a sign of the times, Treasurer Denny Galford expressed concern about some properties in the Seven Lakes area that may be

financed beyond their value and said more foreclosures are anticipated.

"We will need to discuss how the Board can best protect the interests of the community," said Galford.

In addition, he that reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the paving project and is reviewing a question brought up by Manager Cochran related to the soil base analysis.

Galford anticipated the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget would be ready for Board review in January and approved in mid-February.

Community Standards

Director Kent Droppers reported that the Community Standards Committee is continuing work on a backlog of violations, but that

progress has been made. Eight unresolved issues were sent to Judicial Panel this month. In addition, the committee is also clarifying language on rules concerning commercial vehicles within the gates.

He thanked *The Times* for front page coverage of the "Neighbors helping Neighbors" clean-up effort held on October 2, and encouraged

interested residents to contact him or call the office for more information on joining the Community Standards Committee.

Recreation

Santa Claus is headed to Seven Lakes on Friday, December 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the North Clubhouse. Good little boys and

(See "SLLA," p. 15)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 14)

girls are cordially invited to join Santa for cookies and milk, plus fun games and crafts in the holiday spirit. Keyser thanked the Women of Seven Lakes for their gener-

ous annual donation that offsets all costs of this event. Elves are needed to help decorate at 9:00 am on December 17, also homemade cookies are most welcome at the party and can be dropped

off in the morning, and helping hands are needed to serve refreshments from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please call Laura Douglass at 673-1817 or the SLLA office at 673-4931 to volunteer.

Keyser reported that a good response was received for the Recreation Survey distributed last month. Recreation Committee member Bob Racine is tallying results and Keyser will offer a formal

report to the Board at a later date.

[Additional reporting on the November 17 SLLA Work Session can be found on The Times' website, at www.sevenlaketimes.net]



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



137 LONGLEAF
SEVEN LAKES WEST
4 BR plus bonus! Built-ins, gas fireplace, split bedrooms oversized kitchen, lovely corner lot with private backyard! Affordably priced at \$275,000



113 LONGLEAF
SEVEN LAKES WEST
Curb Appeal! 4 Bedrooms plus bonus with all the upgrades! Hardwoods, extensive woodwork, vaulted ceilings, private backyard and more! \$320,000



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SEVEN LAKES WEST
Spacious home located close to back gate! 4 BR plus office, den, 2 living rooms. Hardwoods, tile, vaulted ceilings, lots of windows and tons of storage! \$340,000



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LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT
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119 PHILLIPS
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172 MORRIS
SEVEN LAKES WEST
4/3 on oversized lot! Spacious with lower level walkout featuring family rm, 4th BR & full BA plus lots of storage! Well maintained, open plan & affordable!
\$250,000



230 FINCH GATE DRIVE
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Wonderful 4 Bed, 3 Bath floor plan with Extensive Woodwork, Stone Fireplace & Matching Bar, Plantation Shutters. Screened in porch and open deck with beautiful views of pond and 13th green of Beacon Ridge Course! \$360,000

Special meeting

(Continued from front page)

asked whether they support the Board's decision to permanently close Longleaf Drive over Lake Auman, or support the position of the Dam Road Group that the road closure should be put to a vote of the membership, or are undecided.

She explained that many members likely already have a firm position one way or the other, and knowing that up front means CAS personnel will not have to have everyone in attendance queue up again for a vote count.

Members who may have stated one preference or another will be able to change that position, if they desire, once a formal question is on the table, she added.

What's the question?

Whether a formal question will be placed on the table remains a bit of a mystery. Though the Dam Road Group's petition included a specific question to be put

before the membership at the meeting, the announcement of the special meeting included no mention of that question — and no ballot.

The SLWLA Board's outside counsel, Stephen Later, told *The Times*: "The topic in the notice is not limited to the Dam Group Petition language in order to encourage a broad discussion and range of voices and opinions. The board would like to be sure that all of the members are able to voice their thoughts, pro or con, on this matter."

Asked whether the question posed by the Dam Road Group could be offered as a motion during the meeting, Later said it was not possible to judge in advance what motions might be ruled in order or out of order.

Later said he also could not pre-judge whether a motion to ratify the Board's decision to permanently close the Dam Road would be ruled in or out of order.

The Board has asked Later

to Chair the meeting and serve as its parliamentarian. He told *The Times* that it would be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and "in compliance with the governing documents of SLWLA and state law and, of course, in a manner that is fair to the membership."

"As to action at the meeting," Later said, "there is no way to know what motions will be made at the meeting, so we wouldn't be in a position, at this time, to speculate about what motions might or might not be in order at the meeting."

Frost told *The Times* that she was attempting to pull together an agenda for the meeting, but was not sure whether an agenda would be published in advance

Competing Proxies

The notice of the special meeting issued by the SLWLA Board made no mention of the possibility that members unable to attend the meeting

could make sure they had an opportunity to vote on any business that comes before the membership by giving a proxy to another landowner who did plan to attend the meeting.

However, shortly after the meeting notice was issued, Vice President John Hoffmann began circulating via email a proxy that landowners could use to give their proxy to SLWLA President Ron Shepard. Similar proxies were later made available at the SLWLA office and promoted on the Seven Lakes West website.

