

## SLLA elects Meyer, Fentzlaff, Racine & Darr

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Four new directors — who will constitute a majority of the Board — were seated during an election finalized at the Sunday, March 27

Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA].

Conrad Meyer drew the highest number of votes [404], followed by Don Fentzlaff [391], Bob Racine [386], and

Bob Darr [381].

Voters were clearly in an anti-incumbent mood this year, perhaps influenced by a contentious decision to out-source landscape maintenance or the Board's tacit acceptance of a set of Country Club covenants that failed to deliver promised protections. Incumbent Director Bruce Keyser received only 101 votes; SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf, only 71.

A total of 445 ballots were cast, more than last year's 380, but still fewer than the 539 cast in 2009, when a dues increase was on the

ballot. Approximately ten of the ballots cast were proxy votes.

Zielsdorf and Keyser were recognized for their service, as were the other two outgoing Board members: Kent Droppers, who did not seek a second term of office, and Denny Galford, who resigned his position as Director and Treasurer earlier this month.

Also recognized for their service was the Election Committee, including Chair Brenda Massimo, Ione Katz, Wayne Burris, Ed Sanchez, and Laurie Werner.

### President's Report

Opening the meeting with a prepared statement drawn from his annual address to the membership, Zielsdorf described the past year as one of transition from old management to new and acknowledged that there is a natural inclination to resist change.

"While some things that have been done in the past can continue as is, there are things which could be done differently," he said. "It is in the best interest of the Association to modify or change

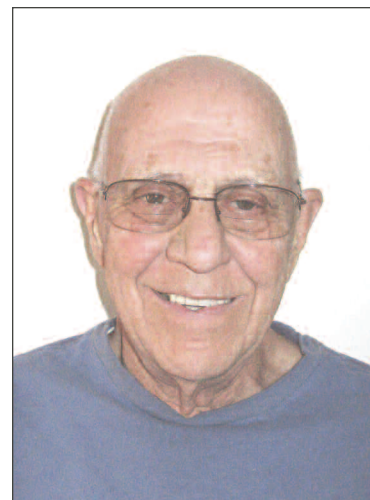
(See "SLLA," p. 28)



Conrad Meyer



Fentzlaff



Bob Racine



Bob Darr

## Westside votes for Stevens, Ferguson, and McCarthy

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Jack Stevens, Jim Ferguson, and Jim McCarthy were elected to the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Sunday afternoon, March 20, in balloting concluded during the Association's Annual Meeting.

Stevens, a semi-retired nurse anesthetist and active member of the Lake Auman

Sports Club who moved to Seven Lakes West in 2006, was the top vote-getter, with 440 of the 586 votes cast.

McCarthy, who captured 417.5 votes, is a retired New York City Police detective who has lived in the community for three years. Community Manager Joan Frost explained that there are twelve lots in the community used strictly for septic fields — septic lots — and these

are allowed only one-half vote.

Ferguson retired to Seven Lakes in 2009 after 23 years with the US Government Accountability Office; he attracted 411.5 votes.

Patti Cleary, a well-known community volunteer who has owned property in the community since 1997 and moved to Seven Lakes West in 2002, failed to win a seat,

(See "Westside," p. 28)



Jack Stevens



Jim Ferguson



Jim McCarthy

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# Business Guild explores social media

by Darrell Marks, President  
Seven Lakes Business Guild

A small but enthusiastic crowd greeted the three businesses that braved the cold and threatening rain to hold the first Business Guild yard sale on Saturday, March 26.

The event planned to allow member businesses and their employees to have a free, highly visible location to sell off their unwanted merchandise, equipment, or personal property.

A second such event will be planned for warmer weather, also to be held in the Phoenix Fashions parking lot on Highway 211.

Sven Schaefer of I.C.&M.,

an internet consulting and marketing company located on Grant Street hosted the March meeting of the Business Guild.

After a short meeting, Treasurer, Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy announced that Guild membership has passed the 50 member business point with the addition of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church and Moore Buddies.

Schaefer introduced those present to the concept of hooking the social network entities of Facebook, YouTube, Linked In, and Twitter together with a business's website to help expand the number of exposures available to any business as a way of growing their volume.

He related the information to unique business situations

from the Seven Lakes Friendly Mart to Jubilee Screen-Printing and Phoenix Fashions.

While acknowledging the difficulty of trying to reduce many hours of work to a fifteen minute presentation, Schaefer was still able to show the tremendous possibilities available to local businesses that have an internet business as well as their local offerings.

Anyone interested in more information can contact Sven Schaefer at 603-4954.

The proposal for the Guild to adopt NC Highway 211 from just beyond McLendon Hills to the NC Highway 73 intersection in West End was passed with unanimous approval. This will mean that trash pick-up along the thoroughfare will begin as soon as the state DOT approves

the application. Since the Sandhills Lions were unable to renew their contract last year, the amount of litter along the road has become ridiculous in proportions. The first cleanup will be announced for late April.

The first ever Spring Meet the Merchants has been confirmed for Saturday, May 14, from 11 am to 3 pm, at the park at the intersection of Highway 211 and Seven Lakes Drive.

Quality Care Pharmacy, Phoenix Fashions and Seven Lakes Friendly Mart have

agreed to furnish free drinks, entertainment and free or reduced priced food.

Other businesses are encouraged to contact Guild President Darrell Marks at 673-5998 with any help that they would like to provide. Guild members can participate free, crafters and non-business participation is \$35, and nonmember businesses will be offered a discounted rate for a trial membership to allow them to participate.

Sign ups will be accepted at Phoenix Fashions every day from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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
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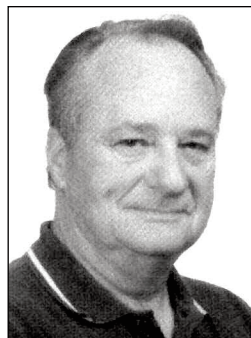
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# Commissioners wrap up Pine Forest hearing

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter

Fifteen hours of quasi-judicial hearings on MHK Ventures' request for Planned Unit Development-Hamlet [PUD-H] rezoning for the proposed Pine Forest Golf Club came to an end Tuesday night, March 29, and the Moore County Board of Commissioners now awaits recommendations from the Moore County Planning Department before taking action on the proposal that would turn 1,700 acres of prime longleaf pine forest into 1,700 acres of prime golf course, resort, and residential development.

The Planning Department's recommendations may be delivered as early as the Tuesday, May 3 regular Commissioners' meeting.

Questions were raised during Tuesday's hearing about a potential conflict of interest involving Commissioner Jimmy Melton, who owns property on NC Highway 73 near one possible route for water and sewer lines to serve Pine Forest. But County Attorney Misty Leland gave the go-ahead for Melton to continue hearing testimony. With three proposed water and sewer contracts on the table for the Pine Forest development and no definite plan to install water and sewer lines along Highway 73, Leland explained, it was not necessary for Commissioner Milton to recuse himself at this point in the process.

## MHK in Foreclosure?

Save Our Sandhills [SOS] attorney David Rooks brought the Board evidence that, in January, Pine Forest developer MHK, Inc.'s Palm Beach office was foreclosed upon.

"In this kind of economy everyone is having a tough time," Rooks said. "This is a sign that the developer is, too."

The SOS attorney went on to say, "This is the wrong project at the wrong time." Over 100 golf courses closed in the US annually over the last three years Rooks said, adding, "I don't see that times

are getting any better for golf based communities."

The developer is asking you to grant rezoning for the development on "an act of faith," and you are going to trust him to "finish the job?" Rooks asked.

MHK, Inc., attorney Jim Van Camp was quick to refute the claim of foreclosure, asserting that MHK was merely a guarantor for a loan that was foreclosed on and nothing more. He also gave the Board a copy of financial statements and an outline of how the Pine Forest development will be funded.

"If not now, when? If not us, then who?" asked Van Camp, arguing that current zoning of the Pine forest parcels would allow much

denser development of the property.

He went on to say that the property in question was for sale for twelve or fifteen years and "not one conservation group, citizens group or the state bought it." He closed by saying, "I promise we will be good stewards of that land."

## MHK Promises Not to Use Nick's Creek or Little River

The possibility that the Pine Forest development might threaten the headwaters of Nicks Creek's has been a consistent topic of concern from opponents — and caused Commissioner Larry Caddell to recuse himself from the hearing.

Both Fred Hobbs from

Hobbs Upchurch and Associates, the consulting engineers for the Pine Forest Development and MHK Inc. Principal Walter "Rusty" J. Mackey both pledged to the Commissioners that Pine Forest would not to withdraw water from Nick's Creek or Little River.

Hobbs proposed that a conservation easement to be placed on the property, but Mackey said he would rather put a deed restriction on the property so that no one who owns the tract would be able to withdraw from Nick's Creek or Little River going forward.

MHK attorney VanCamp said a deed restriction is something that can easily be drawn up and added to the rezoning application, while a conservation easement may require more time.

Bill Huber of Pinehurst testified that the Dormie Club — another MHK development — used 170 million gallons in 2008 to grow-in its golf course and asked how enough water will be obtained to grow-in two and a half golf courses at Pine Forest.

According to MHK, it will be done strictly with reuse  
(See "Pine Forest," p. 13)



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# New directors take key SLLA officer slots

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Three of the four new Directors seated at the Annual Meeting will also fill executive officer positions on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board this year, following an Organizational Meeting held Monday, March 28. The meeting was called to order by outgoing President Randy Zielsdorf.

Bob Darr was elected President by a majority vote of four, while votes of acclamation seated Conrad Meyer as Treasurer and Bob Racine as Secretary.

Veteran Director Melinda Scott was named to the Vice President's post by a majority of five votes. Scott was nominated to the post of President, but failed to secure that seat. Director Bud Shaver declined a nomination to serve as Vice President.

## Reserve Study and Finance

When Darr opened the table for discussion of committee assignments in the coming year, two areas of focus quickly ranked as top priorities — road paving options and the Reserve Study.

"The Reserve Study has to drive a lot of actions the Board will be involved in," Director Scott said. "We need a committee to look at the issues in terms of financial reserves and those needs."

"Bud has done a phenomenal job of looking at this," she added, recommending Shaver to oversee the effort.

After confirming that his fellow directors agreed that the Reserve Study is in fact the Board's number one priority, Shaver agreed to serve on one condition: that his fellow directors review his analysis and communicate back to him within the next thirty days.

"I do not wish to be ignored," he cautioned, alluding to the previous Board's lack of progress on recommendations he submitted last December that were based on the Reserve Study.

Scott defended the previous Board's actions, or rather

lack thereof, stating they were overwhelmed with a multitude of more urgent matters — and that they acknowledged the incoming Board would play a much bigger role in determining how to apply the substantial amount of information laid out in the Reserve Study.

In addition to focusing on the Reserve Study, Scott also recommended that the new Board should look at what she described as "global issues."

"Another issue we struggled with is being more accountable," Scott said. As Talis Management began to dig into Association operations, she explained, "the more we looked, the more we found problems buried. And a major flaw we found is that a lot of procedures that have been in place for a long time are inappropriate."

"We need to get more of our required policies formalized in writing," she said.

Continuing the discussion, Darr broadened Shaver's role, asking him to develop and implement a process that would allow all committees to provide input on the

Reserve Study, based on each committee's area of focus, and to ensure that activities are in keeping with set goals.

"The Reserve Study should almost drive everything we do, and all the committees will have to be coordinated through that big picture," said Darr.

One major concern is how to rank multiple priorities with limited financial resources.

Darr tasked Meyer with overseeing the Finance Committee, a role Meyer accepted, while adding that he preferred to have the Finance Committee focus on the Association's financial operations, rather than serve as a clearinghouse for major project planning. Major project planning, he said, should involve input from all the relevant committees — and also include more public discussion.

