

## SLLA plan to outsource maintenance draws fire

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Formal discussion of a proposed landscape maintenance contract never got off the ground during the Wednesday, January 26 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] after a rancorous public comment period revealed that the \$146,400 proposal had not been reviewed by the Finance Committee, did not have the support of the majority of landowners present, and had

not been considered alongside other options, as requested by the Infrastructure Committee.

The question of whether the community is best served by an in-house maintenance

topic has not been discussed in any open meetings this year — including the January 11 Work Session at which the proposed contract was placed on the agenda for a vote.

The last time the Board publicly discussed the idea of outsourcing maintenance was in 2009, following an in-house cost analysis performed by former maintenance supervisor Bob Darr (who is currently running for a seat on the Board). At the time, Darr recommended against outsourcing; and, later that year, the Board  
(See "SLLA," p. 17)

### Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

1/26

department versus a professional outsourced service has been debated on and off for some time, but the Board's recent decision to solicit bids surprised many, since the

## Seven Lakes could join NW Moore Water District

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter

Seven Lakes could be rolled into the moribund Northwest Moore Water District if all the stars align in a creative approach to providing both Seven Lakes and Robbins ratepayers with more, less expensive water.

Public Utilities Director Dennis Brobst sketched out

the concept for the Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, February 1 regular meeting. The Northwest Moore District was created in 2004, on the heels of the county's successful use of the independent East Moore Water District to extend its water system to residents in the eastern end of the county. Northwest Moore resi-

dents voted to borrow up to \$16 million to pay to extend water lines and other infrastructure needed to bring county water to the area surrounding water.

But, in the end, not enough homes signed up for county water to make the project viable. That leaves the county with \$16 million of borrowing authority that is set to expire in May.

Brobst suggested extending the Northwest Moore Water District to include both Robbins, assuming the town council approves, and Seven Lakes, which has a large enough installed base of water customers to make the District viable. The enlarged District could then borrow the \$16 million already approved and use that to build a new water treatment plant in Robbins and pay for  
(See "Commissioners," p. 27)

## Wildlife Officers explain boating laws



**Officer Gary Caulk and Sergeant Mark Dutton of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Enforcement Division presented information on the enforcement of boating laws prior to the Wednesday, January 26 Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting.**  
[See story on page 6.]

## Election Time in Seven Lakes

It's election time in Seven Lakes, with slates of candidates vying for Board seats that will be filled based on balloting that concludes at Annual Meetings in March.

Westsidiers were introduced to their four candidates during the Tuesday, January 25 Board Work Session. You'll find interviews with the four in this edition of The Times, begin-

ning on page 8.

Our February 18 edition will include interviews with the candidates for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

The SLLA will host a Candidates Night on Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm in the North Clubhouse, moderated by *Times* Editor Greg Hankins.

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# Business Guild looking for new members

by Darrell Marks

Seven Lakes Business Guild

The first meeting of the Seven Lakes Business Guild for 2011 was hosted by Phoenix Fashions on January 20. Darrell Marks, co-owner of Phoenix Fashions and Guild President for 2011, presided.

The first order of business for the Guild was to extend thanks to Randy Merritt of Seven Lakes Friendly Mart

for his two years of leadership as past the President. The presentation of a plaque of appreciation followed. Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy and Judy McNeill of Jubilee Screen Printing were also thanked for their continuing service as Guild Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

The main focus of the meeting was to establish a calendar of events for 2011 that

would give Guild members the most and best chances to present their goods and services to the people of Seven Lakes.

With the business landscape having changed during the last three years due to the slow economy, it was noted that several former members had closed or left the area in addition to the closure of additional local businesses that had never been members of the Guild.

It was discussed that to continue the long standing programs of the Guild, especially pothole repair and maintenance of common grounds, new monies would be needed. The group decided that an appeal to several local businesses that had never contributed to the upkeep of the Business District would be necessary. Several members volunteered to make direct overtures to some

of those businesses,

The Guild's Promotions Committee, headed by Sherri Adams of CommunityOne Bank, reminded everyone present that Welcome Bags were being filled in February and that any member in good standing as of December 31, 2010 would be allowed to advertise their business in the bags.

Promotional materials, discount cards, and other items representing a Guild member's business should be left at any of the three local banks or Phoenix Fashions as soon as possible to be included in the next bags.

Anyone wanting more information about the Business Guild can contact Darrell Marks at 673-5998.



**Business Guild Officers – Secretary Judy McNeill, outgoing President Randy Merritt, 2011 President Darrell Marks, and Treasurer Vann Joyce.**

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue	Jul 29	Aug 5
Jan 28	Feb 4	Aug 12	Aug 19
Feb 11	Feb 18	Aug 26	Sep 2
Feb 25	Mar 4	Sep 9	Sep 16
Mar 11	Mar 18	Sep 23	Sep 30
Mar 25	Apr 1	Oct 7	Oct 14
Apr 8	Apr 15	Oct 21	Oct 28
Apr 21*	Apr 29	Nov 4	Nov 11
May 6	May 13	Nov 17*	Nov 25
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# Flood plains & culverts at Westside meeting

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter

It has taken nearly a decade of work, but the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] finally has a signed assurance that Lake Auman lots are not in a high hazard flood zone, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn reported during the Tuesday, January 25 Work Session. The lower risk designation means lakefront lot owners should not have to purchase expensive federal flood insurance.

Gerhard Hergenbahn spearheaded the effort to obtain official notification from Moore County that Lake Auman lots are not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area; Silberhorn thanked Hergenbahn for his effort, prompting a round of applause from the assembled landowners.

## New map initially put Auman lots in flood plain

When, in 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Administration [FEMA] published drafts of new flood maps, parts of all 500 Lake Auman lakefront lots were shown in the "high hazard" flood zone, designated "AE," of the lake.

But, at the same time, they had determined the rise of the lake level in the hundred-year flood to be a mere three-quarters of a foot, easily contained by the two-foot high bulkheads. Gerhard Hergenbahn, in cooperation with the Moore County Planning Department, launched an official protest. By the time the maps were declared final in October of 2006, FEMA had redrawn the flood zone line: it is now identical with the shoreline, thus showing all lots in the low risk zone "Shaded X," identifying a statistical flood risk of once every 100 to 500 years.

Because of the low-risk designation, banks need not require their mortgage holders to buy mandatory flood insurance or provide an elevation certificate by a surveyor that would prove the low risk of the home. Instead, the homes automatically,

without survey, qualify for the much less expensive Preferred Rate Flood Insurance.

It is up to homeowners to decide if they want to buy such protection, based on considerations that include the elevation of the home above the lake and where the home is situated on the lake. Though flooding from rising water is highly unlikely, wave action spawned by a severe stationary hurricane might put some homes at risk of water penetration into the lower level.

In 1979, the borders of the

lake lots were surveyed for the subdivision plats before there was a dam or lake. As an unavoidable consequence, the final reach of the lake and the erected bulkheads deviate from their plat surveys, showing large parts of

many lots "underwater."

But, by the covenants, the title reaches only to the water or bulkhead line, independ-

## West Side Landowners Meeting

1/25

## Westside asked for input on long range community projects

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association is inviting members to weigh in on a number of big-ticket projects on the drawing board by completing a Long Range Planning Survey. From upgrading the front and back gates to adding picnic tables and grills at West Side Park, the survey explains possible projects and asks landowners to rate their importance. Copies are available on the SLWLA website or from the office. The deadline is February 15; results will be presented at the Annual Meeting in March.

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ent of the map. This very unusual legal situation made it desirable to have an explicit declaration by the County Floodplain Administrator, which declares the lots to be outside the flood zone and allows surveyors to confirm this, even if the map appears to contradict.

This letter has been received now and was available as a handout to the meeting participants. It will later be published on the Association's web site.

## Culvert repairs accelerated

The Association will be replacing four more culverts under Longleaf Drive over the next month, Infrastruc-

ture Director John Goodman reported, explaining that the condition of the first culvert replaced was worse than expected.

The good news is that detours are available at the other four culvert locations, so traffic will not be cut off from reaching either the front gate or back gate. Goodman noted that the thirteen Longleaf Drive culverts that will be repaired over the next three years are not the end of the project, because that doesn't account for side roads where many more culvert repairs will be needed in the future.

The four culverts that are  
(See "Westside," p. 26)

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# Dormie Club falls short on job creation

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The developer of the Dormie Club — and would-be developer of Pine Forest — has failed to meet the job-creation goals called for in a \$500,000 grant that helped bring Moore County water to the upscale golf course development under construction off NC Highway 73. But the state agency that provided the funds is more interested in seeing the promised jobs created than in recouping the cash.

The North Carolina Rural Center grant that paid more than one-quarter of the cost of bringing water down NC Highway 73 from Eastwood was predicated on a simple formula: \$10,000 per job. Dormie Club developer MHK Ventures, Inc. pledged to create 50 full-time jobs within a year after the project was complete. The deadline was December 31, and the job count stood at 15, not 50, according to Walter J. MacKey, Jr., a principal in MHK.

Responding to a Rural Center request for information

on the number of jobs created, MacKey, in a letter to engineering firm Hobbs-Upchurch and Associates, said the development of Dormie Club had “been slowed down by construction delays, the recession, and bad weather.”

While the Dormie Club golf course is substantially complete, the club is operating out of a temporary clubhouse, and no residential properties have been developed. MacKey’s letter indicated another seven employees would be added in March, bringing the job total to twenty-two.

The 13,000 square-foot permanent clubhouse is expected to be finished by mid-2013, and the club will be fully operational by year-end 2013, MacKey writes, at which time it will be able to meet its commitment to provide 50 full-time jobs. The developer notes that his Thistle Golf Club project in Sunset Beach was completed in 2010 and now employs more than 50.

Reports filed with the Rural

Center by the county indicate that the extension of the county’s water system to serve the Dormie Club cost just over \$1.6 million, of which Mackey Development paid \$609,000; the county paid \$564,000, and the Rural Center grant covered \$428,000.

However, it appears that this total may include a booster station and water line and tank upgrades required to bring water from the East Moore Water District to the county systems, benefiting not only future Dormie Club water users, but existing water users in Pinehurst and Seven Lakes.