Westsider Mike Gorenflo provided members of the Dam Road Group a blank proxy, also via email, that they could use to designate any landowner as their proxy at the meeting.

Frost told *The Times* on Wednesday that the SLWLA office had no blank proxies for landowners to use, but added that the office staff would be happy to distribute blank proxies if they were provided by the Dam Road Group.

The Special Meeting will be held at the West Side Park Community Center.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **Annual Shaw House Christmas Open House** – 1 to 4 pm. 110 Morganton Road, corner of Morganton & Broad Street, Southern Pines. (910) 692-2051. Open house tours of the Shaw House, built in the 1820s, plus two cabins built in the 1700s that were homes of settlers in northern Moore County. Enjoy old-time decorations, warm apple cider and homemade cookies, music and Christmas cheer. www.moore-history.com
- **FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital** – 5:30 to 11 pm, Auxiliary Holiday Ball, in the Ballroom, at The Carolina Hotel. Proceeds will support a dynamic initiative to assist Inpatient Rehabilitation patients at Moore Regional Hospital with their transition back home. For more information call (910) 695-7510.
- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 7 pm, Handel's Messiah, performed at the Main Sanctuary of Sacred Heart Church, 300 Dundee Road, Pinehurst. Tickets available and may be purchased at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop in Southern Pines, or by calling the box office at 687-4746.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11

- **Annual Shaw House Christmas Open House** –

1 to 4 pm. 110 Morganton Road, corner of Morganton & Broad Street, Southern Pines. (910) 692-2051. Open house tours of the Shaw House, built in the



What's When Calendar

1820s, plus two cabins built in the 1700s that were homes of settlers in northern Moore County. Enjoy old-time decorations, warm apple cider and homemade cookies, music and Christmas cheer. www.moore-history.com

- **Hot Chocolate and Cookies Tennis Social** – 2 to 4 pm, Join in for tennis and fellowship. Hot chocolate provided, you bring your homemade or store bought cookies. Guests and members welcome. No fees. RSVP call 673-1096 or email: 7lakestenniscen-ter@gmail.com. Seven Lakes Tennis Center, 116 Edgewater Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **SLCC Christmas Party** – Everyone's invited to the annual Christmas Party, at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous dinner at 6:30 pm. The

evening's MC, Don Welch will lead the Christmas sing-a-long and Jo Nicholas will provide piano music. All-inclusive price for members is \$30/non-members \$35 inclusive. Reservations 673-1100. You do not have to be a member to attend this fun event.

Join in for a fun filled evening to welcome in the Holiday season.

- **Pinecrest Winter Choral Concert and Silent Auction** – 7 pm, at Pinecrest High School, Robert E. Lee Auditorium. Doors will be open and silent auction begins one hour prior to concerts. Bidding ends Sunday after intermission. Tickets available at the door. \$6 adults / \$4 for students and senior citizens.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

- **Annual Shaw House Christmas Open House** – 1 to 4 pm. 110 Morganton Road, corner of Morganton & Broad Street, Southern Pines. (910) 692-2051. Open house tours of the Shaw House, built in the

1820s, plus two cabins built in the 1700s that were homes of settlers in northern Moore County. Enjoy old-time decorations, warm apple cider and homemade cookies, music and Christmas cheer. www.moore-history.com

- **Pinecrest Winter Choral Concert and Silent Auction** – 4 pm, at Pinecrest High School, Robert E. Lee Auditorium. Doors will be open and silent auction begins one hour prior to concerts. Bidding ends Sunday after intermission. Tickets available at the door. \$6 adults/\$4 for students and senior citizens.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 5:30 pm, Children's Program and Dinner. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, monthly meeting, Christmas BBQ and auction to benefit Alzheimer's Research. Held at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. Bring small items for auction. BBQ is \$7/person. Contact: Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – 3 pm, Seven Lakes North Gameroom. Doug



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- **St. Mary Magdalene Gallery Open** – local artists' work in photography and fine art. Browsers encouraged. 1 to 4 pm. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 6 pm, Proxy Validation, 7 pm, *Special Meeting* for Members of SLWLA at West Side Park Community Center.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 7 pm, Advent Healing and Wholeness Service. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. This ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). It is a time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal is provided at a charge of \$5 per person.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Gallery Open** – for browsing, 1-4 pm. Local artists and photographers exhibit-

ing. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:00 pm. \$10 for six wines and food from Goldie's. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- **Tennis Center Junior Holiday Camp** – 1 to 3 pm, Join Steve for a pre-Christmas camp. Players can opt to participate one day or two. \$20 for one day, or \$30 for both days. Seven Lakes Tennis Center, 116 Edgewater Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Kool Kids Parent Date Night** – 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Recreational play for kids grades K-5th. An evening out for just the two of you. Cost for 3 hour evening is \$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes, 2 doors from McDonald's.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, Christmas Service of Music. 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am, Adult Choir Cantata. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Santa's Shop & Christmas Party** – at West End United Methodist Church immediately following the 11:00 am service until 4:00 pm. Children, middle school

and under, will be able to bring in a small monetary donation, shop for those they love and have their gifts wrapped. The church will have lunch, shop, watch a Christmas movie, and end the party with the reading of "The Christmas Story" and prayer.