"I don't want to be in the rubber stamp mode of [saying] 'no' to every request," Meyer said. "We will have to balance all these needs."

"For example, let's say one wants to repave this road as opposed to that road," he

continued. "We'll have to work out the right answer, and I would like to see that accomplished with input from the community."

## Board standards & practices

Referring to a flier distributed before the election that offered what amounted to campaign promises on behalf of the four newly seated directors, Darr made a few recommendations.

Specifically, he said a cost-benefit study will be done on all future major expenditures; that critical oversight and evaluation of Talis will be performed; that informal community meetings will be

held on a scheduled basis, in addition to work sessions and regular monthly meetings; and that paving options will be researched and presented.

Darr also expressed a desire to move towards a more transparent Board.

"In the campaign and in talking to the community, one of the things they are most upset about was the secrecy of the previous Board," Darr said.

Mims replied that he took exception to accusations that anything inappropriate had been discussed behind closed doors, sparking a discussion of what amount of information


(See "SLLA officers," p. 27)

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# Mick Herdrich elected Westside President

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Mick Herdrich was elected President of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors in a brief meeting Tuesday afternoon, March 22.

John Hoffmann, the sitting Vice President, presided over the election of officers; former President Ron Shepard ended his term on the Board at Sunday's Annual Meeting.

Hoffmann nominated Herdrich for the President's slot, a motion seconded by Adam Wimberly.

Hoffmann himself was re-elected Vice President; Jane Sessler was elected Secretary.

Don Freiert, who was only recently named to the Board and the Treasurer's post, replacing Joe Sikes, was re-elected Treasurer.

All officers were elected by unanimous votes of the

Board.

President Herdrich then undertook committee assignments, allowing returning Directors to express their preference before turning to newly elected Board members.

Adam Wimberly will move from Architectural Review [ARC] to take responsibility for Lake & Dam, which had been handled by Herdrich. Hoffmann will take over ARC, allowing newly-elected Direc-

tor Jim McCarthy, a former New York City Police detective, to assume responsibility for

Safety & Security.

New Board members Jack Stevens and Jim Ferguson will handle Legal Affairs and Community Events, respectively.

Both new and retiring Board members gathered for a transition meeting on Friday, March 25, and planned to meet individually for committee briefings with the Director whose portfolio they are assuming.

After concluding committee assignments, the Board moved into executive session, without specifying a reason for closing that portion of the meeting.



Mick Herdrich

## SLLA Security guard attacked by pit bull terriers

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

SFI security guard Jack Wooten, who was attacked by two dogs while on routine patrol in Seven Lakes North on March 9, returned to work this week.

Dog owners Kim and Danny Sawyer were in the process of moving from a rental home at 108 Juniper Court to Montgomery County and they immediately removed the animals – a pit bull and a pit bull/boxer mix breed – from the community following the attack.

In a telephone interview with *The Times*, Animal Control Officers Frank Ringelberg and Bryant Voss said they were familiar with the dogs and had been called previously to the Juniper Court residence to follow up on a report of the dogs being abandoned.

In the course of their investigation, the officers determined the dogs were not abandoned and had proper food, water and shelter; however, both noted the dogs were extremely aggressive and were unsupervised but secured within an invisible fence system.

While on patrol on Wednes-

day, March 9, the SFI guard observed a light on at the Juniper residence. He approached the home and was engaged in conversation with Sawyer when the dogs rushed through the door screen and attacked.

Seven Lakes EMS was called to the scene, and also Animal Control, but following the attack Sawyer abruptly left taking both dogs with him.

ACO Voss said he was able to determine that the dogs were up-to-date on their vaccinations and Montgomery County Animal Control has been alerted. Due to the serious nature of the incident, if the family returns to Moore County the dogs would be deemed 'vicious' and all legal

requirements for safely maintaining and securing such animals would be enforced.

While local animal ordinances allow vicious dogs to be kept under certain restrictions, Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] regulations are more restrictive and stipulate that keeping vicious or nuisance dogs is prohibited.

Last November another family with two pit bull-type dogs that were involved in an attack on another resident's pet were called before Judicial Panel. While the outcome of that hearing has not been made public, SLLA Community Manager Alina Cochran reported the dogs are no longer residing in the community.

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# 7 Lakes families hope for Academy Hts reprieve

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

It's been a rocky and tense few weeks for a handful of Seven Lakes families who are waiting to hear what fate will befall their beloved school.

Heard first through an automated telephone message, the announcement from Dr. Susan Purser, Superintendent of Moore County Schools [MCS], that she was recommending the closure

of Academy Heights Elementary School [AHES] was a shock.

Purser targeted AHES because it is an old facility on a tiny piece of land — and because its student population could be accommodated at other county schools, including the year round program also offered at Southern Pines Primary and Elementary.

"I'm all for budget cuts

especially if the money isn't there," said Westsider Phil Woodard, a AHES parent. "But closing what I consider to be a great school, as opposed to finding another alternative means or location, is wrong. Wait a year, because once you close it you can't take it back. Let's make sure you can't pull money from somewhere else before you slam the door."

With two young children enrolled at the school, Woodard's thoughts echoed what many other Academy Heights parents recommended during a three and one half hour public hearing before the Board on the proposed budget.

Many challenged Purser's estimate that closing the school would save \$500,000 per year and argued that it's not the building, but the program that is worth saving.

Wait at least a year, they said, and allow time for an appropriate review of costs and alternative locations.

A senior vice president in banking, Woodard offered a business analogy.

"Would you close your most successful branch? So why,

if your objective is to educate kids, would you close the most successful school?"

Academy Heights is, in fact, not only the number one performing school in Moore County, but it also ranks in the top five for all schools in North Carolina.

Northsider Amanda Keller's son has been enrolled in three county schools and, at AHES, he is finally flourishing, she said, noting the small size, dedicated teachers, and family atmosphere as vital components to his success.

"Everybody agrees the building is not the best, but it's never been an issue," Keller told *The Times*. "It is what it is, bricks and mortar."

"By waiting a year, hopefully

we would know the bigger impact of BRAC [Ft. Bragg's Base Realignment and Closure] and if there are additional monies coming in," she added. "Certainly the Chamber of Commerce has stated they are willing to assist if they can. I think there would be more options because they would have time to meet and plan."

Purser's suggested alternative for AHES students — that they enroll in the Southern Pines Year-round program, poses a special hurdle for the Seven Lakes families interviewed by *The Times* — too long a commute to school.

Most AHES students live in the Pinehurst area.

"I don't want to give up on

(See "Families," p. 16)



Westsider Phil Woodard with Cassie and PJ, who both attend Academy Heights Elementary School.

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# Parents rally to save their school

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Faced with a "best case scenario" of an \$8.2 million reduction in next year's schools budget, Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser has recommended several drastic steps to reduce costs but only one has generated any real discussion: closing Academy Heights Elementary School [AHES], which is Moore County's top ranked school.

Earlier this month, Purser laid out an extensive list of recommendations to the Board of Education in her proposed \$90.2 million budget that included reworking the formula ratio to increase the number of students per teacher at every grade level, staggered open and start times for some schools to allow for consolidated bus routes, reductions to pull out programs, reductions in middle school athletics, reductions in arts, health and physical education, and elimination of ninety positions, among others.

However, her recommendation to close Academy Heights produced an immediate and sustained outcry from parents and supporters of the year round program.

During a three and a half hour public hearing on Monday, March 21, held at Union Pines High School, only one speaker tackled the general budget by asking the Board of Education to reconsider full funding of the AIG [Academy Heights Elementary School]

democratic or Intellectually Gifted] program. The other fifty plus speakers who addressed the Board were united in their opposition to closing Academy Heights — at least next year.

## Tear down the walls — don't tear down the program

Constructed in 1934 on the outskirts of Pinehurst in the Taylortown community to serve African-American students prior to desegregation, the campus has expanded over the years to include an auditorium, cafeteria, media center, and gymnasium. Renamed Pinehurst Elementary in 1969, the school was revamped to serve as a self-contained academically gifted program for second and third graders. It underwent another name change, in 1996, when it was restyled as year-round academic facility.

With enrollment limited by its physical footprint and aging structure, students are often wait-listed to gain admission.

With 98.4 percent of students testing at grade level, Academy Heights is the fourth highest ranked school in North Carolina. Its closest neighbor both geographically and scholastically is Pinehurst Elementary, which is ranked eighty-ninth. Attendance to Academy Heights is offered as an option first to families in the Pinehurst Elementary and West Pine Elementary school districts,

(See "Academy," p. 14)



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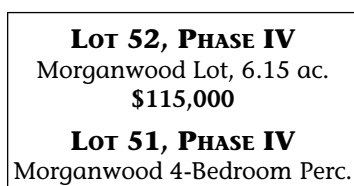
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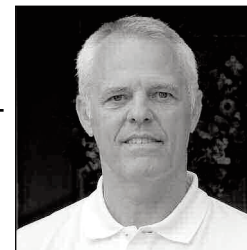


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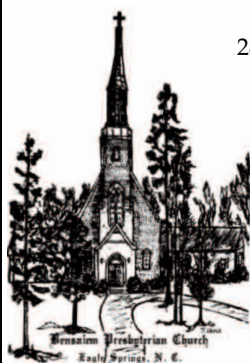
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# Davenport's goal: 'Over-service' customers

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Sensitive to the controversy over the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's [SLLA] recent decision to out-source landscape maintenance, Damon Davenport said he is ready to impress the Seven Lakes community.

"We have a lot of people to prove to that we're going to do a good job and we're looking forward to that opportunity," he explained.

Raleigh-based Davenport Landscaping was awarded a \$146,000 contract on a contentious 5-2 split vote of the SLLA Board of Directors, a move that shifted day-to-day landscape maintenance operations from an in-house staffed function to a contracted service.

Rather than looking back to what may or may not have been done in the past, Davenport said his sole focus is on the task at hand.

"I can appreciate that change is hard," he said. "It's been one way for so long, but we have a job to do and we're going to do it to the best of our abilities. Our goal is to 'over service' our customers."

A licensed general contractor, registered landscape contractor, and internationally certified arborist — among other professional designations — Davenport has substantial experience in the field. His team also includes Account Manager John Phillips and the on-site foreman for Seven Lakes, Scott St. Louis. A local resident,

St. Louis has extensive professional experience in the golf course industry.

"It's not that we're perfect, it's that we're responsive," Davenport said, explaining the firm's standard business policy. "We hire quality staff and make sure the right people are in the right positions. Our desire is make sure our

staff are well-educated and have a passion for the industry."

Davenport himself has that passion.

In 2007, he established Davenport Landscaping, which is actually his second foray into commercial landscaping. Formerly employed in law enforcement, he said

his love for landscaping took him in a new direction and grew into a successful company; but a deeper and more profound desire to help people led him to sell that business.

Davenport moved to the Nandi District of Western Kenya, Africa, and established a school and orphanage through his Christian ministry, Build The Village. He continues to be actively involved and said he is very pleased that a second academic campus and a third orphanage will soon be established in that region.

While his experiences in Africa were truly enjoyable, he returned to the United States and was ready to start anew. He explained that he assessed what had worked or not worked in the past for him and seized the opportunity to improve his operation.

"There are a lot of people out there that can plant grass or plant a shrub, but there are not a lot who can or will stop to listen to the customer," Davenport said. "Our focus is customer service — that is the key to any successful service related business."

He said he approaches each job as a team effort and, in that vein, created the opportunity for all former SLLA maintenance staff to apply for jobs with his firm. To date, two have accepted his offer and been hired.

In addition, he has been in contact with the Turf Management program at Sandhills Community College and is excited to continue forging that relationship.

