

Sweethearts



Bob & Donna Stephan enjoy the refreshments — and each other's company — at the Annual Valentine's Day Party sponsored by Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Outreach Ministry.

Board considers changes to Lake Auman ski area

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

The ski area at Lake Auman may be expanded by as much as fifteen percent —

mainly at the north end of the lake and along the dam — if a recommendation from the Proposed Buoy and Boating Rules Revisions Committee is

approved by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

The twelve-member volunteer committee is recommending five changes to the current buoy and boating regulations; Paul Kirst presented the panel's report during the Board's Tuesday, February 8 work session.

The first recommendation is to enlarge the ski area by fifteen percent, while placing buoys a minimum of 125 yards from all residential shoreline properties.

The second change would widen the no-wake zone to
(See "Westside," p. 28)

SLLA, Club ink new range deal

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

After months of negotiations — and with a real estate developer waiting in the wings — the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors on Monday approved an amended agreement with Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] concerning future development of the old driving range. The action was taken during a Special Open Meeting that preceded the February 14 Board Work Session.

Originally executed in July 2007, the agreement was put back on the table for discussion last Summer when the Club wanted clearer language regarding the relationship between the Asso-

ciation and any future developer of the old range. The fifth bullet point of the original document restricted future development of the property to no more than fourteen homes and committed the Association to "work with the developer in an open, efficient and cooperative fashion."

After several months of slow progress and multiple conferences with attorneys on both sides, key Board members representing the Club and Association met in January 2011 and reached a compromise, SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf explained during Monday's special meeting.

The result was an amendment
(See "Agreement," p. 27)

Pine Forest hearing continued to March

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

After hearing four hours of testimony from the proponents and opponents of MHK Ventures' request for Planned Unit Development-Hamlet [PUD-H] rezoning for the proposed Pine Forest Golf Club, the Moore County Board of Commissioners decided to suspend a quasi-judicial public hearings until their March 1 meeting. After all public hearing testimony is reviewed, the Planning Department is expected to bring its recommendations to the Board's March 15 regular meeting.

Concern that Pine Forest might threaten the headwaters of Nick's Creek headwaters was raised by oppo-

nents of the rezoning request during the initial January 18 Public hearing on the matter and continued to be a primary topic of discussion during the hearing Tuesday night. Commissioner Larry Caddell, a former Mayor of Carthage, which depends on Nick's Creek for its water supply, has withdrawn from consideration of Pine Forest, because he felt he could not rule impartially rule on the rezoning due to his intimate knowledge of and history with the creek.

At the January 18 hearing a number of Pine Forest opponents argued that the developer could legally take water from Nick's Creek if it were needed to irrigate golf
(See "Commissioners," p. 17)

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Sherri Adams named Business Guild VP

by Darrell Marks, President
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild is pleased to announce that Sherri Adams, the Community Office Manager of CommunityOne Bank has been confirmed as Vice President for 2011.

As Vice President, Sherri will not only continue to head the Guild's Promotions Committee, but will become the President in 2012, marking the first time a female has led the sixteen year old community service organization.

Even before Community-

One Bank had opened its doors in December of 2008, Adams had already attended her first Business Guild meeting and committed to joining the other members in their efforts to further the work of the Guild. She has worked since then to promote the success of her favorite events such as the Chili Cook Off, Meet the Merchants and the annual Christmas Tree Light-

ing.

Adams and her husband James, and their son Bradley, moved to Seven Lakes over seven years ago. She also has three grown children that have helped make her a "proud Grand mamma." She is also proud of her commitment to the Business Guild as she "believes that by being a member of the Business Guild, I am a small part of a

great organization that is here to help make a difference in Seven Lakes."

Throughout her 17 years of work in banking, Adams has believed that community building is an important function of any business in that community. This belief is a consistent theme among the sixty or so local businesses that join the Guild each year. Guild President Darrell Marks has committed 2011 to be the year to get the 75 other businesses in Seven Lakes to embrace this concept. Adams is available anytime to speak with anyone considering joining the Guild. She can be reached at 400-5182 ext

7270 and Marks can be reached at 673-5998 to answer any questions.



Sherri Adams

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Hosta expert at SCC

Bob Solberg, nationally known lecturer, hybridizer and an expert on growing hostas, will be speaking in the Sandhills on Wednesday, March 2, in the Owens Auditorium at the Sandhills Community College beginning at 10:00 am.

Solberg's presentation is cosponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs.

Hostas have been grown in America for over 150 years. There are thousands of varieties of hostas and over 500 kinds are grown in gardens throughout the country.

A native of Florida, Bob Solberg attended Davidson College in Davidson, NC and graduated with a BS degree in Biology. He studied bryophyte ecology for three years at the University of

North Carolina and continues to live in the state.

He is the owner of Green Hill Farm, is a wholesale and retail nursery that introduces new hostas into the trade.

He has introduced more than 60 hostas to-date and plans to add five or so to that number each year. One of his most famous introductions is 'Guacamole' that was named Hosta of the Year in 2002.

Reservations to hear Solberg may be made by calling Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-3882. Admission is free and Solberg will have hostas for sale after his presentation.

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SLWLA COMMUNITY NOTICE MORE CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

Because the culvert replacement work between Vanore and Wagoner revealed that our existing Longleaf Drive culverts are in worse shape than anticipated, our other existing culverts under Longleaf were re-inspected.

As a result, it has been determined four more existing culverts must be replaced immediately. **All four locations can accommodate detours** – no traffic will be cut off from reaching either the west/front gate or the east/back gate.

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

Just South of Community Center/Otter Road
January 31 – February 7

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

Just South of Callis Circle
February 8 – February 14

2nd Culvert Just West of Lake Auman Dam
February 25 – March 1

Please call the office at 910-673-5314 with any questions.



Seven Lakes West Landowners Association
5314 Seven Lakes West, Seven Lakes NC 27376
Phone: 910-673-5314 Fax: 910-673-2707

SLLA Board debates maintenance outsourcing

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A spirited debate on the proposed contract to outsource landscape maintenance dominated the Monday, February 14 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board.

Opening the table to discussion, Zielsdorf said he welcomed discussion and understood the concern over the proposed \$146,000 annual cost of the maintenance contract — but, he added, the proposed expenditure was within the current budget.

“There is not one Board member here that would vote for something that would cause a dues increase,” Zielsdorf said.

But that appeared to be the only point that the entire Board could agree on when it came to outsourcing landscape maintenance.

Finance unanimously opposed to outsourcing

“I want to emphasize that we are not talking about just \$146,000,” Treasurer Denny Galford said, “We are talking about a maintenance department with a total expenditure of \$347,000, which is 25 percent of the income we receive each year.”

“This is not a revenue or cost neutral thing,” Galford continued. “We’re not talking spending the same amount for outsourcing or [maintaining] an in-house plan.”

Using a comparison spreadsheet and poker chips and tennis balls as props to illustrate the differences in costs and percentage of work hours between the two plans, Galford explained that the Association would actually be losing \$59,000 worth of labor by outsourcing landscape maintenance. In addition, he noted, by maintaining the department in-house the Association has more opportunity to adjust costs as needed.

“Talis recommends outsourcing based on monetary and non-monetary reasons,” Galford said, “but I don’t

believe they have reviewed everything.”

According to the Treasurer, an independent review by each member of the Finance Committee of all pertinent documents had yielded the

“It is nothing more than a mowing contract,” he countered.

His argument centered on a key bone of contention that came up repeatedly during Monday’s discussion: How many maintenance workers does the Association need, particularly during the heavy mowing season?

A strong advocate for maintaining the in-house option, Shaver noted that, from January 1 to February 10, which represents 20 workdays, 187 work orders were generated for the Association’s maintenance staff. He argued that only 40 percent of those same work orders could have been completed if the staff were reduced to two employees, as proposed under the outsourcing option.

Galford and the Finance Committee agreed with former Maintenance Supervisor Bob Darr’s staffing recommendation of four employees and one supervisor. However, Director Kent Droppers pointed out that

Performance issues raised

Moving from staffing levels to staff performance, Zielsdorf indicated that there could well be personnel changes in the maintenance department whether or not the Association decides to outsource landscaping.

Galford agreed, “We have some employees that are not performing to a level expected and that is not satisfactory. We have personnel problems that need to be addressed.”

Later in the meeting, Shaver picked up on the same point, (See “Outsourcing,” p. 25)

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

2/14

same verdict: in-house staffing is less costly than outsourcing. Specific documents reviewed included the Talis Management Group contract; various cost studies and maintenance department analysis prepared by Don Truesdell, Bob Darr, and Bud Shaver; and bids for outsourced mowing solicited in 2009.

Number of employees needed?

Director Bud Shaver, who oversaw the now defunct Maintenance Committee and currently chairs the Infrastructure Committee, said he objected to the term landscape contract.



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Vision Source

Bright Meadow students get a head start

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Singing and dancing using specific hand and whole body movements that correspond to memorable animal characters has supercharged the academic curriculum at Bright Meadow Christian Preschool.

The multi-sensory and integrated phonics program resonates with the children and provides an endless resource for daily activities that reinforce each lesson, explained teacher Ashley St. Onge.

Those activities include Bible study, language, math, science, health and safety, art, music, and more that add up to a comprehensive preschool curriculum.

But, at its core, the program allows children to thrive because it is fun and engaging as young learners are introduced to the alphabet. The phonics approach is memorable and shape confusion is reduced through the use of unique characters and actions that represent each letter.

"Every day we review the entire alphabet and then we focus on one letter sound

each week. In this way, the children retain the information so quickly," St. Onge explained.

While the two and three-year old combined classroom is focused on learning letters and sounds, children in the four-year old preschool room are devoting time to early reading skills and building words phonetically.

"Our classes have children at different levels and abilities,

but even the weakest kids have a grasp on it," explained teacher Carrie Tapley. "They have the tools to figure out the sounds for words.

Bright Meadow owner and founder, Shirley Ptak, said she was drawn to the engaging phonics-based program because it employs a kinesthetic methodology – basically meaning, it is memorable and effective because the child's whole body is

active in the learning process.