- **Tennis Center Junior Holiday Camp** – 1 to 3 pm, Join Steve for a pre-Christmas camp. Players can opt to participate one day or two. \$20 for one day, or \$30 for both days. Seven Lakes Tennis Center, 116 Edgewater Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert** – 3 pm, Celebrate the holiday season by enjoying an afternoon of free holiday music while helping raise money for the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra. Annual winter concert and silent auction at Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst Resort, 80 Carolina Vista Drive, Pinehurst. Proceeds from a silent auction will support a scholarship. No ticket required, www.mporchestra.com
- **Belford Baptist Church** – 6 pm, Annual Christmas Celebration. Please join the

church for recitations, caroling and the Christmas play at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Christmas bags will be given out at end of service. 925 Windblow Road, Jackson Springs.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. This ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). It is a time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal is provided at a charge of \$5 per person.
- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 2:30 pm or 7:00 pm, Jazz. The Joshua Wolff Trio: Christmas in New York. Held at Founders Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Tickets available and may be purchased at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop in Southern Pines, or by calling the box office at 687-4746.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve**
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 5 pm, Christmas Eve Communion Service. 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 7 pm, Christmas Eve Service. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Christmas Eve Service at West End United Methodist Church** – 8 pm. Come and join the church as everyone prepares for the birth of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, Service of Christmas Carols. 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

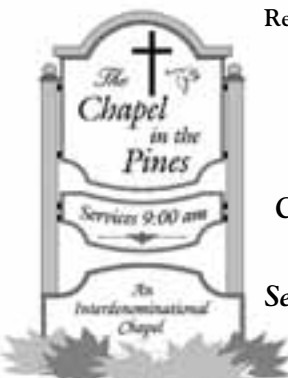
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **New Year's Eve**

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Minister

Rev. Fran Stark
Minister of Visitation & Outreach

December 19th – 9:00 am
Christmas Service of Music

December 24th – 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion Service

December 26th – 9:00 am
Service of Familiar Christmas Carols

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Avoid plastic? Right

"I'm not laughing at you, I'm laughing about you," said Darling Hubby this morning.

And yes, surprisingly we're still on speaking terms.

It wasn't my fault: blame the coffee maker not the operator.

How was I supposed to know the funnel piece was such an integral part in the caffeine-generation process?

Let me be perfectly clear. I am not a morning person.

I don't want to be in the same room as a morning person. In fact, what I most resemble at o'dark thirty is a poster child for the 'Instant Human — Add Coffee' campaign.

So understand that facing an epic disaster before 8:00 am is simply not my cup of tea: or java, as the case may be.

Mopping up streams of spewed coffee, I realized the culprit of this misadventure



Laura's Learning Curve

— that not so insignificant bit of plastic — is just one more cancer-causing thing in my kitchen.

You see, earlier this week I read a most unhelpful article that recommended eliminating plastic as much as possible from my diet because it leaches chemical properties that can cause the big C.

Mapping out my food chain is akin to charting a course across a great plastic ocean. My fresh fruits and veggies — grapes, strawberries, a head of lettuce, broccoli and a five-pound bag of Idaho's finest, all come prepackaged in plas-

tic bags or containers, save the broccoli, which I immediately toss into a bag for purchase.

Heading down the grocery aisle, I load up on condiments like ketchup, mustard, and squeezable ranch dressing: each conveniently bottled in plastic, plastic, and plastic. Next I brake for corn chips, potato chips, pretzels and cereal — plastic, plastic, plastic and plastic inside cardboard. Canned foods and soups offer no safe harbor since most steel cans are lined in plastic film.

Shivering, I shop the cold cases and grab ground beef and chicken, bologna and ham slices, slabs of bacon, a

gallon of milk, and a few neat squares of cheese — all safe and secure in their plastic cocoons. Don't forget the loaf of bread, more plastic.

Checking out, I swipe my own little piece of polymer through the scanner.

Back home and parched from my weekly hunting and gathering ordeal, I reach for a frosty adult beverage.

Eureka!

While not a cure for my plastic ills, I have discovered at least one regular dietary supplement that is Bisphenol A-free, polycarbonate-free, and polyvinyl chloride-free: bottled beer.

We'll see who gets the last laugh today!

Reading the Bible with modern eyes

Question: I was very upset with your column when you wrote that you believe Muslims may go to heaven. Obviously, you must not read the Bible and you certainly don't think the Bible is inerrant. If you don't think that every word in the Bible is true, how do you decide what part of the Bible to believe?

Answer: I am sorry that sharing heaven with people of other religions upsets you. Since the Bible was written several centuries before Mohammed, there is really no mention of Muslims at all in

the Christian or Hebrew scriptures.

Your assumption that, because you disagree with me must mean that I have not read the Bible or that, if I have, I do not believe that every word is true, is only partially correct. For over sixty years, I have been a serious student and teacher of the Bible. In all the years I taught Bible to college students, I required that they read it through, and since I felt that it wasn't fair to ask them to do something that I wasn't doing, I guess I have

read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (including the Apocrypha) several dozen times.

The Bible is a wonderful collection of literature describing how men and women responded to God as they understood God in their own time with the limitations of their own knowledge of the world and the universe.

These men and women wrote about their experiences in their own languages (mostly Hebrew and Greek). Sometimes they told their stories in prose, but often they chose poetry. Sometimes their experiences were written as parables and myths that were meant to be taken seriously but not literally. Indeed when one takes some of these stories literally, the meaning of the story is completely destroyed.