Public Works Director Dennis Brobst told *The Times* on Wednesday that no county money was used to pay

for the water line extension to the Dormie Club.

## Grant extensions common

A three-way agreement that links MHK, the County, and the Rural Center allows the economic development agency to recapture the grant monies if the Dormie Club fails to meet its jobs commitment, but there’s little indication the Rural Center is in a rush to make that move.

Fred Hobbs, of Hobbs-Upchurch, which is charged with administering the the Dormie Club grant on Moore County’s behalf, told *The Times* that it is not unusual, particularly in difficult economic times, for the Rural Center to extend the job creation deadline for two, three, or even four years.

“We’ve had these projects that have gone into the fourth and fifth years,” Hobbs said. “The only thing that would give pause to the Rural Center, would be if there were no golf course, no jobs, no activity. They would look askance at that.”

Julie Haigler Cubeta, Senior Director of the Center’s Physical Infrastructure Office, confirmed Hobbs’ point.

“Many companies are having a hard time meeting their employment pledges,” she told *The Times*. “We have extended deadlines out for a number of them. It’s the economy.”

“We want to create the jobs,” Cubeta said. “We don’t really want the money back.”

(See “Dormie,” p. 15)



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# County staffers brief Kiwanis on jail, NC 211

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Two representatives from the Moore County office spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Tuesday, January 25.

Ken Larking, Assistant County Manager, and Joey Raczkowski, Director of Planning and Community Development, spoke about two items of current interest — the new jail project in Carthage and the forthcoming widening of NC Highway 211.

Larking described the plans, reasons for, and cost of the new jail. The current jail is overcrowded. It has a rated capacity of 110 inmates, but is currently handling approximately 130 people.

The new facility will have 192 cells and if the single cells were converted to doubles, the capacity could actu-

ally be 256. The Sheriff's offices and the 911 facilities will also be a part of the new detention center. The cost is

currently figured to be about \$27 million, and the facility is expected to be completed by the Summer of 2012.



Assistant County Manager Ken Larking and Planning Director Joey Raczkowski with Kiwanian Frank Hayes

Raczkowski described, briefly, the plans for the widening of Hwy. 211 from Hwy. 73 in West End to the Pinehurst traffic circle. Concerns by the community, and even the DOT, continue to prompt questions about how the widened road will be fed into the traffic circle in Pinehurst and the two lane road in West End.

Many community meetings are planned in the near future to give the residents more

detailed information, and request ideas from the people who will regularly use the road.

Bids for the project are planned to be requested in October 2011. The expected cost of the project is estimated to be \$27million, and the anticipated completion is 2014.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors are always welcome.

## Get your Kiwanis Pancakes Saturday!

The Annual Seven Lakes Kiwanis Breakfast will be held Saturday, February 5, 7 am through 11 am. The event will be held at West End Elementary School with eat-in or take out service available.

This important fundraiser will benefit local school classes Kindergarten through third grade with cash and computers for an exciting new program entitled Reading Diagnostic Assessment Initiative. This endeavor, supported by the Department

of Public Instruction and the NC Teachers Academy, is designed to impact student learning.

Co-chairs John Shaughnessy and John Clohessy stated, "The Kiwanis Club exists for the support of the community and its children. Can you think of a better project that we might dedicate our energies toward? We encourage our Seven Lakes neighbors to wholeheartedly support this year's Pancake Breakfast."

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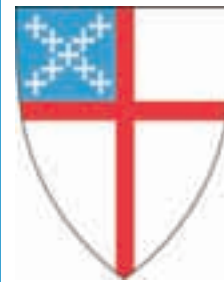
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# Wildlife officers explain state's role on private lakes

by **Laura Douglass**  
Times Reporter

"Education is crucial to keeping waterways safe," Sgt. Mark Dutton of NC Wildlife Resources Commission told residents during a special presentation at the North Clubhouse on Wednesday, January 26.

Dutton and fellow Wildlife Officer Gary Caulk attended this hour long 'meet and greet' at the invitation of Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Directors Bruce Keyser, Jr. and Chuck Mims, who are spearheading efforts to increase safe boating through education, improved rules and possible enforcement by the state agency.

"Our primary objective is to assist you and make your lakes a safe place for recreation," explained Dutton. "Does that come with a price? Yes. Let's not sugarcoat it, but you need to ask yourself some hard questions."

"Do you want to maintain the quality of life of the place you invested in? Do you want to maintain a safe recreation atmosphere? You need to ask yourself what you're trying to accomplish," he said.

Of particular concern in the last year has been an uptick in reports of impaired and reckless boating on Lake Sequoia, the community's largest lake and, arguably, most important asset.

"We have not taken these concerns lightly and we are looking at ways to curb past problems and prevent future ones," said Director Keyser. "We want whatever we do to be a positive for the community."

A first step towards that goal is a Boating Education Course for children and adults scheduled for Sunday, April 10, starting at 1:30 pm in the North Clubhouse. There is no fee to attend, but space is limited to thirty participants.

To register, please contact the SLLA office or visit the NCWRC website for more

information on other available classes.

## Misconceptions and common questions

Formed in 1947 to conserve and manage the state's fish and wildlife resources, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] is also the primary agency tasked with enforcing boating safety. Currently, there are two hundred active officers and Dutton and Caulk, who both grew up and continue to reside in this immediate area, serve as the primary contacts for Moore County.

Jumping in feet first, Dutton addressed what is perhaps the number one misunderstanding about lakes — who owns them?

Essentially, Lake Sequoia is a privately-controlled lake, but North Carolina laws apply.

"Your lakes are privately-controlled bodies of water. Your association surrounds and controls total access to the body of water — but every body of water in North Car-

olina is privately-owned. What is unique is that you control 360 degree access. You control who comes and goes," said Dutton.

"The water in itself is not private: it is considered waters of the state. It is now, it has been, and always will be."

"Just because you haven't had law enforcement before [on Lake Sequoia] doesn't mean you haven't had to comply with state law. It just hasn't been enforced," said Dutton.

The only exemptions to state-enforcement are granted for private ponds that are lined with a single tract of land: for example, an irrigation pond on a large tract of private land.

During questions, Northsider Joan DeBruin pointed out that Seven Lakes has many rules for boating but lacks a way to consistently enforce those regulations.

Dutton responded that a community may adopt stronger rules, but not more lenient ones, than state law.

(See "Wildlife," p. 15)



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# Foxfire may get 156 acres, not \$1.4 million

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Foxfire Village may well wind up with 156 acres of undeveloped land, rather than \$1.4 million it needs to pay for the recently completed Woodland Circle Extension project.

Quietly reading from a letter addressed to the Village Council during a Tuesday, February 1 public hearing on the project assesment, Mayor George Erickson reported that John McKeon's legal trust has offered to give

the Village its 156 acres rather than pay its \$1.4 million share of the cost.

In January, McKeon notified the Council, through his attorney, that it was not economically appropriate for him to pay the assessment using the methodology the Council had selected for allocating the cost of the project among affected property owners.

The Council's plan called for assessing owners based on the total acreage they owned, rather than on a their proportionate share of actual road

frontage.

McKeon asked the Council to reconsider the methodology; however, the Council expressed concern that

## Foxfire Council Meeting 2/1

reversing course on the already approved preliminary assessment could completely negate the original

petition that allowed the project to move forward.

Foxfire Village attorney Michael Brough explained that McKeon's offer to donate the land would, in effect, provide a shorter and quicker process to reach where the Council would eventually end up if the landowner failed to pay his share: foreclosure.

Following a public hearing, the Council approved the assessment roll, including the fourteen affected property owners along the recently completed 1.5 mile roadway. With properties assessed using an equal pro-rata methodology of .20782 per square foot, McKeon's large tract garnered nearly

75% of the total project cost of \$1,996,667.

Councilman Ed Lauer was not in attendance; and, with a limited agenda in place for the public hearing, Brough recommended the Council take no immediate action on McKeon's offer.

"It would be preferable to wait until your next meeting to decide whether to accept this gift," cautioned Brough.

There were no other public comments; and, immediately following the hearing, the Council went into Closed Meeting to discuss McKeon's offer.

## In memory of . . .

**Lois Talbott**, 87, of Omaha, NE, formerly of Seven Lakes South, died Tuesday, January 25.

Ms. Talbott was a homemaker. The family moved to Seven Lakes in 1986.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hudson Talbott.

Survivors include her daughter, Janet Talbott; sons, Greg Talbott and Kirk Talbott.

A memorial service is planned in Seven Lakes at a later date.

**Louis John Biasotti**, 94, died Tuesday January 18, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Biasotti was born in Manhattan, New York son of the late Mario and Francesca Ranieri Biasotti.

A Prayer Vigil was held Monday, January 24, at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes. A Rite of Committal will be held privately in Seven Lakes Cemetery with military honors at a later date.

Mr. Biasotti was preceded in death by his brother, Albert Biasotti.

Mr. Biasotti is survived by his son, Louis Biasotti, Jr. of New York City, NY; daughter, Melinda Scott and husband Richard of Seven Lakes; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren



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# The Times interviews Westside Candidates

Four candidates are in the running for three open seats on the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors in an election that will wrap up at the Annual Meeting in March.

Patti Cleary, Jim Ferguson, Jim McCarthy, and Jack Stevens each met with *The Times* for one-on-one interviews last week.

Our goal in these interviews was not to bombard candidates with a laundry list of questions, but rather to have a conversation about their priorities for Seven Lakes West and their interest in serving on the Board. In short, our goal was to have the same sort of conversation the candidates will likely have with individual landowners a dozen times between now and "election day."

The highlights of those conversations can be found on the next few pages of this edition.

## Patti Cleary

Patti Cleary is no stranger to the SLWLA Board of Directors. Her husband, Ed Tuton, served as Board Secretary for three years, giving Cleary, as "secretary to the secretary," a unique window onto Association business. She told *The Times* that, if elected, she would like to take on the role of Board Secretary.

Cleary would bring to the post of Director thirty years of experience in banking, but said she feels current Treasurer Don Friert is better-suited to that office. Cleary held many managerial positions during her career and told *The Times* "I like to pride myself on the fact that I am not a micromanager and am a very good delegator."