"They have a phenomenal program and their students are learning explicit incredible detail about this industry," said Davenport. "I look forward to working with interns coming out of school and giving them a chance to take that book-learning to a professional work environment."

Currently Davenport and St. Louis are working to staff the SLLA landscape operation to the appropriate level. He told *The Times* that he anticipated four employees with additional seasonal help during the heavy mowing period.

Given the opportunity to maintain two such large and impressive pieces of property — Seven Lakes North and

(See "Davenport," p. 11)



Damon Davenport, Scott St. Louis, and John Phillips of Davenport Landscaping



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# Peroni regales Kiwanis with tales of Alaska

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Seven Lakes Kiwanis had a most interesting visit on Tuesday, March 22 from Dan Pironi, an independent guide in Alaska. Pironi spends the



Dan Pironi

summer in Alaska, working as a guide for fishing parties and also works for the Government in the field doing research on the wildlife in the area.

He resides on Kodiak Island, but his activities take him to other areas, sometimes virtually out of contact with any part of the outside world.

He showed a video of the wildlife such as fish, fowl,

and mammal while commenting on some of the most interesting of the pictures. One of the interesting facts he mentioned, not connected with wildlife, is that there are some 100,000 glaciers in Alaska, and the average snowfall per year is 650 inches. It's no wonder he spends the winters in North Carolina!

Pironi spends a good portion of his time fishing and working with some of the thirty-three fish hatcheries that have become necessary because of overfishing in the State. An important part of

his work is to keep track of the spawning areas, and actually count the number of fish that come to those areas to lay their eggs.

Some of his fishing activities can become rather exciting.

He had pictures of one of his fishing groups landing a 200 pound halibut. Those fish are so strong that trying to land a fish like that alive could be fatal to those in the boat, and could seriously

damage the boat itself. As a result, it is necessary to shoot the fish first, then pull it aboard. The fish are so tough that a special 50 caliber pistol is used, and the shot should be right "between the eyes."

## Tutors Needed

The Moore County Literacy Council is in need of tutors to serve at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Seven Lakes. The tutors provide one-on-one tutoring for adults who are learning to read, read better and/or speak English. The sessions are held in Seven Lakes on Tuesday evenings between 5 to 7 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Pam or Marian at 692-5954.

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Pig.

Be sure to try the pulled pork and their wonderful sides of slaw, sweet potatoes, or their great Brunswick Stew.

If you are not a pork lover, they also have smoked chicken that will melt in your mouth!

End your meal with one of their sweet

desserts, that will take you back to sitting at Grandma's table and eating her best.

The staff are down home southern charm people that will make you think your mom or sister are actually waiting on you at home. Prices are very reasonable and will not break the bank.

Pic-n-Pig is located off of Dowd Road on 194 Gilliam-McConnell Road, Carthage. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm and Sundays 12 noon to 3:00 pm, and their telephone number is 910-947-7591.



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# In memory of . . .

**Gerald 'Elon' Rouse Jr.**, 35, of Eagle Springs, died Tuesday, March 15, at his residence. A funeral service was held Friday, March 18, at Bright Light Baptist Church, Robbins. The Rev. Ralph Vonnannon officiated. Burial followed in the Rouse family cemetery.

He is survived by his parents, Gerald and Laura Rouse; sister, Bridgette Rouse Brewster, of Seven Lakes; paternal grandmother, Thelma Rouse, of Eagle Springs; and maternal grandmother, Lucille Wallace, of West End.

Memorial contributions may be mailed to 7388 N.C. 705 Eagle Springs, NC 27242, to assist with funeral expenses.

Kennedy Funeral Home assisted the Rouse family.

**Nora Mary Beck Smith**, 68, of Eagle Springs, died Wednesday, March 16, at her residence.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday, March 19, at Our Lady of the Americas. The Rev. Ricardo Sanchez officiated.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Riverdale, NY, and a retired medical transcriptionist.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fernand Beck II and Loretta Flynn Beck.

She is survived by her husband, Wesley P. Smith, of the home; daughters, Deborah S. Musika, of Troy, and Lisa Ann Reckard, of Mint Hill; sons, David W. Smith, of Angel Fire, NM, and Jason P. Smith, of Eagle Springs; brothers, Fernand Beck III, of New York City, and George Beck, of New Jersey; sister, Karen Anderson, of Curlew, WA; and her grandchildren.

Memorials contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374, or Our Lady of the Americas, 298 Farmers Market Road, Biscoe, NC 27209.

**Robert "Bob" B. Van Lehn** died March 15. Almost 86, as he was born at home in Uhrichsville, Ohio. His parents were Roy B. and Lillian Schneider Van Lehn. He served in the US Army, European Theater, during WW II.

Bob and his wife, Ruth met at Antioch College and spent their working lives in Yellow Springs. Mr. Van Lehn was employed by Vernay Laboratories, Inc.

He enjoyed his work, working with his sons and in his workshop, also with the Presbyterian Church. He especially enjoyed the camaraderie of friends and camping with family, Boy Scouts and friends.

He and Ruth moved to Seven Lakes West in North Carolina after retiring. There he was active in the West End Presbyterian Church and the Sailing Club. After twenty years in Seven Lakes, Bob and Ruth moved to River Landing at Sandy Ridge near High Point.

A memorial service will be held Friday, April 8, at 4 pm, in the multipurpose room at River Landing, 1575 John Knox Drive, Colfax, NC. In

lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Doctors Without Borders, 1-888-392-0392.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth and two sons; Kurt Van Lehn and Todd Van Lehn and his grandchildren.

**Robert James Renfrew**, 73, of Eagle Springs, died Sunday March 13, at his residence.

Mr. Renfrew was born in Utica, New York to the late Harry James Renfrew and Dorothy Cormie Renfrew.

Mr. Renfrew was a graduate from the Utica Free Academy. He was formerly married to Dorothy Miller, also of Utica. He served in the New York National Guard from 1959 to 1963. He was a lifelong carpenter and loved working with his sons.

He was preceded in death by his brother James and his parents.

Mr. Renfrew is survived by his three sons, Michael Renfrew of Whitesboro, NY; David Renfrew of Knoxville, NY; Thomas Renfrew of Eagle Springs; six grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



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# Kick up your heels for Prancing Horse

by Claudia Watson

Special to Seven Lakes Times

Put on your pointy toe boots, jeans and wear your best swagger for the 2nd Annual Spring Barn Dance being held at the McLendon Hills Equestrian Center on Saturday, April 16, 6 to 10 pm to benefit Prancing Horse.

"We really are excited about hosting the event here. It'll be a great night and it's a

wonderful way for the community to support this organization," says Tom Carr, one of the co-owners of the McLendon Hills community.

To serve a wider geographic area and more individuals with special needs, Prancing Horse began offering classes at the McLendon Hills Equestrian Center last fall.

The center, in addition to Muddy Creek Farm in Whis-

pering Pines, allows the organization to offer more classes to meet the increasing demand.

Many of McLendon Hills' residents offer their horses to student riders and others volunteer. "It's generated a ton of enthusiasm here," says Carr.

"Our residents enjoy the experience of working with the students and seeing how

the horses make such a profound change in their lives."

In the past 26 years, over 52,000 children and adults with physical, mental or emotional challenges have been touched by the medically approved and accredited therapeutic riding program offered by Prancing Horse.

"Locally, Prancing Horse serves students from all walks of life and with various special needs," explains Judy Lewis, President of Prancing Horse, Inc. "They all have something in common. When they get on the horse, their speech, balance, core strength and self-esteem all improve. And best of all – they smile."

Last year, 215 people attended the barn dance. The event reached its target goal and allowed Prancing Horse to add an additional class to the program.

Lewis says the event's proceeds go directly toward student fees. While students

pay a charge of thirty dollars per hour for group lessons, that price represents only one-third of the lesson's cost. The remaining cost is raised through fundraising and private donations.

"This event is a great way to support the students and their needs, but how much the program can grow and how many of those who want to ride will have the opportunity, relies up on the continued generosity of our community," she says.

The fundraiser will feature a buffet dinner that includes beer, wine and sodas; as well as a silent auction and music by DJ, King Curtiss.

Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased at the Country Bookshop, Moore Equine Feed, Faded Rose, Given Bookshop, and Sandhills Winery in Seven Lakes. Or purchase online at [www.prancinghorsecenter.org](http://www.prancinghorsecenter.org) or call 910-246-3202.

## Three arrested for HVAC thefts

The Moore County Sheriff's office has arrested three men in connection with the thefts of more than twenty-five condensing units stolen from the Seven Lakes, Jackson Springs, Whispering Pines, Eagle Springs and Carthage areas over the past five months.

Arrested were Robert Thomas Persing Jr., 38 of 172 Munday Road, West End; Christopher Lee McInnis, 27 of 162 Munday Road, West End; and Jason Michael Carlyle, 31 of 738 Stage Road, Carthage.

Persing was charged with 28 counts of felony larceny, 27 counts of felony possession of stolen property, one count of felony breaking or entering, one count of misdemeanor larceny, and one count of misdemeanor possession of stolen property.

McInnis was charged with 18 counts of felony larceny, 17 counts of felony possession of stolen property, and one count of felony breaking or entering.

Carlyle was charged with 10 counts of felony larceny, 10 counts of felony possession of stolen property, one count of misdemeanor larceny, and one count of mis-

demeanor possession of stolen property.

The investigation into the rash of condensing unit larcenies is continuing and additional arrests are expected.

Investigators believe that the rising price of metal at local recycling facilities has contributed to an increase in metal larcenies throughout the county.

### West End Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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Larry Lyon, Pastor; Chip Pope, Associate Pastor

West End Presbyterian Church is located on Knox Lane  
in West End, one block west of Highway 211



## Davenport

(Continued from page 8)

South – Davenport said he is looking forward to a continued positive relationship with Talis and also excited to benefit Moore County through local staffing.

"We've proven ourselves over the years and have a good working relationship with Talis, because when we say something, we do it," he said. "There is follow through and communication."

"We're excited to be here. We're cost competitive, and we bend over backwards to keep our homeowners association customers happy."

### Annual Chicken Dinner

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services



**Friday, April 8, 2011**

**11:30 – 2:00 Lunch 4:30 – 7:00 Dinner**

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GUI0408



# FirstHealth Rehab visits 7 Lakes Kiwanis

**by Frank Krohn**  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

March 15 saw the visit of two delightful women from the Inpatient Rehab Center (IRF) at Moore Regional Hospital.

Cindy Sayce is the Director of the Inpatient Rehab Center and she was accompanied by Kay Turner, the Admissions Coordinator.

The IRF is an expanded form of what is thought of as a rehab facility. There are seven primary qualifying diagnoses which qualify a person for treatment in the IRF, namely Stroke, Brain injury, Amputation, Multiple trauma, Spinal cord injury, Burns, and Neurological disorders. Beyond those seven disorders, there are a number of orthopedic cases accepted, especially bilateral hip and knee replacements, and also single joint replacements if the patient is 85 years of age or has a BMI greater than 50. There are other criteria that limit the use of this facility to those who have special needs.

Some of the equipment available to the patients are a Lite Gait, a Trans-sit simulator, a Bioness and other electrical stimulator units, a Wii, and even Animal Assisted Therapy.

There is also a simulated

home where patients can relearn how to function in a normal home environment. The length of time a patient stays in a rehab unit is important for two major reasons — the patient needs to stay long enough to be released without fear of further problems while continuing rehab at home or at another long term facility. But financial considerations are also important, so every

effort is made to safely release the patient as quickly as possible. The MRH Inpatient Rehab Center is proud of its record of beating the national average times for stays in similar facilities.