Today, we read and hear the words of the Bible with

different eyes and ears, and with minds informed with what God has revealed through history, science, philosophy and theology over

the last two thousand years. When God speaks to us through the words of the Bible, and I certainly believe God does speak to us, we must weigh what we understand God to be saying with our reason, our experience and what we learn from our own faith traditions.

If I must believe that every word in every book in the Bible is scientifically and historically true, then I, as an educated, intelligent follower of Jesus in the 21st century, would be unable to hear God speak at all.

Spiritual and religious truth in every faith tradition is

most often conveyed through myths and metaphors which transcend the bare facts that the words seem to describe, and these truths speak to us across the ages of history and scientific discovery.

Some people have become experts in compartmentalizing what they believe to be true. On Sunday, they accept every word in the Bible as scientifically and historically true, and then, Monday through Friday, they live in an entirely different world with different criteria for what is truth. In order to be the integrated persons God created us to be, what we hold to be true on Sunday must be true throughout the week.

There is a poster on the wall of a church library that says: *Jesus Came To Take Away Our Sins, Not Our Minds*. I believe that God still speaks, and I pray that God will continue to speak to you as you read the Bible with new eyes and ears.

Don Welch is the minister at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. Contact him at dwelch1@nc.rr.com.

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Board’s failure resulted in Special Meeting

Dear Editor:

The failure of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board to recognize that material matters of significant interest to the community should be addressed by all association members has resulted in a needless Special Meeting.

An association of 1700-plus members would never

want nine volunteers to be responsible for issues deemed to be of such significant interest to the community.

The Board attempted to assume more power than what’s best for the community and, therefore, resulted in a petition being presented to correct their action.

If the Board’s action had been left to stand, it would

have set a bad precedent for future Boards. Future volunteer Board members should not feel they would be held accountable for major community interest issues.

The Board’s Special Meeting Notice was short on meaningful information, including nothing about voting or proxy procedures. They followed with notes posted

on the mail house doors that added nothing to how the meeting would be conducted.

This Board is wasting money for outside legal advice regarding our internal differences that are easily settled by a vote of all members.

Based on the tone of the meeting notice and comments made by the Board’s Legal

Director, it appears the meeting will turn into a 19th century New-England-style Town Hall meeting that could be packed by one group.

Who wants that kind of decision making?

Let’s not continue with this ridiculous, packed house, proxy forms, nose counting meeting.

I suggest the Board use its December 14 Work Session to pass a resolution to mail ballots to all members to vote on the first step of the petition.

A “No” vote will keep the road closed without ever knowing if it would be possible for the community to accept the conditions necessary to reopen the road. A “Yes” vote requires additional studies to determine the feasibility and cost of reopening the road, followed by a second vote once the community has this information.

Help the critters while you surf

Dear Readers:

As President of Moore Humane Society in Carthage, I want to share with you a simple way for you to help support our nonprofit organization.

This holiday season you can help homeless pets while you shop online – at no extra cost to you. GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall, which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause. Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy’s and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you’ll be supporting Moore Humane

Society.

You can also help Moore Humane Society while you search the internet by using www.GoodSearch.com. GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up.

If you download the GoodSearch – Moore Humane Society toolbar, the cause will earn money every time you shop and search online – even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch

first! Add the Moore Humane Society (Carthage NC) toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/moore-humane-society>.

To give you a sense of how the money can add up, the ASPCA has already earned more than \$30,000. We’re getting checks now and would love to reach the ASPCA levels. Please spread the word about this easy (and free) way to help Moore Humane Society. It will real-


ly help make a difference in the lives of homeless pets in Moore County. Just be sure to designate Moore Humane Society as your charity.

Together we are Saving Moore Animals!

Want to learn more, call Moore Humane Society at 692-3463.

Gary Kunce
Moore Humane Society
President
Carthage, NC


Eddie J. Jackson
Seven Lakes West



910-673-4500
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**Soup and Packaged Dinner
Calendar for December**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov. 29 White Bean Chicken Chili ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	Nov. 30 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	1 Mushroom Bisque Pot Roast Dinner ORDER EARLY!	2 French Onion Soup ♥ Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner	3 New England Clam Chowder Swiss Steak Dinner
6 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥ Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	7 Mixed Bean & Greens Soup ♥ Chicken Tetrizzini Dinner	8 Creamy Chicken Alphabet Soup Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	9 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Pecan Tilapia Dinner	10 Shrimp & Corn Chowder Pork with Cranberry Merlot Sauce ♥
13 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Shepherd's Pie Dinner	14 Goldie's Chili ♥ Chicken Marsala Dinner ♥	15 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	16 Chicken & Dumpling Soup Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	17 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Stroganoff Dinner
20 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Salisbury Steak Dinner	21 Lentil Soup ♥ Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	22 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Eggplant Parmesan Dinner	23 24 CLOSED Merry Christmas!	
27 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	28 Tomato Florentine Soup ♥ Chicken Divan Dinner	29 Butternut Bisque ♥ Shrimp Enchiladas Dinner	30 31 CLOSED Happy New Year!	

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Why the delay on completing agreement?