As a bank manager, she said, she had to conduct a nearly endless series of regular audits. "And if a penny was missing, I was going to find it," she added.

Asked about Board priorities, Cleary mentioned several items the Board will need to

address in the next few years, including redesigning the front entrance, moving the mail house or building new mail house(s), repairing the thirteen culverts that need to be fixed under Longleaf Drive, and, eventually,



Patti Cleary

repaving the road.

One project that Cleary has helped with from the start and would like to see finished is the installation of fire hydrants throughout the community. Seven Lakes West "started off needing seventy-four hydrants in 2004, and we are down to thirty-one

right now," she said. The county, which provides the labor for hydrant installation, is willing to install up to twelve fire hydrants a year.

Cleary said she hopes to see twelve installed each year until the project is complete — and noted she has the current Board's support for that goal. Getting the work done sooner rather than later is important, Cleary said, because the cost has increased by sixty four percent since 2004. "I would like to see this project done and turned over to the county," she said.

For four years, Cleary served as the Organizational Chairperson for the Area Representatives, during which she helped develop a telephone tree to help alert residents in case of emergency. If the cost is affordable, she would like to see a Reverse 911 system implemented in the community as a more effective means of accomplishing the same function.

Cleary told *The Times* that it is important to involve the community in decision making on major issues — but it is not possible to do it on every issue.

"The community elected people to represent them," Cleary said, referring to the Board. "We can not go to the community for everything that is done. That is why we elect directors and have so many committees."

Referring to a current survey of the membership that describes major projects and asks for feedback on their importance, Cleary said, "There is the community's opportunity to give their input."

However, on certain major issues, such as last year's

(Continued on page 9)

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# The Times interviews Westside Candidates

(Continued from page 8)

closure of Longleaf Drive over Lake Auman Dam, Cleary said, landowners deserve additional opportunities for input. She told *The Times* she was surprised when the Board failed, initially, to designate the road closure as a matter of significant interest to the community.

"I know there are a couple of issues coming up in the next couple of years that will be more controversial," Cleary said. "I support going out to all 1800 landowners on those. You can't do that on every little thing. The dam was not a little thing. It was one of the biggest things that our community ever faced."

Turning to incorporation — another major issue the Board dealt with this past year — Cleary feels that, "Seven Lakes West is perfectly fine the way we are and doesn't need another layer of government."

If elected to the Board, Cleary said she would be "representing the majority, not the minority."

Cleary is a master gardener, is politically involved, enjoys time with her family and volunteers throughout the community.

"That is why I am running" she said, "to keep the civility in the community."

## Jim Ferguson

Jim Ferguson moved to Seven Lakes West almost two years ago and, he told *The Times*, immediately felt like he had known his neighbors for twenty years. After retiring from twenty-eight years working for the federal government, spending most of that time managing facilities for the General Accounting Office — a career that was preceded by stints in both purchasing and sales — Ferguson describes himself as a "jack of all trades."

Referring to the current atmosphere of Seven Lakes West, Ferguson called it a "nation divided" and said better communication is key to bringing the community back together. He feels it is important to get the community involved and "energized."

As an example, Ferguson

mentioned a recent Board decision to apply a \$50,000 from a maturing CD to early payoff of the West Side Park mortgage. The decision was recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the Board as a routine matter with little discussion.

Ferguson suggested that offering the community more opportunity for input into the use of the \$50,000 might have led to a different decision, perhaps placing half on the mortgage and half on other projects. "How much money do we owe on the mortgage?" Ferguson asked. "Would the money have been better spent in a different manner?"

Asked what he hopes to accomplish if elected, Ferguson said, "One of the current board members said he was a little concerned that I

didn't have an agenda — but I don't want to go in with an agenda. I want to make the community better, but that should be everyone's goal."



Jim Ferguson

"Improving communications" is a priority for Ferguson, and he praised current efforts, like the redesigned SLWLA website. On the other hand, he asked "How many people don't have computers? Maybe we need to find out if putting more things on the web is the best way to get the information out." Ferguson said he wants to make sure that the method of disseminating information and collecting input doesn't exclude anyone.

When the Board is considering a problem or opportunity, he said, he would like to tell the community before something is done, not after. "After the fact is very difficult,"

(Continued on page 10)

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# The Times interviews Westside Candidates

(Continued from page 9)

Ferguson explained, "and, if you continue down that path, how do you stay on a cordial relationship?"

Ferguson told *The Times* he enjoys looking at all aspects of a project or issue. "I look at an issue from a 360 degree approach to figure out what something is made up of and how much something will cost."

Using the question of reopening to road over Lake Auman Dam as an example, Ferguson asked: "Did we look at all 360 degrees of that issue. Did we look at what it would cost to make the road usable? I don't know if anyone came up with a number."

"Is the dam going to fail eventually — even if no one uses the road?" Ferguson continued. "If we have a legal liability, then that cloud hangs over Seven Lakes West until the dam fails." He said he feared that legal liability was a problem for the Board as well. "There has to be a way the Board is prevented from being sued," he said, "so that litigation stops at Seven Lakes West [and doesn't extend to Board members.]"

Returning to the topic of

communication, Ferguson suggested that the tone of the Board's straw poll on reopening the dam road was an example of how not to communicate. "There were people so angry over the letter that the dam road was secondary," he said.

Throughout the interview Ferguson reiterated that communication is key in the community, "Communicate and make it work." When asked what three words describe him Ferguson didn't hesitate to say, "Get 'er done. It doesn't matter what it is, you have to find a way to get it done."

## Jim McCarthy

Jim McCarthy is a former New York City Detective who retired in Seven Lakes West three years ago. At the request of his friends, he decided to run for the Board. With over twenty years service as a police officer, McCarthy presents himself with a "can do anything" outlook.

Asked what he sees as key issues for the Association in the next couple of years, McCarthy mentioned getting the community more involved in decision making, exploring

the possibility of creating a back gate at Banbridge Drive and enhancing the overall safety of the community.

McCarthy's plan for greater community involvement in decision making would offer each Association member person a chance to vote on key issues by creating a system for online voting through the current Seven Lakes West website. Proposed projects to be voted on would be placed on the website with a full description and cost estimates. Voters would be able to see the total for and against, and see the numbers change as they cast their own vote for each project.

After an issue has been voted down once, McCarthy suggests that the Board could go back to the voters with an alternate proposal. "After an issue is voted down twice it can't be brought up again for another year," he said.

McCarthy said the system would not be used for projects that involve public safety, like the work to repair deteriorating culverts under Longleaf Drive. However, descriptions of even these non-discretionary projects

would be posted on the website with estimated cost and

completion dates.

With this approach McCarthy feels, "people will have a say in what goes on." One of the key advantages of this approach, he explained, is that it will eliminate controversy in the community and the bad press that it engenders.

Referring to meetings on the Dam Road issues, he said, "If you were sitting through all those meetings, you had to have a bad picture of the whole thing . . . You can't have property values go up in a war zone."

After the closure of Lon-

(Continued on page 11)



Jim McCarthy

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The culverts are located as follows and will be replaced in the order and per the **tentative** schedule shown below.

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1st Culvert Just West of Lake Auman Dam  
February 17 – February 24

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February 8 – February 14

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February 25 – March 1

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Phone: 910-673-5314 Fax: 910-673-2707

# The Times interviews Westside Candidates

(Continued from page 10)

gleaf Drive over Auman Dam, McCarthy feels that an alternate exit should be made available for residents who live on the "right side" of the community — that is, those who turn right at the bottom of Lakeway Drive to travel to their homes. He noted that an accident on Longleaf near Carriage Park could leave folks on that side of the community effectively trapped until the roadway could be cleared.

"If Longleaf is blocked, we need to get people out another way," he told *The Times*, "Being a cop, I know an overturned truck can take up to four hours to be cleared out of the way."

McCarthy said adding a second back gate could also help improve EMS and Fire Department response times. As long as the front gate is accessible and Seven Lakes Fire or EMS can respond to a problem on the "right side" of the community, there is no major problem, he said.

"If everything is going to plan, it works out fine; but if you throw a wrench in it, not everything is fine," McCarthy said, stressing the need to plan for the worst case scenario. If Seven Lakes crews cannot respond, West End Fire and Rescue will be slowed by the need to open gates to cross the dam, he said.

If a second back gate cannot be added, McCarthy suggested installing signs that make clear where the cur-

rent emergency exits are located.

Other suggestions for improvement McCarthy mentioned include putting up a guardrail on Longleaf near Carriage Park and possibly beefing up the community's gates to something a bit more substantial than downspouts.

With a background in police work McCarthy feels he would be a great fit for the Safety and Security position on the Board. Asked what skills he could bring to the Board, McCarthy said, "I was a cop. My skill is police work. I guess you could say I have a master's degree in attitude adjustment."

"You have to have it in your head that you are trying to represent all the people in the community," he told *The Times*, "not just the Board or yourself." During the dam road debate, "I heard words like arrogant, stupid, selfish. I'm sitting in the back and shaking my head. I think that we need to move in a different direction."

"Do you think that you should go into a community meeting and see cops in the back and two lawyers up

front? The Board needs to communicate more delicately with the community."

Ultimately, McCarthy said, he would like for Seven Lakes West to be "a happy place for people to live."

**Jack Stevens**

Jack Stevens is a semi-retired nurse anesthetist who is involved in several community organizations, including the Lake Auman Sports Club and the National Sporting Clay Association. He is also an avid fly fisher and an accomplished pilot of both planes and helicopters.

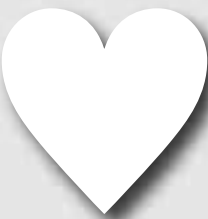
Having reduced his work schedule to twenty hours a week, Stevens told *The Times*, he now has the time needed to serve on the Board. He

made the decision to serve after being asked to do so by fellow Association members. "When I agreed to run, there were three seats and two people running," he said. "As a landowner, I have an investment in the community, so I agreed to step up to the plate."