Although the Inpatient Rehab Center is really state of the art, there are plans to renovate the front entrance to further give the facility its own identity. There are also plans to enlarge the “outside world” facilities, so that patients can practice grocery shopping, using a bank, and visiting a restaurant. Moore County is fortunate to have such a facility in the community.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club.



FirstHealth's Kay Turner and Cindy Sayce with Kiwanian Chuck Kersey, Program Coordinator



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Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm  
Good Friday – Noon  
Easter Sunday – 9:30 am

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### NCWRC hosts Boating Safety Class

Children and adults of Seven Lakes are invited to register for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission boating safety course to be held Sunday, April 10, 1:30–7:30 pm, at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.


The class will be lead by NCWRC Sgt. Mark Dutton and space is limited to thirty participants. There is no fee to attend, but you must pre-register.

Call the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Office at 673-4931 and provide your name, address and telephone number.

### Chain Pharmacies vs. Quality Care

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## Pine forest

(Continued from page 3)

water from Pine Forest's wastewater treatment plant and through the capture of storm water runoff. Huber played a recording of Engineer Fred Hobbs saying the golf course will need "500,000 to 600,000 gallons of water a day" to become established, but Hobbs was quick to clarify that this is only required

for seven to ten weeks.

Michael Croon, an agriculture irrigation consultant working for MHK, said a golf course cannot be built out in one year. Croon said that Huber's data on Dormie Club water use — taken from reports filed with the state by MHK — were just estimates, because the irrigation pump in use at the Dormie

Club was not metered. Hobbs added that using that much water on a golf course would have killed the grass by flooding it.

### Carthage asks for more buffering

Nick's Creek supplies the town of Carthage with water, and opponents have argued that, due to riparian rights,

MHK could use water from the creek if needed. Carthage Mayor Tom Stewart said town officials would not object to the development moving forward as long as two criteria are met: that no water is taken from Nick's Creek and that no run off from sprinklers occurs within a minimum of seventy five feet of Nick's Creek.

Currently MHK proposes 25 foot buffers on each side of all wetlands and 50 foot buffers from the center of Nick's Creek. Jeff Marcus of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission asked the developer to consider increasing the buffer size to

100 feet on each side of wetlands and creeks, to better preserve the integrity of the creek as well as plant and wildlife in the wetlands. Because this is not required under the County's Zoning Ordinance, it would solely be up to the developer to decide to increase buffer size.

Harry Huberth, President of Sandhills Area Land Trust said watershed protection will continue to be an issue as the county develops and asked the Board to consider some mechanism to seriously protect watersheds in the County.

(See "Pine forest," p. 14)

## Hearing set on water restrictions

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter

The Moore County Board of Commissioners approved during their Tuesday, March 29 Special Meeting Public Works Director Dennis Brobst's request to call a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5 at 5:00 pm to consider revisions to the Moore County Water Shortage Response Ordinance.

The state requires all water purveyors to prepare and submit for state approval a water shortage response plan. The County's existing plan became effective in October of 2010 and includes triggers for the system. Current triggers would allow for mandatory water restrictions to begin in April at the Pinehurst/Seven Lakes system.

The Times spoke with Brobst who said the public hearing is being held to prevent mandatory water restrictions from going into effect. The County is trying to be, "proactive" about possible water shortages, said Brobst, but with recent rainfall shortages shouldn't be a problem. The requested revisions to the Water Shortage Response Ordinance would include modifications to the triggers for the Pinehurst system, which have already been approved by the state.

### Occupancy Tax to Revamp the Airport

The Board of Commissioners agreed during Tuesday's meeting to revisions that would move a bill forward to the General Assembly to allocate seven percent of the three percent Lodging Occu-

pancy Tax into a fund to revamp the Moore County Airport.

The primary main change in the bill is a requirement that the Board of Commissioners and the Convention and Visitors Bureau [CVB] agree on where the funds would be allocated.

Chairman Nick Picerno originally suggested the idea of using a portion of the three percent Lodging Occupancy Tax in avoid any additional tax burden for county taxpayers while making much needed improvements to the Moore County Airport.

About ten percent of the current tax would be redi-

rected into a fund that would pay for a \$250,000 grant to expand the runway and improve the ramp at the airport before the 2014 US Opens.

Once the grant is paid, the CVB can use the diverted funds for other necessary projects.

The redirection of funds from CVB to revamping the airport was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their March 1 meeting. The General Assembly must approve the authorizing legislation before in can go into effect. The Bill is being sponsored by NC Representative Jamie Boles.



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## Pine Forest

(Continued from page 13)

### Does Moore County Need another Golf Course?

Opponents testifying during Tuesday's hearing asked whether there is a need for two and a half more golf courses in Moore County.

Mary Jo Morris said she has seen Pinehurst developers clear out a tract of land only to lose their funding and leave the area. The developer "gambled" that the County would approve the development and that "golf course needs would be up," said Morris.

SOS President Joe McDonald referred to a Golf Weekly article that reported a decline in golf courses and the closure of over one hundred each year in the US during the past three years. Richard Hilbert echoed that point, calling the need for another golf course in the area "ridiculous."

McDonald, a Realtor for over twenty years, said there is no shortage of homes for sale in the Moore County MLS listings. Starting home prices for the Pine Forest Community are set at \$700,000, according to Mackey.

SOS Secretary Ruth Stoltz warned about "Zombie Developments" throughout the US, fearing that MHK will run out of money and leave the project half complete without any recourse for the County or its citizens. At the February 15 Pine Forest Public hearing, MHK's Mackey told the Board, "The risk of recession is our risk."

### What about the Land Use Plan?

Many opponents of Pine Forest echoed the comments of Jesse Wimberly, who asked that the rural and agricultural character of Moore County be preserved — as outlined in the County's Land Use Plan — saying the County has a tourist based economy and a lot of natural resources bring in "valuable dollars" from visitors from all over the world.

Though a number of speakers suggested measures to protect the environment, if

Pine Forest is developed, including a water budget study to monitor water flows and increasing the distance of water buffers, Bob Kunce of Hobbs Upchurch and Associates said none of this is required under the Current Zoning ordinance. MHK is going above and beyond required conservation methods for the development, Kunce said, pointing to the much lower than permitted number of homes and the much larger than required amount of open space.

MHK Consultant Dr. Jay Carter said the developer has enrolled in the Safe Harbor Program to protect Red Cockaded Woodpeckers on or near the property and is agreeing not to build near areas containing many of the species

unique to the area, such as the Sandhills Lily.

Commissioner Tim Lea commented that he doesn't want to see the land developed under the current zoning laws, which would allow for more housing and less open space.

"At some point it all gets down to money," said Lea, when considering how much more can be done to protect the property environmentally.

Over sixty people attended Tuesday night's Pine Forest rezoning hearing, and the Board gave everyone a chance to speak without time limitations.

"We have to get this one right," Chairman Picerno said, advising Planning Director Joey Raczowski to take as much time as needed in

reviewing the testimony as needed before coming back to the Board with a recommendation.

## WEE Yard Sale

Spring cleaning is around the corner. With that comes what to do with all the items you don't want.

Out with the old and in with the new — plus you can help raise money for West End Elementary School playground.

The PTA will be hosting a fundraising yard sale on Saturday, April 16, at 7 am, on the school grounds. Anyone interested in participating will need to rent a

10x18 space for \$20 to set up their items for sale.

If you are unable to set up and sale but would like to donate your items to be sold, the PTA will have a space for this as well. Please contact Brian Povish (638-1802) or Crissy Skipper (673-8185) to purchase a space or to make arrangements to donate your items. All proceeds from the rental of spaces will go to improve the WEE playground!

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## Academy Heights

(Continued from page 7)

but approximately 75 of the school's 270 or so students reside in other areas, including West End and Seven Lakes.

### The secret of success

What factors contribute to the school's success was an underlying current of many of the speakers at the recent public hearing: Is it the students and supportive parents, the teachers and staff, the program, or a combination of all these elements?

What everyone did agree upon was that it is not the building itself. Tear down the bricks and mortar, but don't tear down the program, was the consensus.

"My son won the science fair with chicken crap and motor oil. You guys have fifty to sixty million — you should be able to figure this out," demanded Dr. Paul Kuzma, father of Nicholas Kuzma, who won an exemplary award in the NC Science Engineering Fair in 2010 as an AHES fifth grader.

He cautioned the Board of Education to demand real numbers, echoing a concern voiced by many that the \$500,000 annual savings Purser believes would come from closing the school is unrealistic — and, as yet, not been substantiated on paper.

Kuzma said, rather than closing the program, the county should use Academy Heights as a model that could be applied to the rest of the county's schools.

A benefactor of enormous parental support and community involvement, the AHES PTA has raised substantial funding over the years to supply the school with Smart board technology, new playground equipment, furnishings, teacher stipends for classroom resources, and money for each child to make their own purchase at the annual book fair, among other projects.

"When banks are too big to fail but our number one school is not, there is something wrong," said Elizabeth Bode, who serves as treasurer

of the AHES PTA.

Several alternative options for cost cutting were offered for the Board's consideration, including additional financial support from the community or higher school fees to attend; reducing the school week to four-days; reconstituting the program in entirety at the newly constructed West Pine Elementary campus or splitting the program between

West Pine and Pinehurst Elementary; using lottery funds dedicated to capital projects to fund construction for a new facility; and stretching anticipated use of the fund balance to also cover Academy Heights

### Wait a year

However, the majority who spoke clearly favored one key step in the decision process

— wait a year.

"By moving the closure a year, you gain two benefits," said Leslie Bradley. "Academy Heights has time to work with the system to know how, where, and at what cost we could move the program. And Taylortown residents have time to study and seek funding to convert the school into a community facility. During this time, the building is

occupied and not abandoned. The interior and exterior are maintained, enabling an easy transition. By postponing the closure, it benefits to key Moore County constituencies."

Earlier in the meeting, Taylortown Mayor Ulysses Barrett, Jr. said that, while the community preferred the school remain open, if it is

(See "Academy," p. 16)



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# Academy Heights

(Continued from page 15)

closed, they would ask for the property to be given to the town.

Postponing the decision a year would also provide time, many argued, to study the impact of such a decision on a wide range of related issues, such as anticipated enrollment increases across the county due to Ft. Bragg BRAC; ensuring compliance with legal requirements to close a school; time to research the true costs of each alternative option; and even the impact on property values — since many stated that the opportunity to attend Academy Heights was a crucial factor in their decision to purchase a home in the Pinehurst district.

## A unique opportunity

MCS' proposed budget request from the county remains unchanged from last year at \$26.2 million. The anticipated budget reductions include a \$3 million cut from the state — a figure that could potentially climb as high as \$9 million — and also the loss of \$5.2 in federal stimulus funding.

Back in July 2010, Purser warned the Board of Education that the coming budget process would be exceptionally difficult. While funding reductions in the previous few years have had a significant impact, she said they had still been within reach of the system.

However, looking ahead to 2011-2012, she projected an adjustment like none ever experienced in Moore County.

"We have made so many reductions and trimmed here and there, making sure we remained focused on our mission and core beliefs," said Purser. "We will be looking at how to do our business differently. We've got to be realistic: the money is not coming, so how we structure what we do needs to change."

Part of that restructuring was already in place as early as 2006 when the Facilities Master Plan was developed. As recommended, a new elementary school was to be constructed to relieve overcrowding in the Pinehurst district, and Academy Heights was to be retired.

However, many at the pub-

lic hearing argued about the timing and short notice before such a major decision.

"No one thought 'retire' was synonymous with 'closing and disbanding' the school," said Carol Ray, President of the AHES PTA, noting that pouring money into a decaying facility was not feasible, but that parents and students were willing to continue at the location until an alternative site could be found.