"If you have the right tools they are going to get it," said Ptak. "Everything is constantly reinforced through integrated coursework."

One parent who understands education and what is required for successful learning is Diane Moreton, who has a Doctorate in education and a two year-old enrolled at Bright Meadow.

"This has reached beyond my expectations so much so that, since I plan to homeschool I will continue to use this curriculum as she moves into school age," said Moreton. "She knows every sound and letter. Typically this is reinforced through preschool but to have a two year-old with such a command of the material is very amazing to me."

Other parents offered similar accolades, including Thomas and Holly Mingin who have three children enrolled at Bright Meadow.

"We've seen the children

become for more interactive. They are talking more, learning more, and trying to make sure they pronounce their words correctly," said Thomas. "We have been very impressed with the program. It's a better way of learning, because the memory retention is there."

Learning is further enhanced through complimentary programs, including Brain Gym and a traditionally-based handwriting curriculum that encourages proper technique of strokes, lines, angles and curves.

Bright Meadow Christian Preschool is located on NC Highway 211, just west of the Seven Lakes business village. Preschool classes are held twenty hours a week, Monday through Friday mornings, and Kool Kids After-School Program provides a safe, educational environment for older students.

For more information on either program, please call 673-6789.



Bright Meadow students TJ Mingin, Cloie Mingin, Brantley Hunt, and Taylor Mingin.

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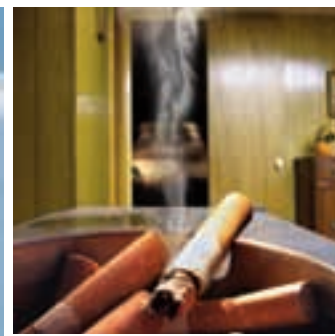
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Council wants more data on land donation

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The Foxfire Village Council deferred any decision about whether to accept 156.37 acres of donated land along Woodland Circle, during its Tuesday, February 8 meeting, in order to allow additional time for a legal review of and report on the property.

The large tract was offered to Foxfire Village earlier in the month by McKean Brothers Nominee Trust, following the Council's adoption of the \$1.9 million Woodland Circle assessment roll, on which McKean's property was assigned the lion's share of expenses: a \$1.4 million assessment.

Mayor George Erickson reported that the Village's attorney has recommended that the Council accept the gift, because the alternative, foreclosure, would take both time and money. However, a formal check for liens on the property was incomplete and action was tabled.

In addition, Councilman John Eltschlager suggested that an environmental impact study should be conducted prior to approval. Presently, it is known that 34 acres of the 156 acre tract are delineated as wetlands.

Finance

The first nearly \$200,000 annual loan payment for the Woodland Circle Extension project is due April 3.

Finance Director Leslie Frusco reported during the February 8 meeting that the General Fund stood at \$783,000 at the end of January, which includes restricted funds of \$50,000 in capital reserve and \$20,980 in the Stonehill Pines account. The Water Fund was reported to total \$262,916, plus an additional \$135,439 held in a restricted escrow account for a new well.

On a budget versus actual basis, Frusco reported that 98 percent of budgeted property taxes were collected by the end of January. Outstanding tax liens will be advertised, and include \$11,988 from FY 2008,

\$46,535 from FY 2009, and \$56,142 from FY 2010.

Public Safety

Foxfire Village received two new AED defibrillator devices from Moore County, Councilman Vic Koos announced at the February 8 meeting. The newer, fully-automated systems can accommodate both adults and children, and are are maintained in

funding allowed updates to the Fire Department facility to accommodate a 24-7 First Responder.

Koos also noted that he is looking at options to replace the glass light fixture at Village Green Park and that directional signs at that location are showing woodpecker damage.

A recent theft of golf clubs at Foxfire Country Club resulted in an arrest, and Koos thanked Foxfire Police Officer Scott Patterson for his work on that investigation.

Streets

Representatives for the NC Department of Transportation will be conducting a traffic count study at the Hoffman and Richmond Road intersection and evaluating visibility, Councilman Eltschlager reported. He said that overgrown trees obstructing views

are a concern; the report will indicate whether sight lines are adequate for the speed zone.

Responding to a concern over roadside hedges, Eltschlager said that thirty inches is the maximum height for shrubbery in the line of sight.

State of the State report

Mayor Erickson reported on an economic presentation he attended through the Triangle J Council of Governments, that looked at North Carolina tax policy and other timely topics.

Over the last twenty years, the legislature has conducted five major tax studies, but made no major changes in the state's system of taxation.

From the 1930's to 1980's, the sales tax hovered around three percent, but is cur-

rently at seven percent. With a shrinking tax base, the only way to cut the sales tax rate would be to expand the types of items being taxed. A one percentage point sales tax increase approved last year, if allowed to expire this year, will result in a loss of \$1.3 billion in state revenues.

For the past five years, the pension funds for state workers have not been fully funded. 45,000 of 290,000 jobs lost in the state during the recession [out of a 4 million strong workforce] have returned, but the housing market is still the weakest recovery area.

A report from 'Down Under'

Foxfire resident and West Pine Middle seventh grader, Amalia Harsany, offered the Council a first-hand account of her trip to Australia last (See "Foxfire," p. 24)

Foxfire Council Meeting

2/8

Foxfire Police vehicles, at the pool, and Town Hall.

Councilman Vic Koos reported that grant funding may provide the the Village with 12-hour per day paramedic service. Previous grant



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4BR + BONUS - \$360,000

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WATER FRONT - \$450,000

113 LONGLEAF • 7LW



4BR + BONUS - \$320,000

Moore Schools expecting big funding cuts

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

North Carolina's deficit picture is better today than it was six weeks ago, with a revenue shortfall originally expected to hit \$3.7 billion now revised downward to \$2.4 billion, but the Moore County Board of Education continues to anticipate an unprecedented budget reduction in the coming fiscal year.

On Monday, February 14, the Board unanimously approved a resolution in support of extending a one percent sales and use tax increase enacted in 2009, a move that, if approved by the General Assembly, could reduce the state deficit by \$1.5 billion.

"We have to do anything we can to preserve our budget," Board Member Kathy Farren said, "to keep our teachers and to keep our classrooms the size they are now."

At the top of the list of financial concerns for the coming year is the loss of \$5.2 million in federal dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — the economic stimulus enacted in early 2009. Federal funding accounts for only 10 percent of Moore County Schools' [MCS] total budget; the bulk of revenue, 65 percent, comes from the state, with Moore County taxpayers picking up the remaining 25 percent.

MCS Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin reported Monday night that a five percent cut in the state's contribution budget would represent a \$3 million loss for Moore County Schools. A ten percent cut equals \$6 million; a fifteen percent cut, \$9 million.

While state lottery funds help, they account for less than four percent of the budget and are designated for specific purposes. Similarly, Race to the Top funding — which could bring Moore County up to \$1.2 million — is also restricted to specific purposes — and those funds are a one-time allocation.

Moore County ranks 84th in per pupil spending in North Carolina and 28th in local

funding, though the county is ranked 8th in per capita income.

In order to absorb budget reductions in the last two fiscal years, MCS has eliminated twenty positions, given funds equivalent to six teaching positions back to the state, eliminated thirty-eight teacher assistant positions, and made reductions in almost every other area,

including textbooks, supplies, and travel expenses.

Joint meeting with Commissioners

The MCS Board and Board of County Commissioners met in joint session on Monday, February 7, with an eye to familiarizing the Commissioners with the school systems goals and plans.

Following a presentation

of the "Growing to Greatness" plan that defines the core beliefs, goals and strategies for public education in Moore County, members of the West Pine Middle DRUM corps offered a demonstration.

DRUM, an acronym for Discipline, Respect, and Unity through Music, is a program developed by award-winning teacher Marci Houseman.

Honored as the MCS Teacher of the Year, and Region 4 Teacher of the Year, Houseman is one of eight finalists competing for the North Carolina Teacher of the Year award.

Using hand-carved drums from Ghana, her DRUM curriculum encourages cooperation and a willingness to take risks and accept chal-

(See "Schools," p. 24)



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Planning Board begins review of UDO

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Commencing what is anticipated to be a five-month long project, the Moore County Planning Board began their review of the proposed Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] on Thursday, February 10.

A complete copy of the proposed document and recommended changes is avail-

able on-line and at the Planning Department offices. Public workshops will be scheduled in July to September, following the Planning Board's complete review.

At the February meeting, the Planning Board also unanimously recommended the Moore County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for final approval by the County Commission-

ers. Developed with participation from Aberdeen, Cameron, Carthage, Foxfire Village, Pinebluff, Pinehurst, Robbins, Southern Pines, Taylortown, Vass, and Whispering Pines, the plan was approved by FEMA in December.

Other business

In other business on Thursday, February 10, the Moore

County Planning Board:

Approved a rezoning request for five parcels totaling nearly five acres on US Highway 1 in Vass from Heavy Industrial Conditional Use District [I-2 CUD] to Highway Commercial [B-2]. The parcels range in size from .8 acres to 1.4 acres and an existing commercial property is located on three of the tracts. In October 2008 the properties were rezoned from B-2 to I-2 CUD to accommodate a food pro-

cessing and packaging operation: a proposed business that never began operations and vacated the building in 2009.

Heard from Planner Robert Farrell that a text amendment is being developed that will create three defined animal kennel options; an animal training facility for more intensive uses, a commercial kennel, and a home kennel for multiple animals

Heard that staff are updating
(See "Planning," p. 29)

Mertz & West engaged



Ron and Karen Mertz of Greensboro, Georgia (formerly of Seven Lakes West) are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Nicole McMahon Mertz of Chicago, Illinois to Jeffery Allan West of Chicago, son of Fred & Darlene West of Greencastle, Indiana.

Ms. Mertz is a graduate of Texas Christian University of Fort Worth, TX is currently the Visual Merchandising Coordinator for UGG Australia covering the Midwest Territory.

Mr. West is a graduate of University of Evansville, Indiana and is currently the District Manager for Delia's Inc. based in Chicago, IL.