Dear Editor:

Some of us have been encouraging the Seven Lakes Landowners Association board to become much more

transparent in the manner it conducts business. Some-time in December, the association will pay Dalton Fulcher the last installment

on a \$75,000 buyout that a previous board attempted to hide from the community.

Now, we are getting almost the same type of treatment on something that has far more potential impact than \$75,000.

The July 2007 Agreement by and between the Seven Lakes Country Club and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] continues to be unresolved. Randy Zielsdorf, the current president of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association was quoted in the August 3, 2007 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times*: ".... Rather than let this go out and simmer for another 30 to 60 days, it was time to get signatures on paper."

The agreement Mr. Zielsdorf

refers calls for, among other things, the Country Club to write covenants "limiting the use of all Country Club property to the operations of the golf course and Country Club". Now, over three years after the fact there has been nothing completed from the original agreement.

It is clear that there are difficulties in getting the parties to agree to what the original agreement stipulated. If the original agreement is further modified without prior full open discussion with property owners, the Board will have failed to be transparent on an issue that is most important to the community. Since there is the possibility of conflict of interest with some Landowner's Association Board members

also being Country Club members, it is even more important that this matter be discussed openly before changes are made to the original agreement.

What is the problem? The original agreement is simple as to intent. Who is responsible for the delay? If there is disagreement as to what the agreement says, then there is a simple solution: Agree to binding arbitration to complete the agreement as written.

The very integrity of our gated private residential community is at stake. This is not an insignificant matter or one that should still be unresolved after three and one half years.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

Thanks, Food Lion

Dear Editor:

I'm sure you are aware that we have a friend right here in Seven Lakes. It is our local Food Lion store and their employees.

I am writing this to say "Thank You" publicly to them for things they have done for me and in turn for many of us in Seven Lakes.

In the past two weeks, I have been able to secure donations for a golf tournament and have been approved to set up up on December 4 and December 18 with the Kiwanis Club of

Seven Lakes ringing the bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive. All the money Seven Lakes Kiwanis collects for the Salvation Army stays right here in Moore County to benefit the youth.

I will thank all of you in advance for being so thoughtful with your donations on those two Saturdays, but rest assured it would not happen if we didn't have a real friend right here in Seven Lakes.

Ken Jenkins
Seven Lakes Kiwanis



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Sikes' resignation the tip of the iceberg

Dear Editor:

If you read the article in *The Seven Lakes Times* about Joe Sikes' resignation from the Seven Lakes West Board, you need to understand some of the background.

Apparently, part of Sikes' decision occurred because an article he prepared for the Seven Lakes West Newsletter was censored by fellow board members.

Get used to the censorship. And here's why.

I was a member of the Seven Lakes West Communications Committee — predecessor to the current Community Relations Committee.

The Communications Committee was organized by former board chairman Jim Haggard and its mission statement defined it as "an independent group" charged with providing accurate and objective information about events, issues, and people in Seven Lakes West that the newsletter's reader would find interesting and useful.

As a member of that committee — and a former newspaper reporter, editor, and publisher — I think the committee did a credible job of doing just that.

But early this year, things changed.

Committee members were informed that the Board wanted to change the mission

of the committee. There was upset that the committee had set up a forum on Incorporation and invited all residents of of Seven Lakes and the surrounding areas to attend — not just West Side residents.

As it turned out, the Board obviously has its own agenda on incorporation.

The committee was informed that the Board wanted more "positive" or "feel good" articles. They would bring the committee and the content of the Newsletter under the control of the Board — in effect making the committee and the Newsletter, a public relations arm of the Board.

Rather than accept these

changes, I and most of the committee members, including the chairman, resigned. The "Community Relations Committee" replaced the "Independent" Communications Committee.

I'm sure the current committee members are good people and they will do the best job they can, and there will be information in the Newsletter that will be useful to residents.

But what you see is what you get.

The content of the Newsletter will be controlled by the Board. What you read about, when you read it, and how

information is presented will be decided by the Board.

Just ask Joe Sikes.

In the meantime, listen to your neighbors, keep your eyes open, attend as many meetings as you can.

And knowing Greg Hankins, as I do, I'm sure he and *The Seven Lakes Times* will not be merely a public relations outlet for the Board, and will continue to try to provide the fair and objective news and information that Seven Lakes West residents need and want.

Joe Doster
Seven Lakes West

Lions say Thanks!

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes Lions Club would like to thank all Seven Lakers who so generously supported their recent White Cane Drive. During the two days of this year's campaign, they raised over \$1500. All funds will be use to provide assistance to the blind.

The Lions would also like to thank residents of residents of nearby communities who participated and to help make this year's drive a success.

The Lions Club motto is "We Serve" and the White Cane Drive demonstrates one way in which the local Seven Lakes Club fulfills that motto.

The Seven Lakes Lions appreciate the willingness of all who gave.

Lions Club Member
Dan Flint

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Religions are different. And that matters.

Dear Editor:

In the October 29 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times*, Rev. Don Welch answers a question about Muslims and heaven, his answers raise questions about which theologians differ.

While failing to mention God's justice, Rev. Welch

claims people of all faiths may receive the gift of heaven based on God's love regardless of religious distinctive. Can all religions be reduced to the "love principle?" Can we simply ignore the huge doctrinal differences between religions? Are we creating a new religion

in our image: the love religion?