Stevens described his approach to decision making as "thoughtful and ana-

(Continued on page 12)

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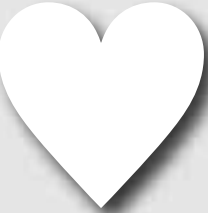
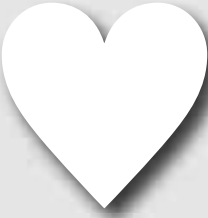
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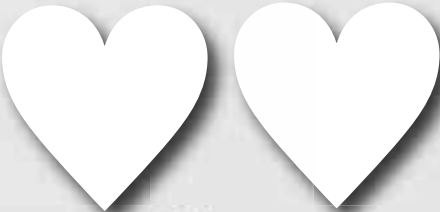


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# The Times interviews Westside Candidates

(Continued from page 11)

lytical," two qualities that he believes will prove useful in pursuing whatever goals the Board sets going forward.

Stevens said he hoped to foster what he called "a coalition of community interests."

"In a community, there are always people who agree and disagree about particular issues," he explained. "We need to foster real opportunities to hear different opinions."

Stevens told *The Times* he is happy with the strides that have been made by the current Board to keep Westsiders informed — in particular, the newly redesigned SLWLA website. He credited Director Jane Sessler for coming up with "great things" for the website such as a featured Photo of the Week submitted by an Association member. He suggested that the community also establish a presence on Facebook.

"The advantage of having things on the internet is that it opens the whole process up to the public," Stevens said.

He also praised the expansion of offline offerings — like the continuation of the Summer First Fridays Concert Series into the off season with the new Winter Music Series. Such opportunities "incorporate the community," Stevens said. "They invite participation."

Stevens told *The Times* he would be happy to serve in any position on the Board — except, perhaps, that of Secretary.

"I have horrible handwriting," he admitted. "And I would much rather pay attention to what's being said." He felt that there might be some advantages to having Board members switch jobs on the Board throughout their tenure.

Asked whether the Board could have handled recent controversial issues like incorporation or the closure of the dam road more effectively, Stevens said the community "should look forward" rather than backward and focus on the positive.

With over forty-two years as

a nurse anesthetist Stevens'



Jack Stevens

feels he is qualified to make tough choices. "I spent a lifetime making critical, quick decisions, both professionally and avocationally," he said.

Asked about issues the community will face in the next few years, Stevens mentioned the issue of providing additional access into the community — for example, by opening a second back gate on Bainbridge Drive. "Some people who live near the exit may disagree with it, while some may agree with it because it will make their travel time easier," Stevens said.

The construction of a new mail house or mail houses is another issue "where there will be considerable disagreement," Stevens said. He noted that "long range planning is an issue that need considerable thought."

As elected officials, SLWLA Directors have the responsibility to "analyze facts and issues before them and make decisions that may or may not be popular," Stevens said. "Being data-driven is an important part of how I have lived my life," he added.

But "leaders must be open to modifying the approach,"

he concluded.

"Life is in flux. If we can roll with that flux in a responsible manner, perhaps more and better progress can be made."

Three seats are available on the SLWLA Board this year. Westsiders should be receiving Annual Meeting Ballots that contain the names of these four candidates and an opportunity to vote on the FY 2011-2012 budget. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 20.



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# Singing Valentines for your Sweetie

The Golf Capital Chorus is busy taking orders for its annual Singing Valentine Program on Sunday, February 13 and Monday, February 14 between 9 am and 8 pm. You can order a serenade of love songs for the Valentine of your choice,

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To schedule a quartet for your loved one, call Dick Curl at 215-9796 or e-mail him at dickcurl@nc.rr.com. The cost is only \$40.

## Free Valentines for wives of deployed troops

This year the Chorus will

continue the program begun last year of delivering a free Singing Valentine to wives (sweethearts, mothers, too) of deployed servicemen. The Valentines are provided by donors/sponsors in partnership with the Chorus. If you know of eligible ladies or interested sponsors, including yourself, call or e-mail Dick Curl. The chorus will provide as many Valen-

tines as possible with our limited number of quartets on the February 13 and 14. The chorus will sing on post, Bragg or Pope, and within a mile or two off-post.

This is an opportunity to honor servicemen abroad while bringing a note of cheer to their loved ones at home. This year, make the Golf Capital Chorus part of your Valentine's Day celebration.

All money raised by the Golf Capital Chorus goes to local Sandhills charities. Members of the Chorus are extremely proud of the fact that since the Chorus began, it has raised over \$250,000 for charity through its Annual Concert, the Singing Valentines Program, Annual Singing Garage Sale and appearances at numerous events in the Sandhills.

## Valentine's Concert at SCC

On Monday, February 14, the Sandhills Community College Jazz Band will present "A Tribute to Lawrence Welk." This special show will be held in Owens Auditorium, at 7:30 pm and is free to the public.

As a part of the college's Black History Month observances, this show will feature world-renowned African-American tap dancer Arthur Duncan.

Duncan is the only African-American member of the Lawrence Welk show "musical family" from 1964 to the show's finale in 1982. He was a pioneer in breaking the racial barriers in variety television.

Duncan is one of the old-time, enduring entertainers. He sings, he taps, he has the finished manners of a TV host and the timing of a comedian. He is the quintessential song-and-dance man.

This globetrotting entertainer has thrilled audiences worldwide with his fancy footwork and lively singing style. In addition to appearing on "The Lawrence Welk Show," Duncan has performed in many variety shows and clubs. He has appeared with other legends like Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis and Red Skelton. He was in the tap dancing movie "Tap" with famous tap dancers Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis Jr.



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- Sponsored a quarterly Bingo event at the Fayetteville, NC Veterans Hospital
- Donated phone cards to deployed troops
- Presented handmade quilts and Christmas stockings to Veterans in the Fayetteville, NC VA Hospital
- Donated to: Wreaths Across America, Arlington Cemetery
- Wreaths presented at Moore County Veterans Memorial, Carthage, NC, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, POW/MIA Day, & Veterans Day
- Made a donation to the "Flight 93" Memorial
- Supported local ROTC programs at Pinecrest & Union Pines HS
- "Thank you" cards sent to deployed troops, Memorial Day
- First military baby born on Veterans Day was presented with a flag flown at the Capitol, gift, & cash
- Retired flag program, Airborne & Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville, NC
- Participation in St. Patrick's Day parade, Pinehurst, NC

The Moore County Chapter 966, Vietnam Veterans of America, wishes you a healthy and happy New Year!

To inquire about membership contact: Mike Pusillo, President, at: 910-400-3056.

# West End PTA sponsors Golf Tourney

The first annual WEE Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, March 19 at Seven Lakes Country Club. Sponsored by the West End Elementary PTA, golfers and sponsors are needed to help make this fundraiser a success.

The \$75 entry fee – \$300 for

a four-man team – includes lunch, greens fee and cart. The event kicks off with a shotgun start at 1:30 pm. Sponsorships are also available for a \$50 donation.

The PTA gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors and donors who have already contributed to the WEE Golf

Tournament: Carolina Carriage, First Bank, Goldie's Gourmet, Harris Printing, Husk Homebuilders, Dr. Barry Kavanaugh, Dr. Jennifer Massey, Dr. Pete McKay, Mid-Pines Country Club, Quality Care Pharmacy, Terry Riney Insurance Agency, Seven Lakes Country Club,

Seven Lakes Massage & Body Therapies, Sandhills Winery, and TempControl Heating & Air.

Each year the PTA coordinates multiple fundraisers that benefit the school. Previous purchases have included two security cameras for buses, SMART boards for classrooms, computer software, classroom supplies,

books, dictionaries, and assisting with the playground renovation project.

For more information about the WEE Golf Tournament, please call Susan Credle at 673-1370. Financial donations may also be mailed to WEE PTA c/o West End Elementary, 4483 NC Hwy 211, West End, NC 27376

## Mini-Mester at SCC

Sandhills Community College offers a semester that takes only ten weeks to complete; yet students receive a full semester's worth of instruction. Spring Mini-Mester begins on February 15 and the college is offering more classes than ever before.

Thirty classes will be offered. Subjects include accounting, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, nursing, mathematics, business, communication, medical, public speaking, education, English, sociology, humanities, and history.

Mini-mester classes are either completely online or hybrid, which is a combination of traditional classroom classes with online instruction and interaction. They do move along faster than the regular fifteen-week semester but no instruction is omitted. The high-quality instruction and number of assignments remain the same.

A reliable computer with an Internet connection is required.

Those wishing to take Mini-Mester classes but do not

have a computer are welcome to utilize the computers in the Learning Resources Center in Boyd Library.

These are classes for college credit, not continuing education. New, returning and current Sandhills Community College students can take these classes. New students must complete the steps to admission prior to registering

for the classes.

Registration will be from February 1 through February 14 in Stone Hall from 8 am until 5 pm. Registration can also be completed through e-mail to [minimester@sandhills.edu](mailto:minimester@sandhills.edu).

To view the complete list of classes, please check the college's website at [www.sandhills.edu](http://www.sandhills.edu).

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Dormie Club

(Continued from page 4)

**Dormie Club & Pine Forest Linked**

Dormie Club developer MHK Ventures is currently seeking PUD-Hamlet rezoning for a nearby 1,700-acre tract that it plans to develop into Pine Forest, a mixed residential and commercial development with three golf courses, 700-800 homes, a resort hotel and conference

center and two shopping areas.

Pine Forest will also feature a private wastewater treatment plants — a first for Moore County — which will reclaim treated wastewater for the irrigation of golf courses and common areas. The treatment plant will also handle effluent from Dormie Club, which has soils that are in many cases unsuit-

able for septic fields. Initially, waste will be transferred from the County's sewer system to the Pine Forest plant, so that it has enough waste to process and produces the irrigation water the developer will need to establish its golf courses.

If the rezoning is approved, MHK has pledged to pay \$3 million toward the cost of adding 500,000 gallons of

additional capacity to the county water system to supply the needs of its residents and visitors.

Under the proposed water agreement between MHK and Moore County — which has not yet been approved by the Board of Commissioners — the county would pledge to work with MHK to seek federal and state grants to help pay for the cost of bringing county water to the development.

The NC Rural Center would be a possible source of such funding.

Wildlife

(Continued from page 6)

For example, NCWRC officers only police boats in motion and cannot enforce a speed limit or curfew hours on Lake Sequoia; however, they can address any criminal activity witnessed, such

as disorderly conduct or reckless and negligent boat operation.