The couple will marry at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee in Greensboro, GA in the Spring of 2011.

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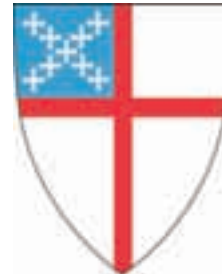
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In memory of . . .

Rebecca Jean Stoker Davis, 58, of West End, died Sunday, February 6, at her home. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, February 9, at Faith Baptist Church, West End. The Rev. Tony Connor officiated. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

She was born in Randolph County, daughter of the late William Eugene Stoker and Susan Presnell Stoker. Mrs. Davis was a charter member of Faith Baptist Church. She was employed as the office manager for more than fifteen years at Stewart Construction, Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Davis is survived by her husband of fifteen years, Robert M. Davis Sr.; one son, Tony Connor, of Eagle Springs; three stepsons, Robert M. Davis Jr., Edward Davis, and Jerry Davis, all of Kinston; two grandchildren; ten step-grandchildren; and her sister, Patricia Cocklin of Clarksville, GA.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Baptist Church, PO Box 191, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is served the family.

Fred Elon Flinchum, Jr., 78, of Aberdeen, died Tuesday, February 1, at the VA Hospital, Durham. A memorial service celebrating his life was held Sunday, February 13, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines.

Born in Carthage, he was a son of the late Fred E. and Mary Mills Flinchum. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he made his home in Sacramento, CA. He was in the insurance business and served as a lieutenant with the County Sheriff's Department Reserves. He returned to Moore County in later years, and became an associate chaplain at FirstHealth Moore Regional

Hospital, was a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and the sanctuary choir. He also enjoyed singing and helping with music at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Seven Lakes, and was a member of St. John Masonic Lodge No. 3, in New Bern.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty F. Smith.

Survivors include his son, Michael Flinchum, of Canada; daughter, Sharon Flinchum, of CA; friend Martha Flinchum, of CA; four brothers, Bill Flinchum, of Southern Pines, Charles Flinchum, of Seven Lakes West; Reid Flinchum, of Sneads Ferry, and Russell Flinchum, of Burlington; one sister, Kathryn Kinney, of Pinehurst; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorials may be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 350 E. Massachusetts Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Jesse B. "Bill" O'Dell, 80, of West End, died Friday, February 4, at Pinehurst Nursing and Rehab, Pinehurst.

Funeral services were held on Monday, February 7, at First Baptist Church of West End. The Rev. John Terry officiated. Burial followed at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Mr. O'Dell was the son of the late Clyde and Hattie O'Dell. He had been retired for nineteen years and was previously employed by Alltel Phone Company, as a central office engineer. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, a member of First Baptist Church of West End, and an adult men's Sunday school teacher.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two daughters, Pam Barrett and Rita Calhoun; and his brother, Jack O'Dell.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline O'Dell; two daughters, Judy Chriscoe, of West End, Sylvia Warsham, of Asheville; a sister, Barbara Jean Elling-

ton, of Eden and seven grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of West End, P.O. Box 501, West

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Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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Small rodents can cause big garden damage

The February temperatures began below normal, however, there are signs and predictions that this warming trend will continue as the days become longer.

Hopefully, Spring is just around the corner when gardening begins here in the Sandhills.

Here are a few observations and gardening suggestions that you might find helpful.

Complaints and questions have been asked about moles and voles. Both are rodents, but each damage plants in different ways. I have observed both in my yard. I previously noticed mole tunnels and digging in a couple of spots in my lawn. After investing time, and effort in one's lawn; vegetable garden, and flower beds, it's disappointing to observe these rodents enjoying and feasting on your bulbs, lawn grass and vegetables.

Moles dig underground tunneling through lawns, flower beds, and vegetable gardens in search of grubs or other damaging insects. Their digging damages plant roots and can cause delicate feeder roots to dry out underground. Moles sometimes feed on bulbs in a limited way; but their diet is basically insects.

Our pine vole is a short-tailed, web-footed large mouse or small rat. It may construct burrows and often travel in tunnels provided by moles or gophers.

Voies thrive and eat most bulbs and plant roots. An exception is voles aren't very fond of daffodils. They and other larger rats will often completely girdle and kill trees. Pinestraw and deep applications of pine bark mulch encourages their living habitat.

There are several suggested control measures which help deal with these pests.

Often an aggressive mousing cat will clean up voles and help control moles. One of the best ways to get rid of moles is to grub proof your lawn and garden areas with Sevin® granular insecticide.

This will virtually control most insects that moles eat and consequently, the moles will move on in search of other food sources. This method usually works because a few days later after treatment the moles will die and appear on top of the lawn. You can purchase other

large plants grew. No moles were observed in my garden all season.

I suggest enclosing flower and bulb beds with a 12 inch deep trench around the bed, line the bed with a fine mesh wire, leaving 12 to 18 inches of wire above ground, then plant the bed as desired.

Some recommended garden suggestions for February:

Clean up you perennial beds and get ready for next month.

If you have neglected planting your bulbs, do it now. It isn't too late, the bulbs will bloom this year, just a little later. Plant them 2 to 3 inches in the soil.

Control troublesome weeds such as wild onions, garlic, dandelions, and chickweed by digging them out or by using a recommended broadleaf herbicide.

Service your garden tools, by cleaning them up, repairing if needed and sharpen your mower blades.

Prune Holly, Cleyera, and Ligustrum, and non-blooming evergreens before new growth begins.

Do not prune rhododendrons, camellias, or azaleas, until flowering is completed.

It's time to lightly or moderately prune any non-blooming deciduous shrubs.

Now is a good time to cut

down unwanted trees, before new growth begins.

Suggested vegetable garden plantings for February are asparagus crowns, cabbage plants, carrot seeds, lettuce seeds and plants, onion seed, sets or plants, garden or edible pod peas, Irish potato seed pieces, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, mustard, kale, turnip, and cress seeds.



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

various vole repellents at most garden centers. Some treatments have pungent odors and may be soaked in rags and placed in the rodent runs. Moth and camphor balls dropped in and around the tunnels have reportedly repelled some moles and voles. I planted castor bean seeds randomly throughout my garden and tremendously



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The Times interviews SLLA Candidates

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

This year's Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] elections will fill four seats — a majority — on the Board of Directors. A slate of six candidates is on the ballot, including two incumbent directors and one former SLLA employee.

The Times met with each candidate for an informal interview — a conversation, really — to discover how their goals, background, experiences, and opinions can help shape the future direction of the community. A report on each of those conversations appears below.

In addition, the March 4 edition of *The Times* will include complete coverage of the Wednesday, February 16 SLLA Candidate's Forum.

Bob Darr

As the only candidate who has served not only as a committee volunteer, but also an Association employee, Northsider Bob Darr has a unique perspective on and a deep interest in the community. His concern about what he sees as the current direction of the community played a significant role in his decision to run for the Board.

A resident since 2002, Darr has served on the Architectural Review Board [ARB] and was the SLLA Maintenance Supervisor for eighteen

months. A retired process engineer, he has experience with human resources and management, and has owned three businesses.

"I offer a total work history of management," Darr told *The Times*. "With my background and knowledge of the community, I feel I can offer some good insight and direction where I think we should go."

If elected, he is interested in anything having to do with maintenance, particularly as it relates to the Reserve Study.

"How do we go about taking care of that? Planning for it? Financing it?" Darr questioned. "One of the real voids I've seen in last year and a half is community involvement. We used to have all kinds of committees — so much of that is gone. We have to get that reinstituted

so the Board can respond to what the community really wants."

Specifically addressing recent discussions on in-house versus outsourced maintenance, Darr said the department performed brilliantly when property supervised.

"If we're going to have a maintenance department and they [Talis Management] are not going to supervise it, then we have to reduce what we're paying Talis for because that is part of the contract — a major part of the contract."

Noting the number of closed meetings to discuss personnel and legal issues, Darr said, since the Association has no employees — they are all technically Talis employees — there are no personnel issues that should be discussed. However, he agreed that legal issues must be discussed in closed ses-

sion until there is a resolution in terms of action to be taken. At that time, the concern should become public knowledge.

Don Fentzlauff

A resident of Seven Lakes North since 2003, Don Fentzlauff is a retired business manager who has served on the Lakes & Dams Committee and is a current member of the ARB.

His ambition to serve the community is in response to the loss of his first wife, Valerie. Now remarried, Fentzlauff said he would like to repay the community for the overwhelming response that helped him through such a difficult time.

If elected to the Board, he would like to see more people in the community involved in the work of the Association. Disbanded com-

mittees should be restored "not for the sake of having committees, but because members are the eyes and ears of the community and can present to the Board what is going on."

"I believe in volunteerism and believe the community can benefit from volunteers,"

(Continued on page 13)



Don Fentzlauff



Bob Darr

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The Times interviews SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 13)

of his list of concerns moving forward. He said that the Reserve Study has helped to identify those issues, but it is now up to the Board to develop a plan of action and evaluate the financial repercussions of that plan over the next several years.

Keyser also feels that maintenance is a key issue and that a well thought-out decision needs to be made on how to proceed. He added that he would like to focus on the road paving project as soon as possible.

Responding to a question about the impact of closed meetings to discuss personnel and legal issues — a practice that has become more frequent and commonplace among the SLLA and other local boards — Keyser said the discussion on maintenance was a perfect example of why closed meetings must be held.

"This was an extremely personal situation involving people's jobs . . . We have discussed options for the last year and waited for new management to give us a better perspective on the positives and negatives," he said. "We only have closed sessions when there is something of a legality that can't be brought out, or a personnel issue. We're not scheming to take over the world."

staff of twenty-five retired engineers who perform energy assessments for business, government, and non-profit organizations.

"I understand profit and loss and a lot of those same principles apply to the Association," he explained. "I think I have a good combination of background and experience where I can be a real



Conrad Meyer

asset to the community. And I say 'community' more than 'board,' because I'm big on the idea that this is our community. The money is our money — it's not the Board's."