If all religions are valid paths to God, why Jesus Christ appearing in visions and dreams to scores of Muslims in countries like Iraq and Iran, calling them to forsake all and follow Him? (Inside the Revolution by Joel

Rosenburg)

Ravi Zacharias, noted Christian apologist, who was raised in the Hindu religion states, "All religions plainly and simply cannot be true. Truth by definition excludes . . . every religion at its core is exclusive."

For example, Christ claims to be the source of life and only way to God (John 14:6) The Christian is forgiven of sins by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and not by the keeping of laws and traditions (Hebrews 9:22, Ephesians 2:8,9). And the scriptures were written so we may know that we have eternal life, if we believe (John 20:31).

In contrast, Islam believes that Christ was a prophet, but the Son of God Salva-

tion is obtained by keeping the five pillars of recitation, prayer, alms, fasting, and pilgrimage, but there is no certainty of heaven.

Hinduism doesn't believe in a personal god, but rather a universal spirit, an unconscious, impersonal force. It holds to reincarnation with the goal of life be accumulation of good karma and eventually, through enough lives, to be elevated to a state of pure spirit, on the the Brahman of the Universe.

One may choose which religion to follow, but to reduce them to common themes, ignores their contradictory doctrines and truth claims.

James Boyd
Seven Lakes West

Only one route to heaven

Dear Editor:

In your October 29 publication of *The Times*, Rev. Don Welch addressed the question about Muslims going to Heaven.

I'd like to share a different opinion based upon my understanding of the Bible, God's inspired word. I hold no degree in theology, but have studied for many years. I don't pretend to be able to explain everything in the Bible, but I do believe God will reveal truths at the time of need.

As for who will and will not go to Heaven, other than myself and friends who have revealed themselves fully, I don't pretend to know. The heart of a person can deceive man, but not God. Rev. Welch stated that he would be reluctant to believe in a God who would exclude anyone from receiving the gift of Heaven just because he or she called God by another name. The issue is not what they call

God, but rather what they believe about Jesus. He was not simply a prophet. He was God incarnate. He is the Savior, the means through which a person can get to Heaven. Jesus stated, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

The gift is available for everyone, but they have to be willing to accept it. "For God so loved the world that He gave his His only begotten Son, that who ever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16) God loves everyone and desires to have a loving relationship with us. But He gave man the freedom to accept or reject His love and the gift of eternal life in Heaven.

Heaven is real and I will be there some day. Of that I am sure. I too hope to see people of all races and nations. But, I know, I will only see them if they confess with their own

mouths that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from death (paraphrase of Romans 10:9).

I realize it is not popular to speak in absolute terms in our politically correct society. But the Gospel of Jesus cannot be compromised because it may offend someone.

Don't take me at my word, get copy of Bible and study it yourself. It is a life changing book that leads to an external life changing relationship.

Joel Fox
Seven Lakes West

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from front page)
vinced that every expense was warranted.

Responding to criticism this Summer from former committee members, Zielsdorf agreed to a meeting in October between himself, Treasurer Denny Galford, Community Manager Alina Cochran, and several representatives from the former group. Discussions included a comprehensive five-year review of dam expenditures and joint approval of an eight item action list of regularly scheduled dam maintenance projects.

During Monday's Work Session, Cochran noted that new information would require an adjustment to one of those items.

"There is some concern that mowing the grass when it has grown too long smothers the grass underneath," Cochran explained.

Once mowed on a regular basis for aesthetics, over the last few years the grass on the dam faces has only been cut twice or thrice each year to prevent soil erosion. Cochran recommended that instead of limiting cuttings to a predetermined number, that the action item should be amended so that grass is mowed when it reaches a specified maximum height.

Following her report, Zielsdorf announced his decision to reconstitute the Lakes & Dams Committee and said he is seeking four interested individuals to serve. Specifically, he noted the committee would be useful in providing guidance for special requests related to the lakes that do not fall under already established committee interests of security, recreation or infrastructure. He anticipated an initial meeting in January and at least one more meeting prior to the new Board members being seated following the Annual Meeting in March.

Echo Dam closed for repairs

Echo Dam was closed and work on a heavily eroded section of Firetree Lane commenced Monday, November 29. One of four high priority

areas identified as needing substantial repairs prior to community-wide repaving, the \$31,124 project was awarded to Civil Group in September.

Community Manager Alina Cochran said there was concern about whether the underlying soil was fit for the necessary work. Once the surface soil was removed, a visual inspection of the base was completed with both the contractor and Mike Cummins agreeing that the soil was in fact adequate. Cummins is a Southside resident and retired civil engineer who is assisting with overseeing the project as a member of the SLLA Infrastructure Committee under Director Bud Shaver.

With good progress, the project was ahead of schedule and paving work was anticipated to begin early this week; however, cold temperatures and some minor vandalism last weekend may delay completion.

Zielsdorf reported that road barricades protecting the work site were removed from the dam on Friday night, December 3, resulting in at least one vehicle driving over the unfinished roadbed. In addition, the construction site's porta-potty was tipped over and a storm grate was also tampered with.

"It didn't look like any real damage, but I'm not an expert," said Zielsdorf, who replaced the barricades early Saturday morning with assis-

tance from Treasurer Denny Galford. "The worse case is they may have to reroll."