## A national & regional story

With several hundred supporters rallied to save the school in the few days between announcement of the proposed closure and the recent budget hearing, Purser's recommendation not only attracted a near army of Academy Heights supporters, but also two television teams from Raleigh-based stations and a correspondent for the Wall Street Journal.

The school is admittedly

the least diverse of all Moore County Schools, but it is also its number one ranked academic institution. The threat of closing a small, extremely successful program in a traditionally black community due to state budget cuts in a county that is better known for million dollar mansions and one of the nation's premier golf courses is an irresistible storyline; especially in light of the state's current race against time to complete road widening and costly airport upgrades to accommodate the rich and famous at the US Opens scheduled in 2014.

## Time for county to step up?

Patrick Coughlin, President of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce suggested that, rather than a setback, the state budget crisis is an opportunity.

"We need a unique approach," he said, recom-

mending a step back from state-controlled of funding of local schools.

"We need for local counties to take a more proactive role," Coughlin said. "We certainly have the means to do that. This is an opportunity to make a powerful statement on how Moore County values education. We, at the Chamber, believe that education is one of the pillars that a community is built upon."

Speaking earlier in the meeting on behalf of Southern Pines Primary, which together with Southern Pines Elementary offers the only other year round academic program in the county, PTA Vice President Rollie Sampson made a similar observation — but urged the community to look beyond local funding and to take the fight for education funding to the state and national level.

"Moore County Schools budget cuts have nicked and dimed our children's education," she said. "Until we as a community and country decide to put the education of our children first, this will be a never ending battle."

# Families

(Continued from page 6)

a year round program," explained Westsider Suzanne Shelton, "but Southern Pines? No. It's just too far to drive."

With two young children enrolled at the award-winning school, she too said she was shocked at Purser's proposal.

"I feel if there were more year round programs offered then more families could take advantage of it," she said, noting that the schedule itself is one of the reasons AHES children are scoring higher. "It seems to me that if Dr. Purser did put priority value on year round programs, then she would make it work."

Shelton said the haste with which the decision to close Academy Heights is being made simply does not feel right. She noted that Pine-

hurst Elementary is an old school, as is West End Elementary — so why, she wondered, is there so much emphasis on the age of Academy Heights?

"There are a lot of great ideas floating around to allow the program to stay together," Shelton said. "There are so many parents willing to fight to keep this program — students and even former students are also fighting for the program."

"They can talk budget all day long, but there are options other than closing it down," she concluded.

The Board of Education has postponed its next meeting, originally scheduled for Monday, April 4, until Monday, April 11 to allow additional time to review the proposed budget and to consider alternatives for Academy Heights.

## Hawaiian Luau at SLCC

Everyone's invited to the "Hawaiian Luau" on April 9, at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Hawaiian Buffet at 6:30 pm featuring Kuai "Kole" Slaw, Maui Chicken, Honolulu Ham, Big Island Rice, Oahu Vegetables, Hawaiian Bread

and Molokini Coconut Cake. Music and entertainment provided by Chad Sain at 7:00 pm. All-inclusive price for members is \$28 and non-members \$33 inclusive. Call 673-1100 for reservations.

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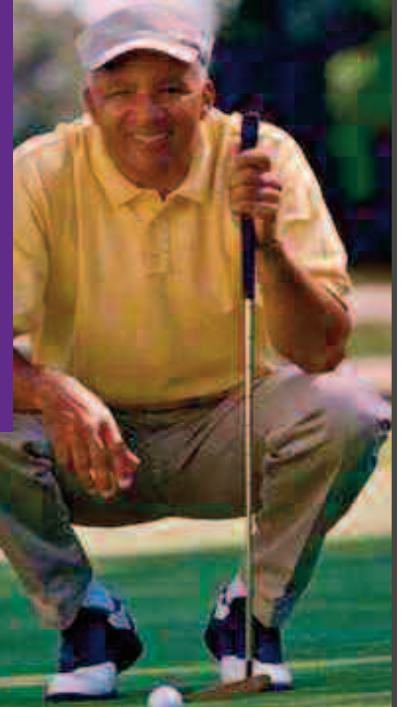
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**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

- **"Celebration of the Military Child"** – 12 noon to 4 pm, at Aberdeen Lake Park. To honor and celebrate the service of the military children of all ages who live in Moore County. Events and activities planned. Call Charlie or Suzy Carlton 235-0271.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838. All are Welcome.
- **"Early Spring Wildflowers"** – 3 pm, Discover some of the colorful spring wild flowers in bloom along the trails in Weymouth Woods. Walk planned. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free, gather at the visitor center.

**MONDAY, APRIL 4**

- **Moore Republican Women's Club Luncheon** – held at the Pinehurst Members Club. Registration at 11:30 am and lunch served at 12 noon. Cost \$16. Valet parking available. Reservations: Kay Wildt 235-4654. Guest speaker, Dr. C.L. Gray, MD of Physicians for Reform, a group that advocates for patient centered health care.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – open 3-5 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Take down and replace artists & photographers work. Local artists welcome to show.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5**

- **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, APRIL 6**

- **Project Linus Workshop**

- 10 am to 3 pm, SL North Clubhouse. Join the blanketers as they continue to make blankets for children in need in Moore County and for the children of the 82nd Airborne soldiers, Ft. Bragg. If you are unable to attend the workshop, please make a new homemade blanket and drop it by the Seven Lakes Landowner's



Association

office, North Side or by Phoenix Fashions, Seven Lakes Business District. Include your name, address, phone or email information so that we can say thank you. Bring a snack or lunch to the workshop, stay as long as you wish and enjoy the fellowship. Pat Weber 673-1457 or weberconsult@nc.rr.com

• **Grand Opening of new and former "favorites" at St. Mary Magdalene Gallery** – open 1-4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **West End United**

**Methodist Church Lenten Supper & Devotional** – join the Church for a special meal at 6 pm, followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. Nursery available. Questions: contact Don Allen 295-0460 or the church office at 673-1371.

- **Divorce Recovery Program** – Community Presbyterian Church to run six weeks, 7-8:30

pm, with child care. Professionals in the fields of psychology, law, finance and faith will

speak. Refreshments and discussion. \$25 fee. Community Presbyterian Church at 910-295-6848. Located at Kelly and Everette Road, Pinehurst.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5 per person.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – open 1-4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Women of Seven Lakes** –

2 pm, meeting at the North Side Clubhouse. Program will feature an introduction to the FirstHealth Hospice Campus. Join the women and learn about this new community resource and how its team oriented approach will provide for the patient's physical and emotional needs, as well as family support needs. Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year. Refreshments

- **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

- **Moore County Government Public Forum** – 7 pm, on the County Budget FY 2011-2012, at the Senior Enrichment Center, (8040 US Hwy 15-501, 2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). The forum is to give citizens the opportunity to speak with the County Manager and staff about the budget. Forum is informal with time devoted to questions and answers. Eli Arroyo-Allen, 910 947-6363 or Tami

Golden at 910 947-4000.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8**

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm, hosting the Foxfire Community Blood Drive at West End United Methodist Church. Give the gift of life! Contact Annaliese Feggeler at 910-673-3734 to schedule your appointment.
- **Seven Lakes E.M.S. Chicken Dinner** – at the EMS Building, 714 Seven Lakes Drive. Lunch from 11:30 am to 2 pm, Dinner from 4:30 pm to 7 pm. \$7 per plate payable at the door. Take-outs available.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

- **Bird walk** – 8 am, Meet some colorful and vocal visitors that appear each year during migration. Join the group to look for birds like blue-gray gnat catcher, summer tanager, great crested flycatcher and prairie warbler. Share a 2 mile walk. Bring binoculars and bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free, gather the visitor center.

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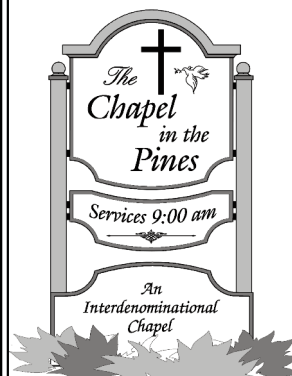
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April 10th –  
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- **Stroke Support Group** – 10:30 am, (This group meets the second Saturday of each month.) Held at the Conference Center, Moore Regional Hospital - Corner of Hwy 211 & Page Road, Pinehurst. (910) 715-5266.
- **Run for the Ribbons 5K and Family Fun Run** – held in conjunction with the 60th running of the Stoneybrook Steeplechase at Carolina Horse Park at Five Points, Raeford. To raise cancer awareness and proceeds for Moore Regional Hospital Foundation's Cancer CARE Fund. Registration fees include a T-shirt and admission to the Stoneybrook races that start at 1:30 pm. Cost of 5K registration, \$25 before April 1, \$30 after April 1. 1K registration, \$10 before April 1 & \$15 after April 1. Registration accepted online [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or [www.runfortheribbons5k.com](http://www.runfortheribbons5k.com). Call (910) 695-7510.
- **Hawaiian Luau at SLCC** – Everyone's invited at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Hawaiian Buffet at 6:30 pm. Music and entertainment provided by Chad Sain at 7:00 pm. All-inclusive price for members is \$28 and non-members \$33 inclusive.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838. All are Welcome.
- **Discovery Walk** – 3 pm, Join the Park Ranger for a short walk (approx. 2 miles) to discover the plants and animals that nature has to offer along some of the trails. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free, gather at the visitor center.
- **Boating Safety Education Course** – 1:30-7:30 pm, presented by NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Children and adults of Seven Lakes are invited to register for a boating safety course to held Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Class will be lead by NCWRC Sgt. Mark Dutton, space is limited to thirty participants. No fee to attend, but you must pre-register. Call Seven Lakes Landowners Association Office at 673-4931.

**MONDAY, APRIL 11**

- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7-9 pm, "Portraits" will be the subject of the competition. "Portraits" are defined as representations

that capture personality, character and mood, composed images of one or more persons in a still position. Animals are not to be included. Prints may be black & white, sepia or color. Meeting held at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland and Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. Guests are welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. [www.sandhillsphtoclub.com](http://www.sandhillsphtoclub.com).

- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. 298 Farmers Market Road, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. 910 974-3051.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12**

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

**Club** – meeting, 3 pm at the Seven Lakes North Game Room. Dave Cummings and Don Shereda, two volunteers in the computer reconditioning area at the Habitat Store, will be the guest speakers. They will demonstrate on computers how they prepare and test donated computers to ready them for sale in the Habitat Store. Bring along any questions you have about upgrading your PC's or repairs you may want to make yourselves.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13**

- **Annual SL Mah Jongg Luncheon Cruise** – 11:30 am, at The Italian Table, Seven Lakes. Bring your own 2010 card. Cost is \$15 (all inclusive). Lunch and play 6 games of Mah Jongg. Call Sandy Ring 673-3550.
- **West End United Methodist Church Lenten Supper & Devotional** – join the Church for a special meal at 6 pm, followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. Nursery available. Contact Don Allen at 295-0460 or the church office at 673-1371.
- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 7 pm, Holy Week Concert: Orchestra and Chorus:

Held in the Main Sanctuary, Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Purchase tickets at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop, Southern Pines, or call 687-4746.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal at \$5/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](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, meeting, at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Marcia Witmer will demonstrate the making of Hypertufas – a mud-pie recipe that is used to make all sorts of Garden Art projects. Annual Plant Exchange held at this meeting, so bring any excess plants or cuttings you would like to share with others. Easter Raffle held and prizes awarded. Tickets \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets. Everyone is welcome.

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## Westside elections

(Continued from front page)  
with 357.5 votes.