In addition, there are alternative options the community can undertake to broaden enforcement, Dutton said, including petitioning the state

for an enforceable 'no wake' zones around a troublesome area — such as along a lake perimeter or a boat launch.

Two state laws that are often overlooked, Dutton said, require boat operators under the age of twenty-six years to take a certified boating safety course, and require children under the age of thirteen years to wear a life jacket when a boat is in motion.

"Education is very beneficial. You can go overboard and be too regulatory. You have to let people go out and enjoy recreational boating, but within certain parameters," concluded Dutton.

Seven Lakes Chapel's Annual Outreach Valentine Party

The Second Annual Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine Party will be held at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse on Monday, February 14 at 2 pm.

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines invites anyone to come to the party, especially those living in the community that are alone or shut-in.

Entertainment will include Mary Lou Bernett and her tap dancing ladies and The New Horizons Band in the Pines will also provide music for everyone's enjoyment.

For information please call Fran Stark at 673-5493.

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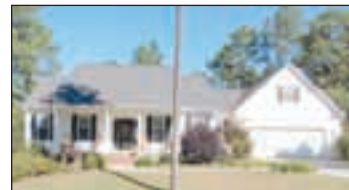
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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

postponed any further discussion to allow new management an opportunity to evaluate the department and make its own recommendation.

Speaking during Wednesday night's meeting, Darr said his 2009 analysis, using a methodology approved by the Finance Committee, determined that in-house mowing costs totaled \$57,400 annually, including wages, benefits, equipment depreciation, seed, fertilizer, and fuel. The lowest bid solicited in 2009 for the same work totaled \$98,000.

Darr questioned the contract now being proposed, which, at \$146,4000, is more than two and a half times his estimate for in-house costs.

"At a minimum, I ask you to table this until a timely and thorough analysis can be done — open and not behind closed doors," said Darr.

Earlier in the meeting, Northsider Conrad Meyer, who is also a candidate in the upcoming Board election, made a similar recommendation that the vote on outsourcing be postponed.

Meyer agreed that it was appropriate for the Board to evaluate whether tasks com-

pleted in-house were cost-competitive, but said he was disappointed in the rush to make a decision, when so little information had been made available to the membership.

Referring to the FY 2011-2012 Budget on the table for approval, he noted that there were in fact two versions: one with the in-house staffing that was reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee, and a second proposal, not reviewed by the Finance Committee, that includes the cost of outsourcing maintenance.

Arguing that it is the Finance Committee's responsibility to provide unbiased financial analysis, Meyers charged, "They have not been consulted on this matter. Why not? If this is such a good deal, show it to us!"

Defending the proposal,

SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf maintained that the topic of outsourcing should not be a surprise since it was discussed openly in 2009 and that the proposed contract has been reviewed, "backward, forward, upside and downside, and every which way."

However, the crowd was not swayed, as other speakers, including former SLLA Treasurer Steve Hudson, questioned costs and how the contract was reviewed. Other speakers during public comment took a more personal approach, asking the Board to reconsider the loss of longtime maintenance employees.

"Where are they going to find work?" asked Northsider Bev Sommers, noting that the North Carolina unemployment rate is higher than

the national average. "The term outsourcing is offensive to me. Outsourcing has contributed to the recession."

Picking up on Zielsdorf's estimate that outsourcing would be revenue neutral, Donna Fentzlaff pressed for more information, "I want to know how much is being saved. We shouldn't put people out of work if nothing is to be gained."

Jerry Johnson, Bill Yarish, and former SLLA president Ed Chapman argued that in-house maintenance had per-

formed very well with supervision and should not be faulted for the naturally aging appearance of the community.

Following the contentious and lengthy public comment period, the motion to approve the landscape maintenance contract with a outside company was tabled in a split vote, when Director Bud Shaver requested the Board consider a third option that had not been previously discussed.

(See "SLLA," p. 18)

## SLLA Candidates Night

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association will host a candidates night in the North Clubhouse on Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm.

Candidates for the Board will introduce themselves and respond to written question from the audience.

Seven Lakes Times Editor Greg Hankins will moderate the event. Landowners are encouraged to come out and get to know the candidates and their positions before casting your ballot.



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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 17)

[Editor's note: None of the three options have been presented in an open meeting or made available to the membership. Option one is apparently to continue with in-house maintenance; option two, to outsource maintenance; and option three remains a mystery.]

## Board approves FY 2011-2012 Budget

In other business during Wednesday's Open Meeting, the SLLA Board approved the \$1.37 million FY 2011-2012 Budget that — for now — retains the current in-house maintenance staff.

The \$1.37 million in anticipated income includes dues, interest, and various fees — but no dues increase. SLLA dues will remain at \$900 for homeowners, \$570 for lots, \$397 for multiple lot owners, \$410 for renters, and \$230 for owners of the rental property. Homeowner's dues include \$100 that can be used only for building reserve funds for roads and state-mandated dam repairs.

Anticipated administration expenses totaling \$737,647 include \$313,976 for salaries and \$53,376 in taxes, both showing only slight increases over last year's budget. More significant increases were noted under group insurance, which at \$25,000 is \$8,000 over FY 2010-2011, and for the \$223,588 security contract, which represents a \$37,400 increase. However, these figures were offset by sizable decreases in utilities, which at \$30,500 is down \$10,200; and professional fees, which at \$10,000 had dropped significantly from last year's \$69,692 budget.

Maintenance expenses for repairs and grounds are budgeted to increase from \$4,000 to \$10,000; while equipment costs are expected to drop from \$13,000 to \$5,000. During the Finance Committee report, Treasurer Denny Galford said the FY 2011-2012 budget also includes funding for a maintenance supervisor and minor wage increases.

For recreation, anticipat-

ed repairs and maintenance costs for the pool dropped from \$11,000 to \$5,000; special events budgeting increased \$1,000; and horse feed and contract services also showed moderate increases.

Other anticipated increases includes property management expenses up nearly \$20,000, along with \$4,000 additional toward printing, postage and supplies, \$3,500 in legal fees, and \$10,000 toward bad debt.

## Driving Range Agreement

Pleased to finally report progress on the three-year-old agreement with Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] over future use and development on the old driving range property, President Zielsdorf arrived at the Wednesday, January 26 Open Meeting with several documents in

hand.

Zielsdorf indicated he had final drafts of the proposed ten-foot buffer easement along Seven Lakes Drive, the Club's covenants, and a draft of the amended agreement. He requested a special Closed Meeting immediately following the Open Meeting to allow the Board time to review and discuss any proposed changes.

Zielsdorf thanked Director Melinda Scott, and SLCC representatives Steve Ritter and Ed Massimo for their assistance in finalizing details.

"We all sat down and had a very frank discussion," Zielsdorf said. "A lot of phone calls followed, and we now have an amended agreement that they [the Club] are indicating they want to get signed." He suggested that could happen as early as next week.

## Security and Safety

Two minor amendments to boating safety regulations that require boaters to comply with North Carolina laws, as well as SLLA rules, and that no homemade float boats may be registered, were quickly approved.

Also approved — though on a split vote with Shaver opposed — was an amendment recommending specific penalties for first, second, and third/subsequent boating infractions. [Scott was also opposed but not present

to vote.]

However, a controversial addition to boating rules developed to curb boating under the influence, particularly on Lake Sequoia, ran aground and was tabled for further discussion.

As presented, the rule simply states, "Motor boats will not be operated by persons using alcoholic beverages or drugs." The intent is equally simple: to beef up an existing rule that reiterates state law that forbids operating a boat

(See "SLLA," p. 19)

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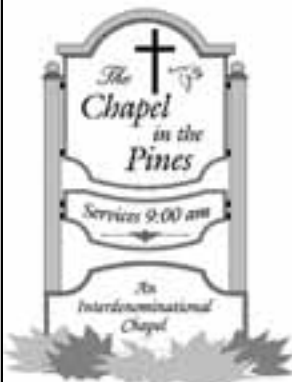


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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 18)

under the influence. The problem is such influence can only be determined by certified law enforcement sobriety tests. Mims explained that the recommended addition would allow SLLA security to report observed drunken boating to Judicial Panel.

What the proposed amendment lacked was a way to define appropriate alcohol consumption with safe boating.

"My concern is to make sure there is way to differentiate between drunken operation of a boat and a resident having a glass of wine and going out for an evening cruise," Treasurer Galford commented.

## Recreation

In similar discussion, safe boating was the featured topic earlier on Wednesday, January 26, when Sgt. Mark Dutton of NC Wildlife Resources Commission met with residents to explain what services, safety courses, and enforcement options are available to the community.

Dutton was joined by Wildlife Officer Gary Caulk, the son of longtime Northside resident and retired NC Wildlife Officer Gary Caulk. The younger Caulk was recently honored as Officer of the Year by the NC Wildlife Federation, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and Shikar Safari International.

Dutton and Caulk will present a boating safety course at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse on Sunday, April 10 at 1:30 pm. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. Visit the NC Wildlife website or SLLA office for more information.

[See page 6 for a report on Dutton's presentation.]

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. reported that the Recreation Committee is taking a closer look at the pool this year —

in both infrastructure and programming. Both swim lessons and a swim team for next Summer are in the planning stages.

## 2011 Election

A vote of acclamation approved Brenda Massimo to chair the 2011 Election Committee, charged with counting the Annual Meeting ballots. She will be assisted by Ione Katz, Wayne Burris, Ed Sanchez, and Laurie Werner.

A call for petition candidates went unanswered at the Wednesday meeting, so the slate of candidates on the ballot remains as approved in December.

The six candidates competing for one of four open seats on the 2011 Board are Northsiders Bob Racine, Conrad Meyer, Bob Darr, and Don Fentzlaff, who are joined

by incumbent Directors Zielsdorf and Keyser.

[Interviews with each of the candidates will be published in the February 18 edition of The Times.]

## Community Standards

Director Kent Droppers reported that Community Standards Committee members recently participated in a combined inspection with assistance from Community Manager Alina Cochran to ensure homes in the community are being evaluated in an even-handed, equitable manner.

"We want to make sure one area doesn't get disproportionately called out [for violations]," explained Droppers.

Six unresolved issues were referred to Judicial Panel, he reported.