Meyer said the community is about to embark on a new journey based on the Reserve Study and will, potentially, spend an awful lot of money.

"We need to plan and execute these capital projects flawlessly . . . We can't afford to have a big mistake."

If elected, Meyer said he has a particular interest in serving as Treasurer but is also interested in Lakes & Dams and maintenance issues as related to infrastructure.

"Our big issue on the Reserve Study is how to prioritize what we're going to do and when we're going to do it," he explained. "Will it require a special assessment? It's a lot of money, and we don't have enough in reserves

— so we've got this study and what we need to do now is scrub the numbers."

Noting that each item needs to be evaluated individually with input from the community, Meyer said his top concern moving forward will be communication. "There is a lot of opportunity for improvement in communication between the Board and members, and vice versa. We need to listen to the members."

Meyer recommended Town Hall meetings, especially once discussion turns to major projects like paving and how

to prioritize the reserve fund.

"I want to hear from people and what's important to them in the community. I would like to see timely postings to the website, including minutes of the Board and committee meetings."

Meyer said the transparency of the Board's work has improved somewhat in certain areas, but still has a long way to go in others.

In addition, he said the Association must be run like a business — that is, by meeting the budget, being committed to employee safe-

(Continued on page 15)

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Conrad Meyer

With extensive planning and strategic business experience, and prior service on the board of a Fortune 100 company, Northsider Conrad Meyer said he understands how a board is supposed to work and how to bring in materials so it can operate in an effective and efficient manner.

A chemical engineer and the former controller for a \$500 million dollar manufacturing plant, Meyer was also responsible for a \$600 million dollar product line. Now semi-retired, he stays busy as a volunteer technical manager for Waste Reduction Partners and manages a

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The Times interviews SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 14)

ty, running proper business cases on financial decisions, and adhering to timelines. Meyer also would like to see shut-down committees restored and the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers tapped for the benefit of the community.

Addressing the recent controversy over closed meetings, Meyer agreed that legal issues must be discussed behind doors, but said the Board must be responsible for communicating what is being talked about.

"You don't have to be specific, just provide a general outline of what was discussed," he explained. "With litigation, people understand that you can't necessarily divulge information. On personnel, I think it gets a little more difficult to discuss openly, but the same kind of rules could be put in place."

"At the end of the day, sometimes a board has to make tough decisions — and I would like to make those decisions based on as much input as possible. I'm not a guy that says open up everything to everybody, but you can't just close the book either. You have to communicate what you're working on and what it involves."

Bob Racine

A retired attorney and small town moderator, Bob Racine and his wife settled in Seven Lakes North three years ago to live close to nearby family. Enchanted by the tall pines, pool, tennis courts, and beautiful lakes and beaches, Racine enjoys daily walks throughout the community.

"I believe in the community and all the amenities and opportunities that we have to live together in a closely-knit community," he told *The Times*. "While we can tweak certain things, we should be cautious in major changes, because we are dealing with many residents, some with limited financial resources."

His professional experience

as a town moderator and chairman of the budget committee give him a broad base of experience to call on in his service as a member of the Board.

"Hopefully, I can contribute something to the community and make it an even more enjoyable and pleasant place to live," said Racine. "We need to gain consensus on items coming before the Board, getting together various points of view, and then come up with a united solution."

An active volunteer and secretary on the Recreation Committee, he said he would be interested in continuing with recreation; but, as secretary of the Judicial Panel, he also has a broad understanding of many areas of



Bob Racine

concern in the community.

He pinpoints resident responsibility as one of the most important issues moving forward.

"Resident responsibility means helping to keep the community trash free, picking up dog litter and keeping dogs on a leash, and having some control over your children," he said. "We can have all the rules and regs we want; but, unless residents accept responsibility for self-enforcement of those rules, they are useless."

While the Board has little direct influence to ensure such action, he said the Board is responsible to residents.

"I believe in resident involvement in decisions and offering advice at meetings. They should not be limited in their comments at open meetings and they should be allowed to speak at any meeting and encouraged to become involved," Racine said.

On the subject of closed meetings, he said the question should not be "When is it appropriate to bring personnel and legal issues into an open meeting?" but, rather, the other way around.

"When is it appropriate to discuss personnel and legal issues in a closed meeting?" Racine asked. "It can lead to abuse and to a situation

like what just developed."

"Investigate a matter, get the facts and let people know. Give them an opportunity for input. A major decision should not be sprung upon the residents with a two-week notice."

Racine continued, "You can not expect residents to accept major decisions in which they have had no input."

Randy Zielsdorf

A two-term member of the Board, Randy Zielsdorf has chaired the Community Standards Committee and has served as president of SLLA for the last three years. In that role, he oversaw the transition to a management company and has been involved in long range planning and recommending a

new system of governance.

"With the size of Seven Lakes, we're a town: let's face it," Zielsdorf told *The Times*. "A big part of the system of governance discussion was to get new management in place

(Continued on page 16)



Randy Zielsdorf

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The Times interviews SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 15)

and establish how the Board and manager interacted — that is, moving the Board where it should be, which is oversight.”

A Northside resident since 2000, Zielsdorf has a Masters degree in biomedical engineering and is a mathematics instructor at Montgomery Community College. In addition to his work with the SLLA Board, he is also a charter member of the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council, an advisory group composed of the presidents of local communities and the Business Guild.

Looking at a possible third term on the Board, Zielsdorf said his primary interest is to ensure continuity as the community moves forward with Talis on-board and fully established as the management company.

“I’ve done the best I could for four years to try to move the Association forward in a positive direction,” he said. “Either people are tired of me or they like the direction the Association is moving.”

If reelected, one position he will not accept is President. Instead Zielsdorf said he’d like to focus his energy on getting the road repaving project started and, perhaps, working with Lakes & Dams.

“We made a promise that

the \$100 dues increase would go to the roads, and we need to make good on the promise in one way, shape, or another,” he said.

Zielsdorf said he feels there is a good definition for what needs to be done on a year-to-year basis with the dams and is interested in providing the oversight to ensure that the work gets done. Looking ahead, he noted it is important to understand that ad hoc committees don’t need to be the same year after year.

“When there is a specific need or large project, like road paving, then a committee should be formed to address it,” he explained.

“We’ve gotten a lot of work done in the last year due to the transition; but, quite frankly, since we had the same manager for more than twenty-three years, certain bad habits developed. New management has tried to bring those to light, and I think we’re probably looking at another six months until we reach our goal.”

In particular, he expressed concern that OSHA rules had been ignored for decades, and the Association was lucky that there were no employee accidents or penalties imposed for non-compliance.

“Quite honestly, a lot of things we’ve been doing as an Association have not been

good practice — which is why I was in favor of a management company. They have the resources and horsepower to stay on top of all these issues,” explained Zielsdorf. “There has been a lot of value added by Talis . . . it’s an education process to understand the depth of what they do and how their guidance can keep us out of legal trouble.”

Addressing a question on the impact of closed meetings and when it is appropriate to keep discussion of personnel and legal issues behind doors, Zielsdorf said talking about people’s employment being impacted is not the type of subject to discuss openly.

“We are not a municipality, we are a private corporation,” he explained. “People get to elect members to the Board, as shareholders of a corporation get to elect representatives to a board. But in terms of how we function on a day-by-day basis, we can’t bring everything out to the public,” he said. “There have been many closed meetings, but they were all necessary. I hope, as we get into the next few months and management takes more control of daily operations, the need for closed meetings will be reduced.”

Mah Jongg Cruise Luncheon

The Annual Mah Jongg Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 11:30 am, at The Italian Table in Seven Lakes.

All Seven Lakes Mah Jongg “addicts” are invited to play by the National Mah Jongg Rules.

Bring your own 2010 card. Cost for the event is \$15 (all inclusive). Lunch together and play six games of Mah Jongg.

To make your reservation call Sandy Ring at 673-3550 by March 23. Checks should be made payable to Sandra Ring (no refunds).

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

courses or common areas, and the County's hands would be tied on the matter.

Nick's Creek or any "blue line streams" in the area of the Pine Forest development.

Zschoche said installing "monitoring stations" on the streams being discussed

would ensure water was not withdrawn.

The question of whether

MHK's rezoning application can be altered — at this stage

(See "Commissioners," p. 18)

Riparian rights at issue

At Tuesday night's meeting the Planning Department offered a definition of "riparian rights," which allow a landowner to make "reasonable use" of water adjacent to his property as long as it does not "injure" the rights of downstream riparian owners. Chairman Nick Picerno asked if Lake Auman in Seven Lakes, which is the headwaters of Drowning Creek, was similar in nature to Nick's Creek and Carthage. Public Works Director Dennis Brobst could not confirm any similarities, but did say that during a drought a "minimal release" of water is required, as outlined in a permit for Lake Auman.

The Planning Department pointed out that the Board does not have the "proper authority" to decide legal issues pertaining to riparian rights — rather, a court of "competent jurisdiction" would have to rule on the matter. MHK Ventures' Attorney William Van O'Linda asked to add an additional document to the Pine Forest rezoning application that reads: "they [MHK Ventures Inc] never have had intentions nor will they have intentions to use the water out of Nick's Creek for the purpose of irrigation or potable water supply. The primary source of water for irrigation will be from treated waste water. An additional potential source of irrigation water for the project may include storm water recapture and there will be no wells drilled on this site for the purpose of irrigation of golf courses."

That addition and some legal mechanism to prevent it being changed in the future would ease a lot of minds if "that snake were dead" said Save Our Sandhills [SOS] attorney David Rooks. Whispering Pines Mayor, Bob Zschoche asked that the rezoning be made subject to a condition that MHK will not withdraw water from



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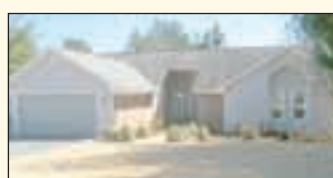
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Commissioners

(Continued from page 17)

in the process — is being further reviewed by County Attorney Misty Leland.