Turnout was light, with 36 percent of the 1638 qualified lots casting ballots. Frost explained that Seven Lakes West includes 1866 total lots; but 151 of these are developer lots with no vote, and 71 are more than thirty days behind in dues payments and thus are not qualified to vote.

Last year, with a controversial dues increase in the budget, nearly 1,000 Westsiders participated in the balloting. This year's budget easily passed, with 443 for, 133 against, and 19 abstentions.

The membership gave a standing ovation in appreciation of the service of the three retiring members of the Board: President Ron

Shepard, Secretary Karen Milligan, and Legal Affairs Director Ed Silberhorn.

### Top volunteers honored

Also during its Annual Meeting, SLWLA honored Betsy Mikula, Gerhard Hergenbahn, and Bud Sales as the first three recipients of the Joe Fellingham Community Service Award. Fellingham, who SLWLA Vice President John Hoffmann called one of the West Side's "pioneers," helped guide the Association as a Director, tireless volunteer, and long-range-planning visionary.

When the Board announced a "Wall of Honor" five years ago, to recognize truly exceptional service, Fellingham was the natural first recipient of the honor.

But the magnitude of his contribution made it difficult to place others on the wall. This year's Board of Directors solved that conundrum by naming the award itself in Fellingham's honor.

The announcement of

Sales, Hergenbahn, and Mikula as this year's recipients of the Fellingham award drew sustained applause from the membership.

President Shepard praised Mikula for single-handedly producing the Association newsletter for a number of years — and for putting the Association on the World Wide Web when few in the community knew much about the internet.

A former Director and one of the architects of the merger of Westside Associations, Sales has served as Community Advocate in recent years.

Hergenbahn, Shepard said, "has been involved in every land planning activity in Seven Lakes West and in the County," in addition to having

a vast knowledge of the Association's legal history.

"If Joe were here," Fran Fellingham told the recipients, "He would say, 'Thank you for all that you do.'"

"Most of you probably don't realize that this community has never really had a developer," Sales said, "someone with both the vision and money to put everything in place . . . Everything that has been done here has been done by people like Joe and all the other folks up here. So, get off your butts, folks, and help out."

### Planning Survey

In other Annual Meeting business, Kathy Kirst of the Long Range Planning Committee presented topline

(See "Westside," p. 21)

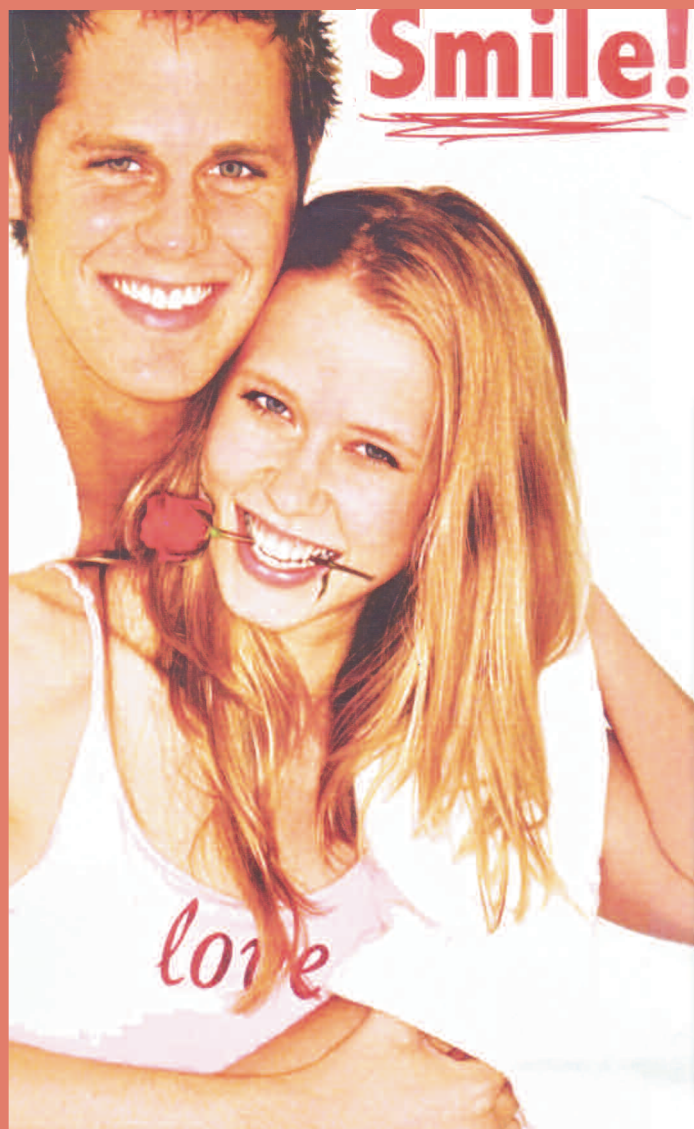
### Westside Election Results

#### BOARD

Stevens	440.0
McCarthy	417.5
Ferguson	411.5
Cleary	357.5

#### BUDGET

For	443.0
Against	133.0



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## Westside elections

(Continued from page 20)

results from the group's recent survey of landowners regarding project priorities. The survey provided significant detail regarding possible projects, such as road maintenance, the building of a new mailhouse, and beautification of the entrances, asking respondents to rate their importance on a nine-point scale.

Based on a weighted average of the 230 responses received, the 13 project areas were ranked in the following order of importance: Road Maintenance, Mail House Construction, Front Entrance Reconfiguration and Beautification, Johnson Point Expansion, Adding Amenities to the Dam, Enhancing the Ponds, Beautifying the East Gate, Establishing Walking Trails, Adding Amenities to West Side Park, Beautifying the Tower Area, Improving Communications with Message Boards or Reverse 911, Adding Amenities to Pine Island, and Adding Boat Storage Closer to Johnson Point.

In addition to the numeric ratings, Kirst said, many respondents offered suggestions and feedback in the proposed project areas. The Committee will mine that information as it works to make recommendations to the Board, she said.

The Committee plans to post the results of the survey on the Association website at [sevenlakeswest.org](http://sevenlakeswest.org).

### Year in Review

President Shepard provided a quick overview of the year's work and accomplishments, highlighting a settlement with the Developer that resulted in the Association owning the front gate house and having full control over its architectural standards and variances for the first time.

Shepard said the dues increase implemented last Spring puts the Association on a firm financial footing, allowing it to accumulate the reserves needed for road repaving, mail house construction, and other projects. He noted that payments on the West Side Park mortgage

have been accelerated and the Treasurer has begun to develop a set of financial policies.

A three-year contract with management company CAS, Inc. was negotiated this year, and an extensive series

of culvert rehabilitations was begun.

Shepard said his greatest disappointment in the year's

work was that the mail house project was never taken off the Board's table because of  
(See "Westside," p. 25)



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**115 PINWOOD**  
Marvelous Sequoia Waterfront  
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**109 ROUNDTREE**  
3 BR/2BA • Seven Lakes North  
\$165,900



**102 PINE VALLEY LANE**  
Great School District  
\$96,000



**144 E. DEVONSHIRE**  
Golf Front - 18th Hole  
\$172,500



**109 SOMERSET**  
All Brick Golf Front  
\$229,000



**103 GREENOCH COURT**  
Golf Front  
\$179,000



**122 FOX RUN COURT**  
Incredible Waterfront!  
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**125 WREN TREE COURT**  
Seven Lakes West  
\$269,900



**110 DORSET ROAD**  
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**123 SANDHAM COURT**  
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**117 OXFORD COURT**  
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### MARCH ACTION

- 105 Tucker Ct - New Listing
- 109 Somerset - New Listing
- 117 Oxford - New Listing
- Lot #2068 - SOLD!
- Lot #2068 - Under Contract
- 101 Hampton Court - New Listing
- 109 Roundtree Rd - New Listing
- 116 Winsford Cr - New Listing



## Editorial

## Fix the Club's covenants

According to folks who know about these things, the golf course at Seven Lakes Country Club is one of the best-designed, most-challenging, best maintained courses in the state.

It's a member-owned club, which means the folks who play the course most often actually own it. Many of them, in fact, live along its fairways and beside its tees and greens. It's a close knit community — a community that continues to attract new folks to Seven Lakes.

It's hard to imagine why the members who own that golf course would want to dig up its fairways, greens, and tees in order to build roads, lay water lines, and carve it up into building lots.

In fact, we doubt there's a single member of the Club who has the least bit of interest in building houses on the fairways. And we're pretty sure that no one who paid a premium for golf front property in Seven Lakes South wants their back deck to overlook a neighbor's deck, barbecue grill, and kiddie pool, instead of a manicured green.

So, that raises a question: Why did the Club's Board and its attorney work so hard to make sure that covenants recently filed on the golf course explicitly allow for the fairways to be carved up into building lots?

And why did members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board or their attorney — who was given the right to review the covenants — do nothing to correct this problem?

Based on conversations with the Club President, the Association President, other Association Board members, and the SLLA Attorney, we at *The Times* believe we know the answer to that question.

No one was paying attention.

The Club was worried about selling its old driving range and making sure it got a fair shake from the SLLA's Architectural Review Board. The Association was worried about getting a buffer strip along Seven Lakes Drive, so whoever developed the old driving range couldn't knock a new entrance through into Seven Lakes South.

So the covenants got shoved to the back burner.

Probably trying to protect what she thought of as her client's interest, the Club's attorney wrote covenants that allow the Club to build houses on the golf course or to sell the land to a residential developer. She even wrote in a clause that allows the Club or anyone who buys the Club to

change the covenants at the drop of a hat.

The Association's attorney, after a three-year delay in finalizing the covenants, evidently forgot that the whole point of the covenants was to make sure the golf course would remain a golf course.

Near as we can tell, no one on either Board of Directors read the covenants in their final form.

When you take your eye off the ball, your shot is probably going to wind up in the rough. And that's what happened here.

There is no universe in which preserving the right to build homes on the fairways of Seven Lakes Country Club can be seen as in the best interest of the Club's member-owners — many of whom would see the value of their golf front property decline dramatically if that happened. The very fact that the new covenants allow for this possibility may already be damaging the value of golf front property in Seven Lakes South.

The Club needs to fix this, and, because those Southside property owners are SLLA members, the Association needs to be involved in encouraging the SLCC Board to address the problem and in reviewing the revised covenants before they are filed.

The Association has new leadership; the Club is about to elect a new Board. Fixing the deeply flawed Seven Lakes Country Club covenants — to ensure that Club property, aside from the old driving range, can never be developed residentially — should be a first order of business for both Boards.

It's not that difficult. All that has to happen is for the Association's and the Club's attorneys to modify the covenants the Club filed on its property in February so they do what they were supposed to do all along: make sure that the Seven Lakes Country Club Golf Course is protected from the subdivision of its tees, greens, and fairways into residential lots.

Had this document been made public prior to being filed, its shortcomings would have been immediately flagged by concerned members of the public — and likely by this newspaper.

This time, before the revised covenants are filed, they should be shared with the membership of both the Club and the Association.

And, this time, every member of both Boards should honor their fiduciary responsibility — and read the document before it is filed.

## Gaddafi spring

The tension is palpable. Can you feel it?

Settling down over us like a suffocating canopy of goo or, perhaps, more like an oppressive military coup d'état underway: Gaddafi Spring, I'll call it.

Laura's  
Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

I'm talking about pine pollen.

Every year those giant telephone poles that surround our hearth and home get together to plot this revolution. Boasting an impressive and nearly unlimited arsenal of tiny, green allergy bombs, they quietly gather strength and then . . . Pow! They explode with menacing force.

This is a familiar concept for me.

No. Not because I'm a military brat. No. Not because the Ft. Bragg re-landscaping committee regularly rattles my windows and glassware.

I understand the sudden emergence of a powerful enemy invasion because I am a redhead.