## Other Business

In other business on Wednesday, January 26, the SLLA Board:

- Approved a \$6,550 contract with S&ME for a camera inspection of the dam spillways of Timber Lake and Little Juniper.

- Accepted the Reserve Study as presented. The comprehensive plan will be made available for download from the Association website and at the office for review. In addition, a summary report compiled by Director Shaver will also be available.

- Thanked front office staff member Sally Grundy for her service. Grundy resigned her position and will be returning with her family to their home in England.

- Thanked Dennis Mueller for his many hours of volunteer service updating the entrance gate bulletin boards. "We didn't realize how much he did until he took a vacation," joked Cochran. "Every day of every week of every year in the rain, heat, and cold, he is always out there taking care of the community's needs."

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

- **Angel Food Ministries Orders at Seven Lakes Baptist Church** – now is the time to place your February Angel Food order. Orders must be received by Sunday, February 13, and picked up at the church Saturday February 19, between 9:00 & 10:00 am. For orders 910-315-4655 or 910-673-4656 or order on line at [www.anglefoodministries.com](http://www.anglefoodministries.com) Payment by cash, money order or food stamps. Signature Box feed a family of 4 for a week, or a single person for a month, costing around \$30.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** – 7 am to 11 am, at West End Elementary School with eat-in or take out service available. Proceeds to benefit local school classes Kindergarten through third grade with an exciting new program "Reading Diagnostic Assessment Initiative." Everyone is invited to attend.
- **Native Plants in Landscape Design** – 10:30 to 12 noon. Speaker Stefan Bloodworth, Curator of Blomquist Garden of Southeastern Native Plants at Sarah P. Duke Gardens. She will speak on design/building landscapes using exclusively native species, including design for ecological restoration, for wildlife interest, biodiversity, and year round interest. Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. For information 295-1900. Open to the public, no charge.
- **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.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Polecat Creek, David Jacobs Strain. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 or [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** –



## What's When Calendar

9:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

- **Music at Weymouth** – 3 pm, Weymouth Chamber Music Series concert, by the Fire Pink Trio, in the Great Room, Weymouth, 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. Weymouth members admitted free, non-members \$15. (910) 692-6261.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

- **Moore Republican Women's Club** – 11:30 am, monthly luncheon meet-

ing, at Pinehurst Members Club. Nick Picerno, Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners will be the Guest Speaker. He will discuss "Where we were, Where we are and Where we are going?" Call Chairman, Pauli Curl at

215-9796 to make reservations.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – 3 pm, meeting at



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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **"An Evening With Ogden Nash"** – the English Speaking Union will be presenting an evening of Ogden Nash poetry, fun verse and delightful music. Held at the Country Club of North Carolina. For information contact Martha O'Connor at 235-0635 or email Dr. Phil Hinesley at [phil@chanticleerproperties.com](mailto:phil@chanticleerproperties.com)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. This ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion with meal provided for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Local artists and photographers showing their works.
- **Wine Tasting** – Sandhills Winery 6 to 8 pm. Valentine tasting – great wines, chocolate & food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Dr. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

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- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, meeting in the Seven Lakes North clubhouse. Speaker Jan Leitschuh, co-founder of Farm2Table. She will ask & answer the question “why should we eat local produce?” Everyone welcome.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

- **Lincoln's Birthday**
- **Carolina Pines Ballroom Dance** – 7 pm, “Valentine's Dance” fun, music, dancing. 105 McReynolds St. Carthage. Singles and couples welcome. \$7 members, \$10 guests.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Angel Food Ministries Orders at Seven Lakes Baptist Church** – place your February Angel Food order. Orders must be received by today and picked up at the church Saturday February 19, between 9:00 & 10:00 am. 910-315-4655 or 910-673-4656 or order on line at [www.anglefoodministries.com](http://www.anglefoodministries.com) Payment cash, money order or food stamps. Signature Box costing around \$30.
- **Classical Musicians Present Community Concert** – 4 pm, Local musicians will come together for a special afternoon of classical music at a community performance, “Love Divine: An Afternoon of

Pipe, Ivory, String, and Song.” Hosted by Sandhills Classical Christian School Held at The Village Chapel. Tickets are available at the school or Fidelity Bank's Aberdeen location \$10 in advance or \$12.50 at door. Call 695-1874 or [www.sandhillssccs.org](http://www.sandhillssccs.org)

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Jon Shain Trio. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 or [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org)

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

- **Valentine's Day**
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 8:30 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – monthly meeting, 10:30 am at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. Guest speaker Bob Temme, Community Services Coordinator for the Southern Pines Police Depart. He will speak on scams and larceny targeted against seniors. Information Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.
- **Annual Outreach Valentine Party** – 2 pm, Second Annual Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine Party held at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. The Seven Lakes Chapel

in the Pines invites anyone to come to the party, especially those living in the community that are alone or shut-in. Entertainment provided by Mary Lou Bernett and her tap dancing ladies and The New Horizons Band in the Pines will also provide music. Fran Stark 673-5493.

- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 2:30 pm or 7 pm, Valentine Soiree: The Night They Invented Champagne: Champagne Reception. Held at Founders Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Purchase tickets at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, The Country Book Shop, or the box office 687-4746.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 to 9 pm, Christ Fellowship Church, Midland and Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. A Digital competition on the topic of “Transportation.” Images are limited to cars (including trucks), trains, planes and/or boats as the main theme.
- **Valentine's Day Concert at Sandhills Community College** – 7:30 pm, the Sandhills Community College Jazz Band will present

A Tribute to Lawrence Welk. Held in Owens Auditorium. *Free to the public.* Show will feature world-renowned African-American tap dancer Arthur Duncan.

- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. 910 974-3051.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – Community In Schools to speak. Topic ‘Everything You Didn't Know about Communities in Schools.’ At the Table on the Green Restaurant, Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Dr., Southern Pines. Check-in time 11:30 am, meeting 11:45 am. Public is welcome to attend. Call Charlotte Gallagher 910-944-9611. Cost is \$12, inclusive. Check payable to LWVMC.

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 to 4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Featuring local talent. Browsers welcome.
- **The Marine Corps League** (Sandhills Area Detachment #1001) – 6 pm, presenting “Know your Veteran Benefits.” All veterans, active duty personnel, and their spouses are invited to this special meeting. Learn about the veteran benefits available to you through the Veterans Administration. Held at VFW Post #7318, 615 S Page St., Southern Pines.
- **Documentary Film: Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia** – 7:15 pm, (refreshments and introductions at 6:30 pm), a screening of the award-winning documentary, *Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia*, at Sandhills Community College's Owens Auditorium, 3395 Airport Rd.

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## Pick your favorite rodent . . . or river

Spring will be early, according to Punxsutawney Phil that is.

On the appointed hour of the appointed day, America's favorite marmot took a quick peek and whispered that he did not see his shadow. Of course, why anyone would let an overgrown squirrel — which is basically a nice way of saying rodent — whisper in their ear is the real question for the ages.

Other prognosticators from near and far also weighed in with whispers of their own.

Those raising paws for an early Spring included Staten Island's Chuck, Nova Scotia's Shubenacadie Sam, Connecticut's Chuckles VII, Gertie of Peoria, General

Beauregard Lee in Georgia, and Dover Doug of York.

Not surprisingly for such a rock-solid scientific method, those conclusions were not unanimous.

Those looking forward to a few more weeks of Winter's wrath included Birmingham Bill in Alabama, Wiarton Willie in Ontario, Manitoba Merv, and Holtsville Hal of Long Island.

Unfortunately, with most of the Midwest buried under several feet of snow, reports from the heartland were hard to come by this year.

Here in North Carolina, our own local furballs also offered mix results, with Sir Walter Wally of Raleigh anticipating more cold and Mortimer

of Garner and Grady of Chimney Rock fixing for an early Spring.

Personally, I prefer Punxsutawney Phil and I'll give him props — that is, proper respect — for his efforts. Call me sentimental, but the orig-



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

inal is always better than the sequels: or should that be squeakquels?

At least those folks in Pennsylvania were kind enough to

give him a short, masculine first name. They could have called him Punxsutawney Flunxsutawney or some similar gibberish.

While, admittedly, I struggle over "mellifluous," like most Marylanders I have an

honorar y degree in N a t i v e American- d e r i v e d streams of consonants and vowels: though in my

home state, Flunxsatawney would be a river not a rodent.

It's not clear why — I'm guessing early Baltimore sign-makers got paid by the letter

— but Maryland is rife with multi-syllable waterways.

We've got the Chesapeake and Chincoteague; the Pocomoke and Nanticoke; the Patapsco, Chicamacomico, and Wicomico; the Nanjemoy and Nassawango; the Patuxent and Sinepuxent; the tongue-twisting Youghiogheny and Kittamaqundi; and, just for the ladies, Maryland offers the Mattawoman and blush-inducing Assawoman.

I used to live right alongside that gem and eventually learned to say it with a straight face.

I wonder how long I'd have to live near Phil to pronounce Punxsutawney without at least a hint of a giggle?

## Is it a sin to believe in human evolution?

**Question:** Is it right for a Christian, Bible-believing follower of Jesus Christ to accept the evolution theory as the correct theory for creation? If so, is it a sin not to accept the creation by God in the Book of Genesis?

**Response:** When I was a young high school student I struggled mightily with the question you have raised. I knew even at that time that I felt called by God to become a Christian minister and I

was taking my first course in biology. I found myself questioning my teacher throughout the year as she introduced us to Charles Darwin and his monumental book, "On the Origin of Species."

My minister at that time believed in the inerrancy of every word in the Bible, and when I went to him for guidance, I was told to pretend on my exams that I believed what the teacher told me, but to ask God each time I did it to forgive me for lying.

My problem was that I was convinced that Darwin was correct. Not only that, but I was excited by what I was learning about the earth and humanity in all my science courses.

So I lived with this internal conflict for several years until I went to college and found a wonderful Religion and Philosophy professor who helped me understand how and why the beautiful creation stories in Genesis were written.

Long before Genesis became a book in the Bible or the first book in the Jewish Torah, the nomadic tribes who later became the people of Israel repeated these stories and many others around the fires at night. Children learned them from their elders and repeated them to their children and grandchildren.