Opponent's credentials questions

The discussion became heated during the public hearing when MHK attorney Van O'Linda tried to preempt certain testimony given by opponents of the PUD. Bill Huber, a retired engineer, was testifying about water shortages and supplies in Moore County, when Fred Hobbs of MHK's consulting engineering firm Hobbs Upchurch and Associates stood up and asserted that his firm is not trying to, "hoodoo the Board or the County or the public" and reiterated that, "it is simply not true" that the development will need to access Nick's Creek for irrigation water.

Hobbs said water for irrigation would come from "scalping" 350,000 to 750,000 gallons of untreated wastewater from the county sewer system and treating it for reuse as irrigation water.

Van O'Linda asked Huber to state his credentials as a water expert and then asked for Huber's testimony to be excluded from the hearing when he could produce no such credentials.

That strategy for excluding testimony did not sit well with Commissioner Tim Lea who said, "if you are going to question qualifications you can ask that of any of the four us" as he pointed to the panel of Commissioners. It is the Boards responsibility to act as judge and jury, Lea added, and while he appreciated the objection, it is better to get all the information on the table now.

County Attorney Leland said that a quasi-judicial hearing leaves more room for information to be brought to the Board from all individuals, but added that it would be noted that Attorney Van O'Linda asked for anyone without proper credentials to have their testimony excluded from the hearing.

Hobbs-Upchurch answers questions

Hobbs Upchurch and Associates, as the consulting engineers on Pine Forest, responded to questions in several key areas that were brought up during the January 18 public hearing.

Tom Goodwin, a Hobbs Upchurch engineer, addressed the Traffic Impact Analysis and confirmed with the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] that NC Highway 211 is set for expansion in October of 2014.

Fred Hobbs reiterated that water would not be taken from Nick's Creek to irrigate and that impact on the watershed would be eliminated by leaving twenty-five foot buffers between the golf courses and creek banks. In later testimony, Jeff Marcus of the NC

Wildlife Resources Commission asked the Board to consider a larger buffer area of 50 to 100 feet, which would better protect water quality. Marcus also told the Board that it is not only golf courses that bring money into the economy; \$2.5 billion is generated in wildlife expenditures each year.

Addressing concerns about the on-site, private wastewater treatment facility that is part of the Pine Forest proposal, Hobbs said treating wastewater at Pine Forest would extend the life of the County's Addor wastewater treatment plant. He said concerns about the impact of a developer bankruptcy on maintenance of the plant could be alleviated by requiring a bond or liability insurance to protect the County.

Dr. Jay Carter, an environmental consultant for MHK, said the delineation of wetlands in the Pine Forest application has been certified by the Army Corp of Engineers. He said the developer is complying with NC Natural Heritage Sites Program guidelines for endangered species such as the Red Cockaded Woodpecker and the Sandhills Lily, which

are in power line right-of-ways.

Lester George, who has worked on over 600 golf courses in North and South Carolina, disputed the idea that runoff from golf courses harms adjacent streams, claiming that "turf grass is one of the best filters that we know." Ron Dodson testified that golf courses can be

(See "Commissioners," p. 19)



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 18)

a "wonderful wildlife habitat" and that the PUD-H rezoning would result in more open space than other options for developing the property.

MHK President Walter J. "Rusty" Mackey said "the risk of recession is our risk" and indicated that the development should be complete in fifteen years, beginning to end. He said housing within the development would be priced at approximately \$700,000 and up. The plan is for the hotel and golf courses to be built first and, with the Board's approval, Mackey hopes to have the hotel complete in time for the back-to-back US Opens scheduled for June of 2014.

Chairman Picerno asked Mackey why he didn't want to develop the property under the current zoning. The developer replied that current zoning would not allow a development "we would be proud of." Noting that golf courses are not a permitted use under

the current zoning of the property, Mackey said "the golf course is a real benefit. We need golf course for the hotel as a tandem."

Sandhills Farm to Table

Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative [SF2TC] has made great strides in its first year of operation, the Board of Commissioners heard in a presentation during their Tuesday, February 18 meeting. The cooperative was initially funded by \$30,000 Rural Advancement Foundation International Fund grant offered to Moore County through the Tobacco Communities Reinvestment Fund.

That funding has allowed SF2TC to purchase produce from local farmers and distribute them to over 500 participating residents. Members of SF2TC are able to buy items in bulk — like tomatoes for canning, locally raised beef and chicken, and next day seafood shipped from the North Carolina coast.

To date there are 1230 members of SF2TC who have created more than \$300,000 in sales, with seventy cents on every dollar returned to the farmer. During the last year, SF2TC has donated three tons of produce to families in need, 2500 volunteer hours have been documented, and \$18,000 has been donated to two churches and two elementary schools.

The Cooperative was also recognized at the Terra Madre event in Turin, Italy in Octo-

ber of 2010. SF2TC's goal for the next year is to double membership, increase subscription, and increase sales to \$750,000. For information or to subscribe to SF2TC go to their website at www.sandhillsfarm2table.com

Other Business:

In other business during the Tuesday, February 15 meeting :

• NCDOT's Chuck Dumas confirmed that construction to widen NC Highway 211

from two lanes to four will be began in October of 2011 and is expected to be complete by the US Opens in 2014. If construction is not complete it will be halted during the US Opens.

• Chairman Picerno is working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board to investigate using some proceeds from the existing tax on hotel rooms to help fund a grant match needed by the airport for repairs and upgrades.

Water District for 7 Lakes?

Moore County's Board of Commissioners voted during their Tuesday, February 15 meeting to extend the voter-approved \$16 million bond for the Northwest Moore Water District [NMWD] for an additional three years. Although the Commissioners have the authority to expand the NMWD to include Seven Lakes, Chairman Nick Picerno pointed out that it is important to "reserve the right to vote on a referendum in the Seven Lakes Area" and that the Seven Lakes community, "needs to have a say" when it comes to being rolled into the water district.

Progress on making the district a reality has been slowed due to a limited number of homes signing up for county water. Public Works Director Dennis Brobst has proposed extended the NMWD to include

Robbins and Seven Lakes — particularly the latter, because it has a large enough installed base of water customers to make the District viable. The \$16 million bond could pay for a new water treatment plant in Robbins and a water line to carry water from that plant to customers in both Seven Lakes and Robbins.

Chairman Picerno said the first step is to work out a deal with Robbins for the NMWD, come up with some estimated costs and impact on water rates, and bring that to Seven Lakes. Chairman Picerno told *The Times* he would rather Seven Lakes, "know before the matter than after the fact" and that he and the Board plan to discuss the issue with the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC] in a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 at 5 pm.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. Food, games & socializing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- **Cut Out Cancer Crop** – 9 am – 9 pm, 6th Annual Cut Out Cancer Crop scrapbooking event to benefit the Cancer CARE Fund of Moore Regional Hospital Foundation. \$50 registration fee includes a workspace, snacks and meals for the event. Must be 12 years or older. Event will be held at Pine Needles Resort, Southern Pines. Rain or shine event. For more information or to register @cutoutcancercrop.com
- **2011 Camellia Festival** – 12 pm to 4 pm, 7th annual accredited judged Camellia Show. Public is invited. Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. Gorgeous camellia plants for sale at \$20 each. Pre-orders can call Barb Cohen at 910-255-0010. All pre-orders must be pre-paid. Two will pertain to growing camellias. Society will offer great raffle items. Novice gardeners are encouraged to bring their camellia blooms between 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Master Gardener volunteers will be available. Public not allowed during the judging. Public invited at 12 pm for the show. There will be about 600 blooms - all colors and sizes for your viewing. **Program is Free.**
- **"Cooking with Carmela"** – 1 pm, "South Korean and other Asian Dishes" Carmela Chase, Mee Young Namkoong Sandi Carl, and Marjorie Nurenburg, will present a demonstration of South Korean and other Asian dishes at the West Side Park Community Center. Dishes include Sushi, Somen Noodles with Fresh Ginger and Hoisin Sauce, Spring Rolls with Vegetables, Spicy Tofu, and a Thai dessert. Recipe packets available for participants and a sampling of recipes. Cost \$15 per person. Call West Side Park Community Center to register at 673-5314.
- **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



What's When Calendar

\$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes, 2 doors from McDonald's.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Free Lecture on Jugtown Pottery** – 2 pm, see famous Jugtown Pottery products and hear the first family of potters will be held on at the First Baptist Church, Southern Pines. Sponsored by Moore County Historical Association. Free talk will be by Jugtown Pottery owners Vernon, Pam, and

Travis Owens. For more information call 692-2051 or www.jugtownware.com

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Missy Raines and the New Hip, Matt Flinner Trio. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **President's Day**
- **Republican Precinct Meeting** – 7 pm, all registered Republicans are invited to a Seven Lakes Republican Precinct meeting at Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Building, Seven Lakes Drive. (The Moore County Republican Convention will be held on Saturday, March 12, at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. 395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Washington's Birthday**
- **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 West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Last two days of current exhibit. All welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, monthly meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided at a

charge of \$5 per person.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. Food, games & socializing.
- **Seven Lakes West Winter Music Series** – 7-9 pm, Featuring Glen Davis for an "All Request Dance Night." West Side Park Community Center. Call West Side Park Community Center to register at 673-5314.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Boy Scouts of America Troop 8 of Robbins** – 7 am to 10 am, the troop is hosting their second annual pancake breakfast. First Wesleyan Church, Robbins. The troop would love to serve 300 people this year. Proceeds will be used to take the scouts to explore the Nantahala National Forest.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **"Pins 4 Paws"** – 3:00-5:30 pm, a bowling tournament fundraiser, registering teams now. Held at Sandhills Bowling on Hwy. 5, Pinehurst. Registration for a team includes free pizza and soda. To register call Janet Dustin at 528-6243.
- **American Cancer Survivor (ACS) Relay for Life** – 5:30 pm, Bensalem Presbyterian Church will hold a Candle Light service for ACS Relay for Life. The service will be followed by a covered dish dinner and the community is welcome to attend. Brooke McNeil, a cancer survivor and participated in the Northern Moore Relay last year will be speak on being a survivor and what Relay means to her and why she supports Relay. Contact Bob & Trina Hamilton for more information at 910-673-3491. Bensalem Presbyterian Church, 2891 Bensalem Church Rd., Eagle Springs.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Layah Jane, Doug and Telisha Williams. Poplar Knight Spot, 113

Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 3 - 5 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Artist's pick up and receiving new works.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting at 7 pm, at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Carver's Creek State Park, Superintendent Janet Pearson to speak about one of North Carolina's newest state parks. Carver's Creek consists of 4,500 acres on two separate tracts of land, the Carver's tract and the Rockefeller Long Valley Farm. She will discuss the ecology of the park, the cultural history of Long Valley Farm, and the master planning process for the park. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 or www.sandhillsnature.org
- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone wel-

come. For more information, 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

- **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.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- **Hostas Expert to Speak at Sandhills Community College** – 10:00 am, Bob Solberg, nationally known lecturer, hybridizer and an expert on growing hostas, will be speaking in the Sandhills on Wednesday, March 2, Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Solberg's presentation is cosponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs. Solberg is the owner of Green Hill Farm a wholesale and retail nursery that introduces new hostas into the trade. Reservations call Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-

3882. Admission is free and Solberg will have hostas for sale after his presentation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal is provided at \$5 per person.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, meeting at West Side Park Community Center. Roberta Robinson and Barbara Whitaker will be the guest speakers. They will be presenting some quick and easy ideas on how to make inexpensive decor changes simply by rearranging items in a room. A short business meeting and refreshments. All are welcome.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Seven Lakes West Community CPR Course** – 7-9 pm, second session of the CPR course. Taught by Scott Brooks of the Moore County EMS. Held at West

Side Park Community Center. Reservations taken at the SWL office or janes@7lakeswest.com. Call West Side Park Community Center to register at 673-5314

- **Theatre Production of Proof** – Temple Theatre (show will continue through March 20). Catherine struggles to come to terms with the dangerous legacy of her late father. While Robert's skill in the world of numbers still appears to be strong, his grip on reality begins to slip away, and Catherine begins to wonder if she may have inherited her father's mental illness along with his mathematical genius. Catherine is confronted by Hal, a student of Robert's, who wants to look through the late man's notes in hopes of finding his last great work. When one notebook reveals a mathematical proof of potentially historic proportions, it sets off shock waves in more ways than one. For tickets contact the Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage St., Sanford, Main Office: 919-774-4512, Box Office: 919-774-4155. www.templeshows.com



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A few life lessons for the wise:

Life isn't fair.

Half the people you know are below average.

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Anyone driving faster than you is a maniac and anyone driving slower is a moron.

Opposites always attract, except when they don't.

And it's not about who wins or loses a game but, rather, who had the best commercial.

Yes, it's true. I'm one of those obnoxious diehard non-fans that only watch the Super Bowl for the advertisements.

Like a reverse TIVO remote, I prefer to fast forward through plays, punts and passes in a desperate bid to

not miss a single million dollar minute.

Armed with a just-educated-enough-to-be-dangerous curriculum vitae that includes advanced studies in persuasive communication, I'll sit riveted to the television tracking tricks of the trade.

A hint: overt propaganda is out and guerilla marketing is most definitely in.

And humor always sells.

My personal fave, Ozzy's perfectly delivered line, 'What's a Bieber?'

But aside from such impor-

tant questions like just exactly what is a 6G? I discovered something about us while watching commercials this week.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Us: as in you and me.

Our self-image degrades with the passing hours in a day. Or, to put it more simply, we're rock stars in the morning and roadies by sundown.

Click on any channel

tomorrow and see if you agree. I prefer HGTV, nicknamed "paint tv" by Darling Hubby, but any station will do: they all follow the same playbook.

Hour after hour — at least until lunch — you'll hear appeals for new diets and fitness programs "that really work!" And then sit through a half-dozen or more options for trade schools and quick, easy [read: "not cheap"] ways to generate college credits and finish your education.

It's all good.

I'm all for personal improvement. Clearly, we each wake with bright eyes and aspirations to seize the day and make a change for the better.

Uh-huh. Keep watching

that same channel.

As the hours slip by so it seems does our collective motivation for all that is fit, thin and progressive in favor of anything fast, cheap and decadent.

By mid-afternoon the decline of Western Civilization cannot be denied.

Television airways are awash with fast food jingles, bottles of iced down beer, and all manner of glop and glue to fix our evidently bad hair, bad gums, and bad body odor.

Which reminds me of one last life lesson worth imparting:

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused.

Why's my church always asking for money?

Question: I have recently become a Christian and joined a church several months ago. I like the people and the songs and the preacher preaches really good sermons. My only complaint is that the church is always asking for money. Is there a church I can join that does not ask for money every Sunday?

Response: First, I am pleased that you have decided to become a follower of

Jesus and join other disciples in the fellowship of the Church. If you have found a church where the people are hospitable, the worship is inspiring and the sermons are meaningful to you, you are very fortunate.

In most churches new members are asked when they join if they will support the church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts and their service. Do you remember making such a commitment?

Are there churches that never ask for financial support from their members? I don't know of any, but if there were such a church, I'm not sure either one of us would want to be a member. There would be no heat in the winter or air-conditioning in the summer. The minister likely would have to

work at another job to support his or her family and have little time for pastoral care or sermon preparation. Without money, the church could not reach out in the community to help those in need, nor could it ever respond to crises in the community or the world. In all the major religions of the world charity is a major component, and believers are urged to give to the poor and to help those in need. Christianity is no exception.

In Christian worship the offering is an integral part of the service. It grows out of the ancient practice of offering sacrifices to God, but today these offerings represent the days of our lives



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

and the work of our hands and minds that we offer back to God who not only gives us our daily bread but our daily breath.

If the church you now attend is meeting your spiritual needs, be thankful and give generously. You will be blessed and your giving will bless others. If your financial circumstances are such that you cannot make an offering of money, offer your prayers, your time and your talents. God does not seek your

money, but God seeks you to minister to the needs of God's children according to your means and ability.

I remember attending a church where the offering was introduced with the words: "Let those who can, give. Let those who need, take!" I liked that. Isn't that what the Church is always about? Receiving from those who have so in order to give to those who have not?

Whenever I enter a church or cathedral and find myself facing the cross or crucifix, I remember the words of the Scottish hymn writer, Isaac Watts, who wrote these words after reflecting prayerfully on the Cross of Christ:

Were the whole world of nature mine, that were an offering far too small,

Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my love, my life, my all.

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

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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McCarthy: Westside Board needs new priorities

Dear Editor:

I would like to touch on some safety issues that the current Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board has overlooked with the closing of the dam road.

Now that the dam is closed, if something happens on Longleaf by the Carriage Park pond, like an overturned car

or truck, the right side of Seven Lakes West is sealed off.

Emergency Services response time increases dramatically. The EMS Unit stationed at West End Fire and Rescue on NC Hwy 73 has to stop to open two gates, adding three or four minutes to the arrival time.

Does a person having a heart attack have three or four minutes?

If the West End unit is out on a call, how long does it take for the Seven Lakes unit to go around the lake, open the gates, and get to the call?

We need another way out and they need another way in.

Another safety hazard is on Longleaf by the pond. If anyone drifts off the roadway by the pond, it is almost certain that the car will flip over down the embankment.

We don't need a restroom on the island. We don't need to beautify the back gate or plant bushes by the water tower. We need to think about our safety first.

We don't need to spend money just to spend money. This Board is running on its own generator.

Is beautifying the back gate more important than someone's life?

Let's start thinking about the entire community, not just their little world.

Sure, I'm for planting crape myrtles all over Seven Lakes West, but not at the expense of someone's life. Put the money where it's most needed now and then we can beautify the neighborhood later.

Jim McCarthy
Seven Lakes West
Board Candidate

Kiwanis say 'Thanks!'

Dear Editor,

The Kiwanis of Seven Lakes annual pancake breakfast, held at the West End Elementary School on Saturday, February 5, was an unprecedented success. For the first time in recent history, we had two serving lines, each of which was out the door of the West End Elementary School cafeteria for much of the morning. Some folks waited in line for as much as 15 minutes, although everyone arrived at the serving counter in good spirits.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis would like to express our appreciation to everyone who purchased tickets for the

event. The proceeds will help us provide funding to the West End Elementary School for the purchase of software for its reading program. In a time when funding for public education is being cut, we are delighted to be able to assist by compensating for some of the shortfall. Community members who purchased tickets contributed to a most worthy cause.

An event of this magnitude requires the concerted effort of many people. Every member of the Kiwanis of Seven Lakes who was available worked at the breakfast. Some former members even pitched in for event. We also had help from the Boy and Girl Scouts and the Key Club of North Moore High

School. But, the planning, organization, scheduling and food procurement was managed by three of our members.

Much of the success of the event is attributable to the dedicated work of Gerry Buelow, John Clohessy and John Shaughnessy.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to West End Elementary School principal Leigh Ann McClen-don for providing such a worthwhile goal for our fundraiser. It helped us achieve the Kiwanis objective of "changing the world, one child at a time."

Martin J. Matula
President
Kiwanis of Seven Lakes



West End Elementary Principal Leigh Ann McClen-don thanked Seven Lakes Kiwanians for their generous contribution.

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Schools

(Continued from page 7)

lenges. "She is not just teaching students how to play the drums. It's about providing

Foxfire

(Continued from page 6)

Summer as a member of the Durham delegation of the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

Souvenirs were passed around the room as Harsany described visiting farms, zoos, an Aboriginal village, the Great Barrier Reef, and famous landmarks in Brisbane and Sydney.

Harsany was the only Moore County student recommended for the program and said she plans to travel with People to People again, this time to Europe — with the hope of reaching her goal of visiting all seven continents before finishing high school. The daughter of Susan Harsany, Amalia is a junior Black Belt, one of three top Girl Scout cookie sellers in the county, and a member of the Beta Club, orchestra, and chorus at West Pine.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, February 8, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Unanimously approved the Moore County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The five-year update reports Foxfire Village at low risk for natural hazards, and no future actions were recommended.
- Unanimously approved an amendment to the Farm Animal ordinance that exempt hens and rabbits from a list of otherwise prohibited small animals that may be kept on lots five acres and larger in the RA and EU districts.