To be more concise, I am a redhead with freckles.

Like those complacent trees, my pert nose and shoulders, arms and legs — actually every exposed body part — bides its time through the slumbering winter. Contained by wool sweaters and zero milligrams of natural Vitamin D, my raging case of summer spots fades away like a beautiful sunset.

I may not be the tallest or the shortest gal in town. I'm surely not the richest or the poorest, or the most talented chick on the block.

But I guarantee you that I hold the unofficial land speed record for the fastest freck-

les.

Give me ten minutes in broad daylight and I'll score a solid 10,000 hits of pure concentrated melanin magic.

Give me ten hours of prolonged exposure and my personal points of light easily

rival Carl

Sagan's starry universe — that is, billions upon billions.

Unfortunately, along with

a propensity for spots, I inherited the strong geek gene that runs strong in my family, thus I'm more likely to quote Sagan than Socrates. I also opted for a minor in biology during my college years. In itself this didn't seem like such a bad decision, but through that pursuit I amassed a mental library of all manner of unsavory botanical and bodily functions.

To wit, freckles are actually physical evidence of a life and death battle at the cellular level to protect its fragile DNA contents from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Picture a beach umbrella shading a microscopic nucleus picnic basket.

And you just thought they were cute.

In an ostentatious display of consolidated power, Gaddafi Spring's pine pollen horde has absolutely nothing over this freckled redhead.

Letters  
welcome!

*The Times* welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. Please limit your letters to no more than 300 words. You'll find our contact information in the box on the facing page.



# Help for those hate-filled emails?

**Question:** I receive several emails a week, often from members of my church. These emails are sometimes clever, but they are usually filled with hate for our President, members of Congress, or people of other races or religions. Why is there so much hate in our country and even in our community? I have stopped going to community meetings because of the hateful, disrespectful thing said to our elected officers and officials. I usually delete the emails and I never forward them to anyone I know. Is there anything else I can do as a Christian?

**Response:** I think that most of the hate in our country and world (your emails and mine indicate there is a lot) has its roots in fear. From the beginning of humankind we have been conditioned to fear those people who are

different from us and those things we do not understand. It was a matter of survival and those that we feared, we soon began to hate. Most of us were taught to fear by fearful parents, fearful, siblings and even fearful teachers and ministers.



Ask the  
'Rev'  
Rev. Don Welch

There is a wonderful song in Rogers and Hammerstein's musical, "South Pacific." Some of the lyrics are:  
*You've got to be taught to be afraid  
Of people whose eyes are oddly made  
And people whose skin is a different shade.*

*You've got to be carefully taught.*

*You've got to be taught before it's too late,  
Before you are six or seven or eight,  
To hate all the people your relatives hate.*

*You've got to be carefully taught.*

Fear may be at the heart of hating those who are different from us or smarter

than us, and especially those who we think are in positions to radically alter our thinking and our lives.

Most haters live with other haters in their families, their clubs, their neighborhoods, and even in their churches. The more they hate, the more they are approved by their social groups. Those who send out or forward these hate-filled emails assume that other people are as afraid

as they are and consequently must hate the same people or groups that they do.

Christian scripture teaches us that love casts out fear and that those who say they love God and hate their brothers and sisters are liars. (I John 4:16-22)

In both Hebrew and Christian scriptures, when God encounters men or women through God's angels, the first words are: "Don't be afraid!" This sentence appears in the Bible 365 times, once for every day in the year.

We learn to love by breaking the cycle of fear and hate and trusting God's universe and God's love for all humankind of every gender,

race, creed, and nationality, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Perhaps each of us can leave a legacy of our own by responding to hate-filled emails with a reply something like this: "I am not afraid to love the people you fear or hate; nor do I hate you for hating them. I simply request that you stop sending me these emails, and for the future of the world our grandchildren will inherit, consider not sending them to anyone."

*Don Welch is the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. He welcomes your questions and comments. Email him at dwelch1@nc.rr.com*

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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## Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>March 28</b> Potato Bacon Soup Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	<b>March 29</b> Mexican Meatball Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	<b>March 30</b> Navy Bean Soup ♥ Pot Roast Dinner	<b>March 31</b> Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Shrimp Enchiladas Dinner	<b>April 1</b> Shrimp & Corn Chowder Swiss Steak Dinner
<b>4</b> Tomato Florentine Soup ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner	<b>5</b> Brunswick Stew ♥ Chicken Piccata Dinner ♥	<b>6</b> Butternut Bisque ♥ Herb Turkey Dinner	<b>7</b> Vegetable Soup ♥ Spice Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	<b>8</b> New England Clam Chowder Chicken Enchiladas Dinner ♥
<b>11</b> Mushroom Bisque Salisbury Steak Dinner	<b>12</b> Goldie's Chili ♥ Chicken Tetrazzini Dinner	<b>13</b> Chicken Curry Soup ♥ Eggplant Parmesan Dinner	<b>14</b> Beef Barley Soup ♥ Sesame Salmon Dinner ♥	<b>15</b> Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Smothered Pork Chops Dinner
<b>18</b> Spinach Broccoli Soup ♥ Shepherd's Pie Dinner	<b>19</b> Potato Leek Soup Chicken Parmesan Dinner	<b>20</b> Chicken and Wild Rice Soup ♥ Walnut-Crusted Pork Dinner	<b>21</b> Lentil Soup ♥ Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	<b>22</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>CLOSED</b> </div>
<b>25</b> Roasted Corn & Tomato Soup ♥ Italian Meatloaf Dinner	<b>26</b> Mexican Meatball Soup ♥ Chicken Divan Dinner	<b>27</b> Crab & Shrimp Bisque Pot Roast Dinner	<b>28</b> Vegetable Soup ♥ Tilapia Florentine Dinner ♥	<b>29</b> Navy Bean Soup Pork with Apples Dinner

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# Changing Lake Auman rules? For what?

Dear Editor:

The very limited knowledge of most board members and most committee members in reconstructing the use of Lake Auman and Power Boats on Lake Auman and how a person's boat can now be used under this new proposal is not sensible or practical.

All I heard from Paurl Kirstt at the last public meeting was how big boats with big wakes were taking over the lake. Kirst and his committee have not taken the time to

include any other of boats in their upcoming revision of boating on Lake Auman, except power boats or ski boats. This is evidently very, very one sided and without fact. Certain residents are trying to eliminate boats with engines on them from using a good part of the lake as they do now, by implying that they are increasing the size of the ski area near the dam and eliminating all other parts of the lake.

They have not said or studied the restrictions they are

trying to impose on residents using their (power) boats except in the so-called new ski area. Has anyone on that committee given any thought to forcing boaters to use their boats only in a ski area which creates a dangerous mix of dodging faster boats pulling tubes or skiers?

What about the resident who wishes to cruise around the lake a little bit faster than five miles an hour, even though they can't determine how fast they are going because their speedometer

starts at 10 MPH?

Where does that boater go — in a ski zone? This is really incredible. That makes things very dangerous for everyone.

Kirst stated that buoys previously have been placed all over the lake with no thought or reason. This has not been the case. Buoys marking the current speed zone or no wake zone have been and are sensibly placed. Example of Johnson Point slowing boats down as they approach the docking area and ramp. There is nothing wrong with the buoys' present locations. Why restrict the whole area of Johnson Point out to the main lake with some type of new zone, mainly restricting power boat's use.

Where are the restrictions and revisions of boating use for fishing boats, sailboats, etc.? Someone forgot them?

If this board and its committee are going to change

and impose new rules and regulations, I urge them to meet with residents, professionals and people who are experienced in the operation of power boats, ski boats, runabouts or any boat with an engine on it, before they impose new regulations on just one class of boating.

Yes, Mr. Kirst, hopefully, as new homes are built and new residents move in, hopefully more residents will enjoy the beautiful Lake Auman, created for everyone's use — and yes, power boats as well.

I urge all the residents who use and enjoy boating on the lake to voice their opinion on these upcoming new regulations that Kirst and his committee are trying to impose, also without factual data or understanding of Lake usage for everyone to enjoy.

Ron Weber  
Seven Lakes West

## Response to Westside survey is disappointing

Dear Editor:

The 230 responses to Seven Lakes West's recent Long Range Planning Questionnaire should not please our

out going Board, the Long Range planners and our Management Company. At best its tabulation can be taken as a straw poll of about a quarter of about the membership.

The last such effort in 2004 received 701 responses, these being 69 percent from our residents and 31 percent from non-residents. Since 2004 the number of new homes in Seven Lakes West has grown over 40 percent.

I can only conclude that either or both of the following have caused such a lack of interest; membership apathy and/or lack of communication with our property own-

ers. I would hope the latter was our problem?

In 2004, the questionnaire effort was felt important enough to stick it under each property owners nose by mailing it to them! As can be seen, hanging the questionnaire on our web site or putting a notice in the Community Newsletter just doesn't get the attention of our members and certainly for a vital topic as the communities long range planning.

I hope this is a lesson learned by our new board and CAS!



Ray MacKay  
Seven Lakes West

### Get your event in The Times!

Got a great get-together? Serving up some savory stew? Need a volunteer or two?

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# Talis failed to act on Club's flawed covenants

Dear Editor:

One year ago this month, I and another club member met in Mike Spayd's office for the purpose of reviewing the proposed Seven Lakes Golf Club covenants. We were given a very short opportunity to review those documents, but even in this limited time frame, we were alarmed with the wording in that document.

We elected to follow the correct chain of command, instead of going to the Landowner Board, or the papers; we visited our Community Manager Alina Cochran, from the Talis Management Group. She indicated she wanted to work in a cooperative manner with both Boards, in resolving this three year old agreement.

Even with one year's advanced warning as to the problems that existed in these covenants, Mrs. Cochran apparently did not communicate these concerns to her

Board. In my opinion she has failed the property owners in this community as well as compromising her own Board. Where was the proactivity in community management which Talis is committed to?

My concern with the revised covenants is the ability to answer yes to the following questions.

- Do the covenants presently recorded at the county office provide for residential development anywhere on the golf course? Yes.
- Can these covenants be amended at anytime by the present membership? Yes.
- Can these covenants be amended at anytime if there were ever new ownership of the country club? Yes.
- Could new ownership of the Country Club amend these covenants for something other than

residential use? Yes.

Any homeowner wanting to sell their house is now required to make the listing agent aware of the covenant issue; and the real estate salespersons, once they have knowledge of this issue, are obligated to inform prospective buyers that the golf course could eventually be sold and developed. This in itself has a direct negative impact on our property values.

Would you invest in a golf front home, knowing that in the future you could be looking out at another house or something much worse?

I don't believe that the Seven Lakes Country Club Board of Directors or the Seven Lakes Landowner Association Board of Directors realized the above implications when the revised covenants were signed. Mistakes were made. Now, they have to be corrected. The

only Board that can correct them is the Seven Lakes Country Club Board. It is time for this Board to step to the plate, assume their share of accountability for what has occurred, and amend these covenants.

One year ago, we made the mistake of relying on Talis, our management Company, to resolve this issue.

Now we turn to the Seven

Lakes Country Club Board of Directors, in anticipation that they will demonstrate the ethical leadership necessary to protect all property owners in Seven Lakes South.

This is an issue that we all can, should, and must unite behind, for the present and the future of our community. Time will tell.

Chuck Leach  
Seven Lakes South

## Westside

(Continued from page 21)

the distraction created by the debates concerning the incorporation of Seven Lakes and the permanent closure of the roadway over Lake Auman Dam.

Shepard has agreed to serve as the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee.

### Public Comment

The lone speaker in the public comment segment of the Annual meeting was Brent Nedenthal, a lakefront resident and father of a young family, who said the proposed changes to buoy placement and rules on Lake Auman present a significant safety concern.