In a time when all people

believed that the world was flat, and the heavens were a dome that capped the earth, and the universe was limited to the sun, moon and stars that could be seen; the story tellers were restricted by their limited and inaccurate scientific knowledge.

What they could not under-



### Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

stand they attributed to mysterious and often miraculous work of God or the gods in heaven above the skies. When over a period of hundreds of years, the Hebrew people wrote the history of their nation, they found in these stories a beautiful poetic prelude and they became a part of Genesis and the Torah.

God still speaks to me through these stories and God also speaks to me

through the truths that scientists are uncovering about the human body, the earth and the universe. I recommend two books to you: "The Language of God" by Francis S. Collins, head of the human genome project and "Thank God for Evolution" by Franklin Dowd, who has dedicated his life to proclaiming the "Great News" of a sacred view of cosmic, biological and human evolution.

You ask. "Is it a sin to believe in evolution?"

Given the wonderful mind that God has given us and the overwhelming evidence for an evolutionary interpretation of the earth and the universe, I would say that it may be a sin not to believe in it, and we may be doing our children a great disservice by failing to teach them the sacredness of the evolution story.

It truly is the "Great Story" that unites all human beings.

Don Welch is the minister at The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. Write him at [dwelch1@nc.rr.com](mailto:dwelch1@nc.rr.com).

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# Candidate Cleary - smarts, integrity, & vision

Dear Editor,

After she retired from the banking industry, Patti Cleary and her husband, Ed, moved to Seven Lakes West. Since then, she has been an active, positive member of this community. When she sees a problem, Patti figures out how to fix it.

One of the first groups she joined was the area reps. They walked our community

to count the fire hydrants . . . and they couldn't find very many. On this issue alone, Patti has researched costs, met with Moore County officials and fire chiefs, and made presentations to our Board – and she is still advocating for the safety of this community in regard to fire hydrants.

Patti has been a hands-on participant in this commu-

nity. She attends most of the Landowners' meetings, has knowledge of the budget, infrastructure issues besides hydrants, has served on a variety of committees, and has worked with the staff at the Landowners' Office. She is honest and will speak her mind, but she will also listen to your opinion or ideas. She knows what a major commitment of time and energy

serving on the board is – and she is willing to commit to that because she loves our community and thinks it is worth the effort.

Her answering machine greets the caller with, "It's a beautiful day in the Carolinas," and Patti believes it.

She is already a great asset to Seven Lakes West and Moore County. Vote for her and you will be ensuring that we are represented with intelligence, integrity, and vision.

Lee Foreman  
Seven Lakes West

## Vote Ferguson & McCarthy

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter of support for two of our candidates that are running for the Board of Seven Lakes West. Jim Ferguson and Jim McCarthy are two dedicated individuals that would be a great asset for our community and the Board.

Both men have extensive backgrounds in management and security with governments as well as wanting to be involved in the community. We truly believe that we need representation from all areas within Seven Lakes West for our Board.

It is time to reorganize the Board and come together for the betterment of the community. Too much has been happening that has brought much dissension among friends and members of the community. We need to regroup and set our priorities on the Big Picture for the total community.

Our development is an exciting area with many people wanting to assist with keeping it viable and attractable in order to grow. Jim and Jim will certainly be able to accomplish this and listen to our concerns. They are anxious to serve and become involved with the mechanics of the Board and its endeavors.

We have many things to accomplish for the future of

Seven Lakes West and we need people who are willingly to listen, research and make the best decisions for the members of the community.

We strongly urge you to

cast your vote for Jim Ferguson and Jim McCarthy in the upcoming elections for new Board members for Seven Lakes West.

Paul and Jo Nicholas  
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# Time for SLLA to let the sunshine in

Dear Editor:

After reading the year in review in *The Times*, I'm still surprised at Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] President Randy Zielsdorf's response to the vicious dog incident. Telling the landowner not to bring this up at an open meeting, but to wait until a work session is a cop out.

Wow, talk about ducking your responsibility to the community!

I feel the rest of the board is just as guilty. All of them sat there and let Zielsdorf get away with it. Unbelievable.

Of course The Talis manager, Alina Cochran says not to call her, but to call animal control. Nice response from our \$140,000 management group: "Handle it yourself, we don't want to be bothered seems to be her answer."

On another note, at the Open Meeting on January 26, I did put out a challenge for Zielsdorf and the board. Since Zielsdorf stated last year that he'd be very surprised if Talis didn't save us a whole lot of money, I and others want to see it. Prove to us and the community what this \$140,000 management group has saved us.

I'm certain the Editor would be able to publish it in *The Times*.

Remember, we have elections coming up in March, and I hope the new board members will demand more openness and let the sunshine in. It's past time to break this "code of secrecy" that exists with the present board. This is an association of equals. We all own property here and there is no reason for the seven to operate behind closed doors. Let's get all new board members for those four vacant seats.

I also hope Zielsdorf reads our by-laws and adheres to

6.9.3, which he voted for. You can not call a closed

meeting except from an open meeting and you must have

one or more reasons. Otherwise, it's illegal.

Steve Hudson  
Seven Lakes North



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# Possible solutions to Westside challenges

Dear Editor:

We have lived in Seven Lakes West for just over seven years and have made some wonderful friends and enjoyed the many great amenities that our community has to offer. The recent division in the community has troubled us, dividing friendships and creating a less than enjoyable atmosphere.

The worst part for all of us living here, is the fact that others (in neighboring areas) are fully aware of the discontent within our community. This is not good for the reputation of Seven Lakes West. Restoring the community spirit that attracted many of us to this community needs to be a top priority. This is a wonderful place to live!

My husband comes from a military background and has always told me, "Don't just present a problem, offer some solutions." So, with that in mind, I'd like to offer some solutions. A recent trip with friends to a beach community brought several good ideas for some of the community's concerns.

First of all, the develop-

ment was divided into nine equal areas, and the board consisted of a member from each area. Every area was represented and the concerns of each particular area were part of the big picture. Equal representation.

Secondly, each area has attractive brick mail kiosks. I have enclosed a picture of one. Checking out the price of these kiosks against two or three mail houses might prove to be a real savings.



**Option for Seven Lakes West?** This sort of mail kiosk is used in other communities for mail delivery.

And, they are attractive.

If you can walk to them, that also saves gas. Just as the concept of the mail house was thought to bring people together, this would serve the same purpose. We meet so many people on our daily walks, this would also offer yet another opportunity to get to know your fellow neighbors.

Lastly, I would thank the people who have stepped forward to run for the board. It's

refreshing to see fairly new residents willing to volunteer their time and efforts. Thank you! Your background

and new ideas will be a great benefit for all.

*Bill & Sandi Carl  
Seven Lakes West*

## Know Your Veterans' Benefits

The Marine Corps League (Sandhills Area Detachment #1001) will present "Know your Veteran Benefits." All veterans, active duty personnel, and their spouses are invited to this special meeting hosted by the Marine Corps League to learn about the veteran benefits available to you through the Veterans Administration.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, at 6 pm, at VFW Post #7318, 615 S Page St., Southern Pines. The guest speakers will be VA Benefit Advisors. Come & Learn about the Benefits you have earned from your service to your country.



**Bright Meadow  
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## Westside meeting

(Continued from page 3)

scheduled to be repaired in February are:

- Just south of the Community Center/Otter Drive from January 13 to February 4
  - Just south of Callis Circle from February 7 to February 11
  - First culvert west of the Lake Auman dam from February 14 to February 18
  - Second culvert just west of Lake Auman dam from February 21 to February 25
- Goodman said the schedule could change, depending on the weather.

Repaving of the repaired areas will be delayed until the weather warms in Spring.

### Snow & Ice Preparedness

Snow capped by a thick layer of ice made for treacherous roads in Seven Lakes West and have set Security Director John Hoffmann to looking for better options in dealing with winter weather events, he reported during Tuesday's work session.

Hoffmann said Community Manager Joan Frost administers the current snow and ice response plan, which relies on two separate contractors to plow, spread sand, and-or spread ice melt in strategic locations. None of those efforts proved particularly successful in the most recent storm, Hoffmann said.

The Association does not currently use brine on the roads when a storm is forecast.

Hoffmann said he has spoken with a half-dozen other communities to see what may be learned from their storm preparation and response.

Resident Tom Wallace asked if something could be done sooner rather than later. He referred to the hills on the west side of the main entrance as being in "abhorrent condition" after the last snow/ice storm.

Hoffmann said all that could be done was done during during the last ice storm, noting that sand was put out — but without sunshine it did little good. He said that every possible way to deal with snow and ice that is both reasonable and affordable is being looked into.

### Community Events

Events Director Jane Sessler reported that the first Winter Concert was held on January 14 and attracted sixty people. The next concert will be held on Saturday, February 5 at 7 pm at the WSPCC with a concert by Tony Barnes a solo singer and guitarist.

Other events include:

- Paul Sowell and Candy Alderman will return to teach Carolina Shag and Line Dancing on Mondays at 6:30 pm at the WSP Great Room.

- Carmela Chase is scheduled to resume her cooking classes; Sessler encouraged landowners to watch the SLWLA website for details.

- CPR classes have been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 8 and Thursday, March 3. Space is still available for the course. Contact [janes@7lakeswest.com](mailto:janes@7lakeswest.com) to register.

### Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, January 25 SLWLA Work Session:

- President Ron Shepard has sent the Moore County Board of Commissioners a letter asking them to schedule a second public meeting hosted by the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council to focus on two key issues: water in Seven Lakes and the proposed Pine Forest Development. Shepard is hoping for the meeting to take place sometime in February.

- Nominations for the Joe Fellingham Community Service Award for volunteerism are currently being accepted. President Shepard asked for written nominations to be submitted by Tuesday, March 1. The Board will vote on a candidate and the recipient will be announced at the Annual Meeting in March.

- The landscaping around

the mail house has been removed and replaced with mulch, Community Manager Frost reported. Flower boxes will be added to the area as well. Shrubs that were obstructing the view from the exit have also been removed.

- Frost said she is working on a proposal to landscape the intersection of Longleaf and Otter Drive.

- An electrical short that could have potentially caused a fire at the gate house and mail house was repaired, Frost reported.