- Heard a concern from Susan Harsany that there is a dip in the road as you enter Woodland Circle along

engaging experiences and skills that prepare them for the future," said Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser.

the east side of Hoffman Road. Erickson asked Councilman John Eltschlager to investigate the area.

- Heard from Councilman Ed Lauer that Moore County is in a drought and that Foxfire Village remains under voluntary water restrictions.

- Heard from Chairman Mick McCue that Long Range Planning has held two focus group sessions with Village citizens and three more have been scheduled.

- Appointed Mick McCue to serve on the Planning & Zoning Board, effective February 2011 to Dec 2014.

Recognitions

West End Elementary bookkeeper, Donna Briley, and Catina Roberts, a basketball coach, bus driver, and substitute teacher for West Pine Middle School, were both recognized by the Board of Education during its February 14 meeting as Support Staff Members of the Month.

Also recognized in February were National Board Certified Educators: Brandi Dowd and Stephanie Monroe of West Pine Elementary; Becky Oldham, Marci Houseman, and Alana Pennington of West Pine Middle; and Donna Love of West End Elementary.

The MCS Board received the Special Achievement Award for Exemplary Boards from the NC School Boards Association in recognition of training hours earned during the 2009-2010 academic year. In addition, Chair Laura K. Lang was recognized with a

Certificate of Achievement, Kathy Farren received the Certificate of Advanced Achievement, Charles R. Lambert received an Award of Excellence, and Dr. Lorna C. Clack received an Award of Distinction.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, February 14, the Moore County Board of Education:

- Heard from Dr. Jimmy Smith, president of the Robbins Chapter of the NAACP

and a former MCS principal, who expressed concern over a lack of minority teachers in local classrooms. Dr. Purser disagreed with Dr. Smith's statistics, but agreed that teacher diversity was an issue. She indicated she would follow up with a more detailed discussion with Dr. Smith.

- Approved a \$25,000 contract change order to close out expenses on the construction of Crain's Creek Middle School.

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Outsourcing

(Continued from page 3)

arguing that poor performance in the department in the last year was the fault of the Community Manager for failing to provide safety training and on-site supervision.

Zielsdorf said he was also concerned that the in-house maintenance staff is tasked with projects beyond their skill set. Specific examples he cited included a steel maintenance building that staff were unable to construct as planned, unanticipated extra time necessary to construct the modular playground at Northside Park, and crack sealing along interior roadways that took months to complete — and at a much higher cost than projected.

"I am not blaming the employees, but management and the Board for assigning tasks beyond their skill level," Zielsdorf said.

He noted that a recent roofing project at the stables was outsourced, and defended that decision. "Our guys are not roofers, so why would the Board or good management expose our employees to additional risk?" he asked. "Roofing is a physically

demanding task."

Responding to Zielsdorf's recommendation that the Board should consider outsourcing all major projects, Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. said, as a professional builder, he agreed. "If you have five [maintenance] employees and task them to do something else, you are taking them away from the job they are responsible for," Keyser said. "When you look at outsourcing, they have a specific job — they come in and do it no matter what. Mowing outsourced leaves other employees to do other things."

Talis strongly recommends outsourcing

Attempting to clarify the proposal, Community Manager Alina Cochran reminded the Board that mowing was not the only service included in the contract. "We're talking about service to provide mowing during the growing season, as well as service year round," she said. "They will be mowing, picking up pine cones and trash, trimming bushes and shrubs. This is a year round contract not just a summer job."

Defending criticism that bids were not solicited from Moore County sources, Cochran said a call to a local company was not returned and that the other contractors were selected based on proven, successful track records with Talis Management Group properties.

Addressing the number of employees required to perform regular operations, Cochran said in reviewing two-week periods, hours ranged from 444 to 624 hours in 2009, and 217 to 444 hours in 2010. During the past year the department functioned with a work order system managed from the office but no day-to-day supervisor, as in 2009.

Cochran also offered a lengthy financial comparison of amortized versus out of pocket expenditures for major capital equipment replacement and repairs, as well as the considerable cost associated with potential employee turnover.

"To bring in a qualified contractor who is properly certified and licensed is a plus to the Association," she said. They offer proper training of

personnel and a transfer of liability. They bring in their own equipment and the Association does not need to worry about replacement costs."

A call for a decision

"As a woman, I look at this from an aesthetic position," said Director Melinda Scott. "This has been building to a point that I can't continue to believe that, even with a supervisor, we can make a noticeable improvement to compete with other gated communities."

Scott said she supported moving to a different model for landscape maintenance. "It's a start," she said. "We need to start taking the initiative to improve curb appeal. If we continue with what we are doing we will never see changes."

Galford countered that it is a roll of the dice whether outsourcing or hiring a maintenance supervisor would achieve the desired results.

Scott responded that Talis had not picked a name out of a phonebook but had, rather, recommended a contractor with an established reputation.

(See "Outsourcing," p. 26)

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Outsourcing

(Continued from page 25)
tion.

The discussion period concluded with no action; a formal vote on the proposed contract will be called at the Open Meeting on Wednesday, February 23.

Zielsdorf responds to criticism of Talis

Calling the Board together for what he termed a "Come to Jesus Meeting," President Randy Zielsdorf challenged the complaint sometimes voiced by a few Association members that Talis Management Group is looking out for their own best interest rather than the community's best interest.

"That couldn't be farther than the truth," he stated. "You look good by making the customer look good. We are their customer."

Zielsdorf said one reason, in particular, that he favored moving toward professional management after Dalton Fulcher's retirement was that a management company would be more up-to-speed on state and federal regulations.

"It came to my attention that we have been disregarding OSHA procedures for decades," he reported. "There is this idea that big bad Talis was prohibiting staff from getting work done to protect themselves."

He said Cochran is responsible, as community manager, for proper training and supervision — and that all is now in order.

"I'm not worried now about OSHA penalties," Zielsdorf added, "but we did have to have multiple violations corrected."

ARB appeal process

While most committees function in an advisory role to the Board, both the Judicial Committee and the Architectural Review Board [ARB] have authority to make independent decisions. During Monday's Work Session, ARB Director Melinda Scott recommended developing a formal process for the appeal of ARB decisions.

"We were unclear if the Covenants would allow for an appeal, since they say the ARB has final authority," Scott explained. After a legal interpretation determined that the Board did in fact have the authority to overrule an ARB decision, Scott said her committee began the process of drafting timelines and requirements.

In the proposed appeal process that they recommended to the Board, only the homeowner or lot owner whose request is denied may submit an appeal, which must be in writing, within thirty days of the rejection notification. The appeal request must include all specified materials and components for consideration. All denied requests will include instructions on the appeal process. The homeowner or lot owner may request an open or closed hearing. At least five Board members must participate in the appeal and the owner will be notified within ten days of the decision.

Approval of the proposed appeal process will be on the agenda of the February 23 Open Meeting.

Other Business

Additional action items that will be heard by the Board at the February 23 meeting include:

- A motion to approve hosting the NC Open Water Swim June 4 & 5 on Lake Echo. This annual competitive event

draws hundreds of swimmers from across the state.

- A motion to approve a proposed yard site debris removal contract with Brooks Grading and Gravel. Manager Cochran noted that the contract includes a lower price for loads with debris under 6" in diameter. Since the contractor will determine load size, Droppers recommended periodic checks to ensure accurate pricing.

In other business on Monday, February 14, the SLLA Board:

- Heard from Cochran that an account delinquent for ten years, totaling \$9,300, was paid in full after a lien was placed on the property.

- Heard from Cochran that Talis corporate staff will offer input on the SLLA collection policy at the March Work Session and that a Closed Meeting may be called to discuss sensitive items.

- Early in the meeting President Zielsdorf postponed the public comment portion of the agenda; however, after lengthy discussions and a late start due to the Special Open Meeting, the Board never made it back around to allowing comments from the public.

- The attendees at Monday's Work Session included the full slate of candidates running for the next Board term, including incumbent directors Zielsdorf and Bruce Keyser, Jr., and candidates Bob Darr, Bob Racine, Don Fentzlaff, and Conrad Meyer.

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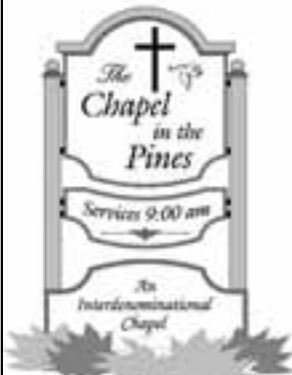
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SLLA-SLCC Agreement

Original Text

• The Seven Lakes Landowners Association will grant the authority to Seven Lakes Country Club to establish its own covenants limiting the use of all Country Club property to the operations of the golf course and country club. Hunter Stovall will have the right to review the Seven Lakes Country Club covenants to insure compliance with this requirement.

• The Seven Lakes Country Club will grant a ten foot easement along Seven Lakes Drive from the South Gate House to the Townhouses. This easement will be incorporated into the setback requirements if it affects the setbacks for the development for any or all of this property. This easement can only be used for green spaces. Hunter Stovall to write this easement.

• The Seven Lakes Country Club will provide sufficient land for a minimum of five parking spaces to the east of the current South Side Mail House with similar deed restrictions that currently exists for the South Side Mail House.

• Upon the sale of any Seven Lakes Country Club property for residential purposes such properties will be subject to the South Side Covenants.

• Upon the approval of the Seven Lakes Country Club Membership to sell the existing practice range to a developer for residential purposes, the property will be subject to the South Side Covenants. The SLLA recognizes that the current

proposal includes up to 14 residential units and the SLLA will work with the developer in an open, efficient and cooperative fashion.