State enforcement on Lake Sequoia considered

There needs to be an educational discussion between the community and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

That is the primary message that emerged from a meeting with Sgt. Mark Dutton, reported Directors Bruce Keyser, Jr. and Melinda Scott.

"The agency poses a good opportunity for our community," said Keyser, noting that there are many misconceptions about what will happen if state enforcement is permitted in Seven Lakes.

In particular, the Board is

looking to resolve a ongoing problem of excessive alcohol use and impaired boat operators.

"People look at Fish and Wildlife as enforcement, but he [Dutton] is not looking at that per se, but looking at this as an educational opportunity, of working with youth on water safety, of working with adults in the community. He was very reasonable," Scott said.

Scott said there is an incorrect perception that if NC Wildlife is enforcing on the lakes, that the Army Corps is automatically brought in as well.

"That is not accurate," she stated.

In addition, Dutton told (See "SLLA" p. 26)



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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 25)

Scott that he will only come on the lakes when he invited unless there are overt occurrences of illegal activity.

"What we're seeing have been instances of problems on Sequoia and other lakes that we haven't seen in a while," said Scott.

"The Board has no legal authority to rectify the problems. If we see these problems increase, then steps must be taken. If next Summer residents are more compliant, then we will look at Fish and Wildlife as an educational resource and less for enforcement."

Galford questioned whether the presence of Wildlife officers would require the need for boat registration with North Carolina; however, after going around the table, it was clear that more information was needed from Dutton to correctly answer this concern.

Scott recommended that Zielsdorf, as chair of the newly reformed Lakes & Dams Committee, invite Dutton to make an informational presentation at an upcoming Open Meeting.

Swimming pool setbacks

Members of the Architectural Review Board [ARB] met with representatives from the Moore County Planning office regarding proposed ordinances on setback regulations for swimming pools in private communities. In discussions, it was determined that it would be more expedient to amend the county ordinances to allow each community to set its own guidelines rather than attempt to reach a consensus ruling.

Director Melinda Scott reported that ARB recommended a 25' minimum setback for swimming pools from both rear and side property lines. A Board vote on the proposed change will be scheduled.

Proposed revisions to membership form

In a similar discussion, Galford reported that changes to the membership form as recommended by the Finance Committee would require a few minor changes to the rules and necessitate a Board vote of approval.

Specifically, Galford recommended a change to Rule

5.2.3 which states that dogs must be registered, in favor of amending the rule to allow registering dogs as an option.

"There have been some recent concerns with dogs, but registered dogs aren't the problem dogs. We're collecting \$3 and keeping a partial record [of resident animals] but for three bucks it isn't worth it," said Galford.

Changing the word from 'must' to 'may' register a dog in the rule would provide an option to register and receive the accompanying identification tag for any in the community who wanted the additional security in case their pet was lost or found roaming.

Galford also recommended amending the rules to eliminate a requirement to register non-power boats, including

canoes, rowboats, and paddle boats.

"There is no need for enforcement with these types of boats or water damage concerns," he explained.

In addition, the new membership form will also include a space for residents to register their golf carts, which is required by community rules but has not been enforced.

"The changes we anticipate we hope will allow for a more efficient registration. The form will be mailed with the election ballot. Billing for the yearly assessment with account balance and a statement of dues will go out with a return address of a lockbox. Payment of dues can be handled through the mail and, at a later time, the office will mail out stickers and membership cards," explained

Galford.

A vote on the proposed changes will be called at the December 15 Open Meeting.

Other business

In other business on Monday, December 6, the SLLA Board:

- Considered three bids for annual termite inspection services. Cochran recommended accepting a bid submitted by Aberdeen Exterminating.

- Heard from Cochran that the uniform contract agreement, valid through September 2011, had been renegotiated and new terms offered the potential to save \$1,900 per year. In addition, the contract includes winter jackets, the option of long or short sleeve shirts year round,

(See "SLLA" p. 27)

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

county water system that serves the Village, using the proceeds from that sale to extend county water service to the rest of the county.

- Partnering with the Town of Robbins to make it a source of water for county customers, by preparing a concrete proposal and asking the Town to do the same, exchanging those proposals in a public meeting, and beginning serious negotiations.
- Giving taxpayers a one-year break from paying the two-cent Advanced Life Support tax, which is dedicated to funding county emergency services. Picerno noted that the tax has produced a current surplus of \$5.1 million, creating the opportunity for a one-time tax break.
- Using a portion of the county's fund balance, cur-

rently just under \$19 million, to retire some of the county's debt that carries higher interest rates.

- Taking a second look at last year's reconfiguration of the county's longevity and performance bonus system for rewarding its employees. The rewrite of the system, which eliminated bonuses given solely on the basis of longevity, "May have gone too far," Picerno said, noting that it may be impossible for employees to reach the highest performance rating in the system.
- Continuing to reduce the number of county employees through attrition, using the savings realized to provide a pay raise for the remaining employees.
- Forming a citizen's task force that would review the ordinances proposed for the county's proposed Unified

Development Ordinance and make recommendations to help make Moore County more business-friendly.

Picerno's list, offered at the very end of the meeting, provoked no public reaction from his fellow Board members. He joked that he didn't want his fellow Commissioners "to have too much of a holiday."