- An \$1800 insurance check was received for repairs to the Gate House after a truck hit the building. Frost recommended that the Board

place the money in a fund going toward the new Gate House instead of making the repairs to the current building. Director Hoffmann agreed that it would be unwise to spend the money on non-essential structural repairs but asked that the repairs, be made to restore the appearance of the structure.

- Legal Director Ed Silberhorn reported that the annexation of the Stonegate subdivision, near the back gate, is now complete.

- President Shepard introduced Luci Hadlock, a veteran CAS employee who has joined the SLWLA office staff, taking over the duties of Katie Patnode, who has been promoted within CAS.



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# Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

a water line to carry water from Robbins to Seven Lakes, where it would join the county system.

The estimated cost of the water line is \$3.6 million, Brobst told the Commissioners; a 1.5 million gallon per day treatment plant would likely cost \$6-10 million. Brobst noted that the existing Robbins water plant had been out of service for long enough that any attempt to bring it back online would have to meet the same state standards as building a new plant. In either case, the water plant would be fed by the existing reservoir and water intake owned by the Town of Robbins.

Robbins currently purchases water from Montgomery County, and Brobst said the rate the town pays is "on the steep side." So the town's water customers could benefit from being rolled into the district. Seven Lakes residents would benefit by gaining a second source of water. Brobst noted that removing Seven Lakes ratepayers from the Moore County Public Utilities [MCPU] customer base could result in a rate increase for those customers who remain, principally in Pinehurst. Seven Lakes customers account for \$1.3 million of MCPU revenues, he said.

Brobst told the Board that the county's authority to borrow the \$16 million bond approved in 2004 could be extended for three years, through application to the North Carolina Local Government Commission, but the timeframe to do so is tight. The Commissioners voted unanimously to instruct the county staff to begin working on the extension.

If the approval is forthcoming, Brobst said, the timeframe will also be very tight to actually build or restore the water plant in Robbins and lay the pipe to Seven Lakes. Chairman Nick Picerno asked about the possibility of drawing water from the Deep River, rather than simply from the creeks that feed the Town of Robbins' reservoir. Brobst said it was unlikely that could

be accomplished within the three year period that the bonds can be extended, but could be a longer term goal for the District.

Though Seven Lakes would be included within the expanded North Moore Water District, voters in the Seven Lakes Precinct did not cast ballots in the 2004 bond referendum that authorized the District to borrow \$16 million. Brobst told *The Times* that the County's bond counsel has assured him that the

Commissioners have the authority to expand the district to include Seven Lakes.

## Commissioners will meet with 7 Lakes Council

The Commissioners accepted an invitation from the Greater Seven Lake Community Council [GSLCC] to meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 5 pm to discuss water and zoning, zoning changes, County budget, and road standards.

In a letter sent to the Board,

the GSLCC's asked that the County resolve water supply issues in Seven Lakes before approving the rezoning necessary for the development of the proposed Pine Forest Planned Unit Development. Pine Forest would occupy a 1,700 acre stretch of land located along the north side of NC Highway 211 from West Pine Middle School to West End.

The Council also asked that the county address options for "an adequate supply of good drinking water" and the long and short term effects that Pine Forest would have on the Seven Lakes Area. The County budget and how it will affect Seven Lakes will

also be up for discussion, as will current road standards for new subdivisions. The GSLCC is concerned about "inferior internal roads" and asked if the County would consider requiring that new communities' private roads meet state standards.

## More Opposition to Pine Forest

Opponents of the Pine Forest the Pine Forest PUD-Hamlet rezoning petition that was presented during the January 18 Board meeting again raised concerns about the development during the public comment period at Tuesday's meeting.

(See "Commissioners," p. 28)

## Mental Illness Support Group

National Alliance on Mental Illness holds its monthly meetings at the Community Room located in the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, located at the corners of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.

For information call (910) 295-1053 or go to [www.nami-moorecounty.org](http://www.nami-moorecounty.org)



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## Commissioners

(Continued from page 27)

The president, vice-president and secretary of Save Our Sandhills [SOS] voiced their opposition to the environmental impact that the Pine Forest Development would have on Nick's Creek, which rises from headwaters within the 1,700 acre tract.

Although developer MHK Ventures has assured the Board that they would place twenty-five foot buffers between the creek bank and golf courses and other developed areas to prevent contamination due to runoff, SOS Vice President Bob Stoltz said that buffer will be punched full of holes as trees are cleared for shot corridors and cart and foot path crossings. Nick's Creek is the primary water source for the Town of Carthage.

Geologist Bob Ganis reminded the Board that the developer by state law will have the right to withdraw water from Nick's Creek if it is needed. He asked for an

impact study to be conducted to better analyze the consequences of a water being withdrawn from Nick's Creek or of a spill at the private wastewater treatment facility that will be built to serve the community.

Mollie Boggis of Whispering Pines expressed concern that her community — further down the creek than Carthage — could be harmed by water withdrawals from or pollution of Nick's Creek. Leonard Tufts was worried that county money would ultimately wind up paying for part of the Pine Forest water and sewer infrastructure, giving the developer a "free ride from the county on tax payer money." SOS President Joe McDonald told the Board it is possible for the county to expand its economy without cutting down more trees and developing more land.

Whispering Pines Mayor Bob Zschoche, who noted he was speaking as a private

citizen, how many more golf courses would be allowed to utilize free of charge the surface and ground water of the county.

### "Pine Forest" Public Hearing Reopened February 15

Planning Director Joey Raczkowski asked and the Board agreed to reopen the public hearing on the Pine Forest rezoning request on February 15 at 6:00 pm.

Raczkowski said, after reviewing testimony from the January 18 public hearing, there are a number of questions that the Planning Department needs to have answered before they can give staff recommendations to the Board. He noted that previous testimony from the January 18 hearing is already part of the public record and need not be repeated.

After Commissioner Larry Caddell recused himself from voting, the Board approved Raczkowski's request in a 4-0 vote.

### Pine Forest Water and Sewer Contracts Tabled

Again without the participation of Commissioner Caddell, the Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 that consideration of water and wastewater contracts for the Pine Forest PUD be tabled until the question of rezoning the property is resolved.

The two pending contracts would require the developer to: construct a one million gallon per day water re-use wastewater treatment plant at the developer's sole expense, operate at the developer's expense a non-potable water distribution system for irrigation; and pay the County the sum of \$3 million toward the cost of providing additional water capacity in the county system.

The contracts would require the County to construct a water line extension to serve the development and guarantee a maximum of 500,000 gallons per day of potable water.

### County Pledges \$250,000 toward Airport Grant

After considerable debate, the Commissioners approved Tuesday night a \$250,000 local match that will allow the Moore County Airport Authority to tap a State Aid to Airports Block Grant for \$2.5 million. The airport will use the money for an upgrade of their runway and ramp system, which the Authority hopes to complete prior to the 2014 US Men's and Women's Open, which will be held back-to-back in Pinehurst.

Introducing his motion to pledge the local match, Commissioner Craig Kennedy made strong case for the strength of the airport's management and the facility's contribution to the county's economy. He noted that the airport is, in fact, a county asset that belongs to all the people of Moore County.

County Manager Cary  
(See "Commissioners," p. 29)

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

McSwain had outlined several possible sources for the money, at the request of Commissioner Tim Lea, including the possibility that the County would lend the money to the Airport.

Responding to that idea, Ron Maness, Director of the Moore County Airport said, "If you burden us with a loan and repayment schedule" he could not predict what the revenues would be to repay the loan.

Commissioner Nick Picerno agreed with Kennedy that County should pledge the \$250,000 but suggested the money be taken from some source other than general fund tax dollars. That source, which went unnamed, appeared to be something the Commissioners had discussed among themselves outside the confines of Tuesday Night's open meeting.

Ultimately, the Board unanimously approved Kennedy's motion to provide the match-

ing funds, without designating any specific source for the money.

## Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, February 1 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- The Commissioners approved a resolution in support of the current system for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the state the local ABC boards.
- The Board approved the early payoff of nearly \$1.4 million in debt, most of it involving the purchase and remodeling of the Carriage Oaks Shopping Center in Carthage, which is now home to the county's Department of Social Services and Planning Department. Depending on interest rates, the early payoff should save the county approximately \$78,000 over the next five years.
- The Board approved the rezoning of 5.8 acres of a

45.06 tract of land located at the southeast corner of Lobelia Road and McPherson Road from rural agricultural to rural business. The rezoning will allow for traditional small business enterprises.

- The Board approved text amendments to the zoning ordinance that will allow "Feed Processing" as a permitted use in the Heavy Commercial (I-2) zoning district and add silos, grain elevators, and conveyors to the list of structures exempt from the height limit requirements.
- The Commissioners called for a public hearing on Tuesday, February 15 at 6 pm to consider text amendments to the Moore County Zoning Ordinance that would add "Human Services Center" as a per-

mitted use in the Neighborhood Business (B-1), Highway Commercial (B-2), and Office and Professional (O-P) zoning districts. The modification was prompted by a proposal to open a full service Human Services Center that would allow individuals to gain new skills, receive assistance, and re-join the workforce.

- The Board approved the Moore County Mitigation Advisory Committee [MAC] to serve as a subcommittee to the Local Emergency Planning Committee [LEPC] to maintain the goals and strategies of the 2010 Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The following roads have been approved by the Board and will be added to the North Carolina System of Secondary Roads:

Islay Drive, Rosslyn Chapel Lane, Kirkcaldy Lane, North Prince Henry Way and South Prince Henry Way. The roads are located in Phase 1 of the Sinclair Subdivision near Vass.

- The Commissioners made the following appointments:
  - Becky Carlson to a three year term to the Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board. The appointment will expire in February of 2014.
  - Eli Arroyo-Allen to a three year term to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The appointment will expire in February of 2014.
  - Richard Rodda to a three year term to the Library Board of Trustees. The appointment will expire in February of 2014.

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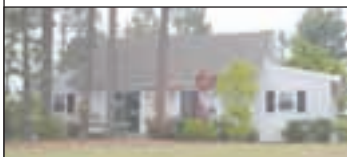
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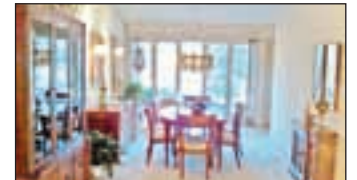
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