Revised bullet point five

"Upon the approval of the Seven Lakes Country Club Membership to sell the former Practice Range to a developer for residential purposes, the property will be subject to the South Side Covenants [of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, as recorded in Deed Book 399, Page 523, Deed Book 400, Page 800, and any subsequent amendments thereto, in the Office of the Moore County Register of Deeds]. The SLLA will work with the developer in an open, efficient and cooperative manner. The SLLA agrees that they will work with the developer within the guidelines, regulations, and restrictions established within Moore County Rules and Regulations. Additionally, the SLLA agrees that the decision-making process and criteria used by the ARB [Architectural Review Board] committee members will be applied to the developer in the same manner as they are applied to all requests submitted by other Seven Lakes home and lot owners. The SLLA also agrees to the number of units identified by Moore County provided the developer's proposed housing units conform to the standards and criteria identified in the SLLA [South Side] Covenants, bylaws and rules and regulations."

Agreement

(Continued from front page)

ed fifth bullet point that no longer specifies a maximum number of homes that may be built on the driving range but, instead, relies on a combination of Moore County ordinances and South Side covenants to limit the density of any subdivision. While the SLLA continues, in the amended agreement, to pledge to work with the developer in an open and cooperative manner, it also promises that the developer will be subject to the same decision-making criteria as any other home or lot owner, as applied by the Architectural Review Board [ARB].

The amended agreement and two related documents — an easement that creates a ten foot buffer strip along Seven Lakes Drive and covenants restricting development of the Club's remaining property to use as a golf course — were unanimously approved with a 6-0 vote of the SLLA Board. Treasurer Denny Galford, who previously served on the Country Club Board, recused himself from the vote.

Immediately following the approval, SLCC President

Steve Ritter announced the Club has entered into a contract to sell the 5.42 acre tract to Rufty Homes, a Raleigh-based builder of high-end custom homes.

A four-time winner of the Home Builder of the Year award by the Home Builders Association and TSMC of Wake, Durham, Chatham and Orange Counties, Jon Rufty and his company [www.ruftyhomes.com] have also garnered multiple Gold awards at Parade of Homes displays in the Triangle Area, and recognized several times as Custom Builder of the Year by the Triangle Business Journal.

"They are going through the due diligence process and are very excited to become part of the commu-

nity," said Ritter. "This is a very high quality, reputable company."

Ritter thanked ARB Director Melinda Scott and Zielsdorf for their cooperation and understanding during the negotiations.

"In this process, I felt we developed a good rapport that needs to be developed between the two Boards. I believe that what is good for the landowners is good for the Club and vice versa. This has been a very positive process."

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Westside work session

(Continued from front page)

include the entire area from the shore to the ski area. Currently, the area between shore and the ski area includes two separate speed zones. Kirst explained that the change would create a larger area that would be safe for swimmers.

The committee defined the no-wake zone as "producing no appreciable wake, with a maximum speed of five miles per hour."

The third proposed change would move the buoys guarding Johnson Point closer to the docks — from the current 239 yards to 150 yards — which would decrease the time it takes for boaters to get out to the large cove. The committee predicts that the increase in boat speed closer to the docks will not increase the size of wakes in this area.

The area between Johnson Point and the new ski area will be known as a "transitional speed area" in which boats that are within 125 yards of the shoreline would be limited to no wake and a speed of 5 mph max. Since the new buoy location is narrower, it could be marked with two buoys rather than the three that are currently in place. The committee also suggested adding two additional buoys near Johnson Point to protect an area where land juts out into the transitional area.

The final recommendation is for novice skiers to be allowed to start their runs at the bulkhead of the northeast side of the island before

merging with traffic in the ski area. A sign on the bulkhead would mark the start location.

Responding to Kirst's presentation, Board members asked for clarification about whether the boat or the skier needs to remain within the designated buoys. Infrastructure Director John Goodman said he feared that placing buoys so close to the shore may not allow enough room for boats to safely make some turns. Kirst said he would take those concerns back to the committee to be reviewed.

Vice President John Hoffman, who presided at the meeting in the absence of President Ron Shepard, asked that the committee finalize its report and present it at the Board's February 22 meeting, with a possible Board vote on the recommendations at the March 8 Work Session. Information about the proposal and a map showing changes to the ski area will be posted for review on the Seven Lakes West website.

Geothermal HVAC Units Up for Discussion

Directory Adam Wimberly told the Board that the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] expects to present information to the Board about geothermal heating and cooling [HVAC] units, which may be an option for residents who live on Lake Auman.

Geothermal units are an alternative to the more traditional heat pump or gas pack units in most homes. At

least two current Lake Auman residents have older geothermal systems, and ARC has received a request for another. Suspecting that the units may become more popular, the ARC Committee asked to present the pros and cons of geothermal units to the Board.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn suggested that requirements for the use of geothermal systems might include the purchase of a bond that would protect the lake and environment in case of damages. Wimberly said geothermal systems would have little to no visual impact on the Lake and would pose no harm to the environment aside from putting off a little heat around the coils.

Culvert replacement

Director Goodman reported that a third Longleaf Drive culvert — this one near Callis Circle — is scheduled for repair beginning next week, with another repair scheduled for the two weeks following. If all goes according to schedule, that will complete the five culvert repairs planned for this Winter. The repaving schedule for the areas repaired will depend up on the weather.

In all, thirteen culverts on Longleaf Drive are scheduled for repair over the next three years, after which attention will turn to culverts on side streets. Repairs on the first five Longleaf culverts were accelerated when the first culvert repair found more deterioration than had been anticipated.

Snow and ice measures under review

Vice President John Hoffmann reported that the Safety and Security Committee is studying various methods to deal with ice deposited on Westside roadways by winter storms — which can be a serious safety hazard on steep and sometimes shady Westside roads.

The Committee is investigating the use of brine and rock salt-ice melt, and has asked the primary contractor who spreads sand after an ice storm to modify the way in which they distribute the sand so more is deposited onto the roadways.

Joe Fellingham Community Service Award

So far, only one nominee has been submitted for the Joe Fellingham Community Service Award, Community Manager Frost reported. The new award recognizes volunteers who have made a significant and enduring contribution to Seven Lakes West.

Written nominations are being accepted through March 1, and should include biographical information and details about the nominee's accomplishments on behalf of the community. If the Board decides to award the honor to a nominee, the recipient will

(See "Westside," p. 29)

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Westside work session

(Continued from page 28)

be announced at the annual meeting.

New NC Boating Laws

Director Silberhorn suggested that a copy of new NC boating laws — including a requirement that operators under the age of 26 complete a certified boating safety course — be distributed during boat registration this Spring. Director Jane Sessler noted that a packet of boating rules had been distributed during registration last year, and owners were asked to sign an acknowledgement that they had received the regulations when picking up their permits. The details of the new state laws will also be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Don Friert reported that unusual expenses for January included \$11,932 for Directors and Officers Insurance and \$19,000 for the first culvert

repair.

\$50,000 in funds from an matured CD worth were used to pay down principle on the West Side Park Mortgage; and \$125,000 from the unrestricted funds were added to the Road Reserve Account.

The Board approved a twenty-four minute fireworks show for the Fourth of July, at a cost of \$11,650, \$3,350 less than the budgeted \$15,000.

Community Events

Community Events Director Sessler reported that the next Winter Concert Series will be on February 25 at 7:00 pm in the great room of the Community Center, with an all-request dance night by DJ Glen Davis.

The first CPR course was held on February 8 at the Community Center; a second course is scheduled for Thursday, March 3. So far eighty-five people have signed up for the CPR classes, which will be conducted by Moore County EMS. For more infor-

mation or to sign up for the class visit sevenlakeswest.org or contact Sessler at janes@sevenlakes.com

Manager's Report

Applying the information she gathered in a class on new state regulations for swimming pools, Community Manager Joan Frost identified several changes that will need to be implemented at the Westside pool, affecting the fence, back fill, erosion and locks. Frost predicted that the modifications "will not be too expensive."

To date, thirteen compliance letters have been sent out. Delinquent accounts total \$24,000 of which a number have had liens filed against the property. Pre-paid dues total \$165,000. A bid for landscaping on Longleaf Drive and Otter across from the Community Center has been accepted.

Other News

In other business during the Tuesday, February 8 SLWLA Work Session:

- Director Wimberly shared the good news that two new homes are currently under construction in the community; last year only five homes were built in Seven Lakes West.

- The Board voted 6-1, with Secretary Karen Milligan opposed, to continue to con-

tain the resident Canada Geese population on Lake Auman by interfering with nesting birds. The community must obtain a special permit in order to implement the population control measures.

- Director Silberhorn reported that the pending annexation of the Chandler Hills subdivision is awaiting confirmation from the developer of compliance with NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources regulations. Chandler Hills is between Douglas and Stedman on the north and east side of Longleaf.

- Vice President Hoffmann asked Board members to update their volunteer lists for recognition at the Annual Meeting. Hoffman asked that all members use this time

before the election to get ready to prepare for the transition of the three new board members who will be elected at the Annual Meeting in March.

- Community Manager Frost reported that President Shepard is currently working on a security fee agreement with Beacon Ridge Country Club.

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Planning

(Continued from page 8)

ing an annual progress report for Small Planning Area A. The update will include background information as well as a report of current conditions.

Heard that a Community Involvement Based Planning workshop will be held on

Thursday, February 24 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Moore County Ag Center. A hands-on workshop open to professional planners, elected officials, and managers and administrators, the course fee is \$125. For information, contact Jeremy Rust at 947-5010.



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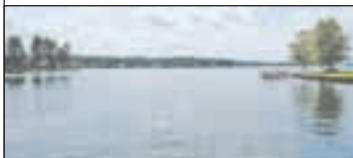
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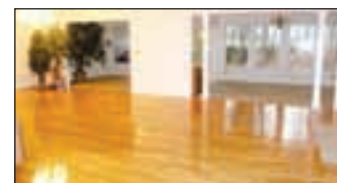
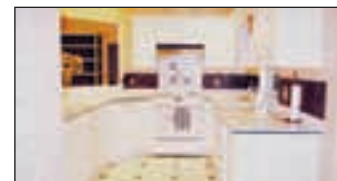


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