Though they will not meet again in December, the Board of Commissioners have a regular meeting scheduled for January 4, a work session on January 6, a retreat on January 13 & 14, and another regular meeting on January 18.

Auditors Give County "Clean Report"

Crystal Waddell of the accounting firm Martin Starnes & Associates told the Board of Commissioners that her firm's audit of county finances for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 produced a "clean report" without qualifications. She noted that the year included a change in financial software and a change in the county's primary banking relationship, both of which made the audit process more challenging.

Waddell's report included an overview of FY2009-2010 finances; among the highlights were:

- County general fund revenues totaled \$83 million, down \$4 million from the year prior, with \$3 million of that resulting from a decline in income from sales taxes. Property taxes account for 65 percent of the money the county takes in.
- County expenditures were \$82 million for the year, with 36 percent of that going to the public schools and community college.
- The County's Public Utilities assets grew from \$29.6 million last year to \$33 million this year, the result of upgrades and expansions to the water and wastewater systems.

Waddell introduced the Board to a revision of feder-

al accounting principles that will require a more detailed classification of the county's fund balance. Ongoing negotiations between federal and state governments over the new rules mean their precise application to Moore County remains up in the air, she noted. The Board is expected to delve more deeply into the implications of the rule change during its January 6 work session.

Public Comment

Though the matter was not on the agenda for Monday's meeting, Pinehurst resident Doug Middaugh asked the Commissioners to turn aside a request from the Village

(See "Commissioners" p. 27)

SLLA

(Continued from page 26)

no charges for adding new employees, and a consistent standard uniform for all maintenance staff.

- Heard from Cochran that lake water testing was conducted with no concerns reported. The next regular testing is scheduled for April.

Following the Work Session, the Board went into a special Closed Meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

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August Special: \$25 Sports Physicals

Commissioners

(Continued from page 27)

Chapel in Pinehurst for an upgrade to the county's water system needed to provide adequate fire flows to support a major expansion of the Chapel.

The church's plan to build an education building on the Village Green in Pinehurst has run into stiff opposition -- including from Middaugh -- but has thus far won approval by the Village Council. Before the Commissioners, Middaugh argued that Moore County Public Utilities has consistently required that developers bear the cost of water system upgrades and should apply the same standard to the Chapel's request.

Pinehurst's John Marcum, who has become a regular speaker at the county Board's meeting, encouraged the Commissioners to consider adding to their recently approved Code of Ethics three specific amendments that Marcum had suggested previously, including one that would prevent any Commissioner from serving on a Board whose budget and activities are overseen by the county and another that would require a public hearing and environmental review before the county pays more than the assessed tax value for any property.

Noting the \$3.2 billion budget shortfall facing the state, Marcum said big-ticket items like the new detention center and public safety building may need to be re-evaluated with an eye to cutting costs.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, December 6 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Approved a revision to the contract under which the county has access to Microsoft operating systems and software for its computers.

- At the request of Commissioner Lea, tabled a request from Public Works for a \$724,800 water line upgrade that would provide fire flows needed to support

an expansion of Carolina Eye Associates on Midland Road, while at the same time improving the county's water system in that area and allowing it to purchase more water from Southern Pines. Lea asked that the Board consider the request in closed session, as is typically done for projects related to economic development, and the Board unanimously supported his motion.

- Approved a contract with Riley Paving for the patching and resurfacing of parking lots at the Ag Center, Health Department, and Property Management Department.

- Approved an interlocal agreement with Town of Vass that allows the county to contract for design work on a project that will extend the existing Vass sewer system to town residents who currently do not have sewer serv-

ice. The Town received a \$15,000 NC Rural Economic Development Center grant to help fund the project; the county's share of the costs totals \$7,500.

- Granted an easement to Progress Energy to allow a power line to be extended to the new water tower on Monticello Road in Pinehurst.

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the state Crime Control and Public Safety Division that will allow Moore County, along with ten other counties, to receive a \$200,000 Homeland Security grant to fund the first phase of a project that will install transfer switches and generators to be used in case of emergency. Moore County will manage the multi-county project, which is expected to win similar grants in subsequent years.

- Appointed Commissioner Lea the county's delegate to the Triangle J Council of Governments, and Commissioner Caddell his alternate.

- Deferred filling a vacancy for an engineer and veterinarian on the Board of Health because there were no applicants for the position. Chairman Picerno encouraged qualified citizens to "step up." "It's a great Board to serve on," he added.

- Approved the bonds necessary to cover public officials, including the finance

officer, tax administrator, and sheriff, in the exercise of their duties.

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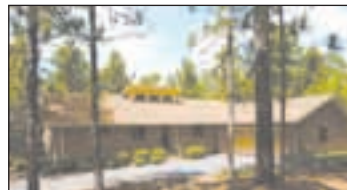
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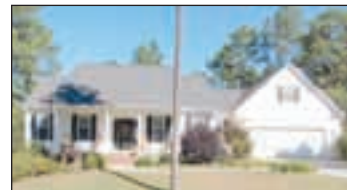
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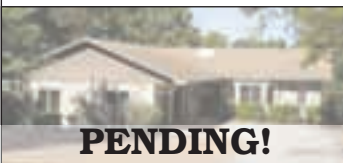
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