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# Board service: A learning experience

[Seven Lakes Landowners Association Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. made the following remarks at the Association's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 27.]

I wanted to take a moment and thank the membership for electing me into this position two years ago as a representative to the SLLA Board of Directors, for and on the behalf of the community.

I set forward two years ago not with an agenda, but a mindset that I wanted to be a bigger part of the community in which I chose to move my family back to eight years ago.

I have learned a lot over the last two years.

I have learned that there is a lot more to this community than being behind a gate

and having the amenities that we have. I learned that you have to keep moving forward, accepting change, and learning in the process. I learned all too well that not everyone thinks about the greater good, but of their individual gain.

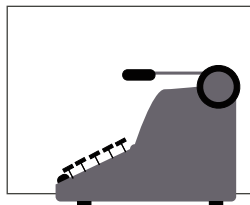
Most of all, I have learned that no matter how hard you try, you cannot please everyone.

Each Spring, I too, like many other members here today, struggle to come up with my dues. I am currently still, and have been, working two jobs, as well as my wife to continue to live in this community.

So, I take a hard look at any decision that would possibly cost us to have to pay more dues. I am happy and

## Your Turn

Bruce Keyser, Jr.  
SLLA Director



confident to say that over the last two years, I have honestly made my decisions thinking of how to move this community forward, and keeping everyone in mind.

Regardless of the outcome here today, I hope that in the next two years you will keep in mind that all of us elected here today are doing this voluntarily. Think about how you would feel if you were receiving threats from your neighbors, or losing a job because of them. Then remember, we still chose to take on the task.

Once again thank you for giving me this opportunity, and thank you for listening. It has been a great pleasure serving the community and serving with these six individuals.

## Bring back Stingrays!

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association Recreation Committee would like to bring back the Stingrays Swim Team this summer.

The Stingrays Swim Team is open to all resident children, ages five to eighteen. Costs and fees have not been determined, but will

be kept reasonable.

To make the program a success, the Recreation Committee needs to determine how many children would like to participate and they also need a few parent volunteers willing to help organize. Contact the Landowners Office at 910-673-4931.

## EMS Chicken Dinner

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. will hold their Annual Chicken Dinner fundraiser on Friday, April 8. Lunch will be served from 11:30 am through 2 pm and dinner between 4:30 pm and 7 pm.

The dinner will consist of a choice of chicken breast or drumstick & thigh and includes coleslaw, baked beans, roll, desert, and beverage.

You can dine at the EMS building while visiting with

your friends and neighbors or purchase take-out dinners. The price is \$7 per dinner.

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. is a volunteer organization of emergency medical technicians which serves Seven Lakes and the surrounding area twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Come and support this worthwhile cause and meet some of your neighbors who are serving you.

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## SLLA officers

(Continued from page 4)

tion should be announced as the purpose of a closed meeting.

Closed sessions are generally called for one of two reasons: personnel or legal.

Darr argued that the personnel category no longer applies, since SLLA does not have any employees — all staff currently on-site are either contracted services or Talis employees.

"With a legal discussion, the community should have clarification," Darr said. "For example, if we're going to be discussing foreclosures."

Mims argued that too much disclosure was a slippery slope that could encourage more questions and concerns from residents.

"The more information you put out the more questions you get," Mims said. "It will turn even uglier. There are too many people who want to be in the know, and these issues can't be openly discussed. But these same people are unwilling to run for the Board."

After discussion, the Board reached the uneasy conclusion that some closed meetings could not be appropriately defined in any more detail than simply as legal matters.

Ironically, they were forced to do just that as the Board was called into Closed Session immediately following the Organizational Meeting to allow Alina Cochran the opportunity to brief the incoming members on a variety of active legal concerns.

### Grounds & Maintenance

With a substantial interest and knowledge of SLLA maintenance needs and concerns, Darr volunteered himself to oversee Grounds & Maintenance as a combined unit.

Shaver countered that he was uncomfortable with the term "maintenance," and recommended Darr's oversight should be limited to grounds. But Darr argued that maintenance was appropriate, because it was more inclusive as related to the exterior and interior needs of Association buildings.

The semantic distinction boiled over into a tense discussion about the recently approved landscape maintenance contract with Davenport Landscaping.

Attempting to clarify the 60-day escape clause included in the contract, Community Manager Alina Cochran explained there must be due cause for termination — that is, failure by Davenport to meet required criteria as established.

Alarmed at what he viewed as a potential distraction, Shaver reminded the Board that their priority is the Reserve Study.

"The decision to outsource grounds was agreed upon by the previous Board," Shaver said. "They believed it would be cost effective and enhance our community appearance. If you want to get into this fine, but don't look to me for support. I don't want to re-address it. I was totally against it; but, right now, I am totally against letting them go."

Instead, Shaver recommended evaluating Davenport's performance in a year and encouraged the incoming Board to maintain focus on long range planning.

### Lakes & Dams and Security

The lakes generate two distinct concerns related to the community at large: boat safety enforcement and ongoing dam and lake maintenance.

In discussion, the Board agreed that both areas are equally important; and ideas were tossed back and forth over whether a combined single committee could offer more effective oversight.

"There are overlapping territories between security on the streets and the lakes, so it would be advantageous to go together on those areas," said Fentzlaff, who served

as a member of the former Lakes & Dams Committee before it was disbanded in 2009. "There is overlap and there should be coordination."

However, Director Mims noted that security on the lakes is a very different concern than maintenance of the dams and recommended the two should remain separate, with two different committees, each overseeing their own specific focus area.

"I welcome the input from Lakes & Dams," Mims said, "I just think we need to keep them separate."

(See "Officers," p. 28)



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## SLLA Elections

(Continued from front page)

some of our old practices.”

He encouraged the incoming Board to work together cooperatively and to also continue operating in an oversight-only role, allowing professional management to handle day-to-day activities of the Association.

Looking ahead, Zielsdorf noted two challenges in particular: prioritizing and maintaining focus on the numerous infrastructure needs outlined by the recent Reserve Study — with road repaving as job number one — and competition with other residential developments on the drawing board in this area.

To effectively compete, Seven Lakes common areas, including the roads, must be attractively maintained, Zielsdorf said.

“The Reserve Study only confirmed what we already knew,” he explained. “Our community and infrastructure are aging and will require

a great deal of expenditures over the next several years. Two years ago the residents voted for a \$100 dues increase for the primary purpose of starting to pave our roads. Now is the time to act.”

### Infrastructure

The Reserve Study and its impact on future decision-making also figured prominently in Director Bud Shaver’s report on infrastructure; however, he is clearly disenchanted with the lack of progress on what everyone seems to agree is a vital important long range planning tool.

“The Reserve Study was received in November, and I submitted my analysis to the Board and Community Manager in December,” said Shaver. “To date, I have not received any response from the Board or Manager. End of report!”

### Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Board [ARB] reviewed ninety-two projects this year, of which twenty-one are still in progress, reported Director Melinda Scott.

She thanked her committee members — Don Fentzlaff, Sally Kindsvatter, Mike Cummins, and Edie Starkey — for their unfailingly consistent approach and fair review of

projects.

She noted that several significant improvements were made to ARB rules, including the development of a process through which denied requests can be appealed to the Board of Directors, development of a timeline for anticipated start and end dates for projects, and the decision to double the builder’s compliance fee to \$3,000.

Since the increase was approved, Scott said, builders have been noticeably more communicative and prompt in notifying ARB of on-site required inspections.

“Prior to that we had always been the one running after them, but now they are coming to us,” she said. “Now the burden has shifted to the builder.”

In the coming year, Scott said, ARB will be looking more closely at what type of projects require approval and what projects could be considered trivial changes that do not require formal approval. In addition, she is pursuing steps to formalize a policy allowing stop work orders on projects that have not been approved and seeking authority to levy fines for non-compliance through the established judicial panel process.

### Security

Director Chuck Mims

reported a substantial list of accomplishments made this year, including an update of the standard operating procedure manual for security, purchase of a bicycle and establishment of a bike patrol — a program he anticipates will be utilized more often this summer, especially at Sequoia Point — and a year-long project to review and upgrade the security camera system.

“There have been numerous vandalism issues with graffiti at the pool and mailhouses,” said Mims. “I hope the new cameras will be able to take care of this.”

He said the decision this year to take roving security to a contracted service was made “some out of necessity and some out of need.”

In addition, Mims and Community Manager Alina Cochran have participated in a quarterly roundtable meeting to discuss security concerns with representatives from other area gated communities.

“Believe it or not, we’ve found that they are no different from us and we are no different from them,” said Mims.

### Community Standards

This year saw an unprecedented number of letters sent out for violations to commu-

(See “SLLA Elections,” p. 29)

## Officers

(Continued from page 27)

After going around the table, Darr appointed Fentzlaff to oversee the Lakes & Dams Committee and Mims to continue in his role as Security Director.

### Other assignments

President Darr appointed Bob Racine Chair of the Community Standards Committee. Racine said he would immediately resign as an alternate member of the Judicial Committee panel.

In addition, as an active member of the Recreation Committee, Racine was tasked with chairing that group as well.

By a vote of acclamation, Scott will continue as chair of the Architectural Review Board [ARB].

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# SLLA Elections

(Continued from page 28)

nity standards regulations, reported Director Kent Dropers.

"I want to thank all of the landowners," he said. "As the letters went out, the vast majority received them with good humor and rectified the shortcomings."

Dropers said that, while great strides have been made, there are still some areas that need attention, particularly a small number of repeat and chronic offenders and absentee owners: two constituencies that together contribute a disproportionate share of complaints.

He thanked the Community Standards committee members for their tireless efforts on a time-consuming and thankless task. Dropers also thanked his fellow Board members for a job well done.

"This board has tackled important and long term issues," he concluded. "I have enjoyed our spirited discourses, but also our esprit de corps, and keeping the best interest of the community at heart."

## Recreation

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. reported several capital improvements to recreation amenities this year, including removal of the old climbing apparatus and metal slide at Northside Park due to safety concerns, installation of sections of split rail fencing at the playground area at Sequoia Point and at the uphill side of the bocce ball court at Northside Park, several new saddles for the Stables, twenty umbrellas and a shade sail for the pool, and extension of the beach area at Northside Park.

New liability waivers were developed for use at the Stables and the Summer Day

Camp program, and a recreation survey was distributed and compiled to assist with planning.

Special activities and events included the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Day Camp, Horse Camp, July 4 fireworks, S'mores and Stargazing Family Camp Out at Sequoia Point, Doggy Days of Summer, a bus trip to the NC State Fair, and the annual children's Halloween and Christmas parties.

Two officers from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] met with residents in January, and will present a boating safety course on Sunday, April 10. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is required — contact the SLLA office for information.

While the pool opened late last year as improvements were made to the drains to bring them into compliance with federal regulations, Keyser noted the facility was able to remain open for an extended period last September. Also of concern were the consistently low enrollment numbers for the Summer Day Camp program; however,

those attending complimented the excellent staffing and variety of activities offered. The committee also noted ongoing issues related to litter and alcohol consumption at Sequoia Point.

Recommended improvements for the coming year include new backboards for the basketball courts, replacement or repainting of the tennis court fence, and improvements to the Cardinal Lane playground, possibly to include installation of a new beach area at that location.

Keyser thanked the Recreation Committee members and volunteers: Amanda Keller, Mary Gaetzi, Deirdre Florence, Laura Douglass, Bob Racine, Jackie Wells, and Jana Snowball.

## Finance

Notably absent from the Annual Meeting was former SLLA Treasurer Denny Galford, who resigned two weeks ago in order to deliver a rebuke to critics of the Board.

Galford's annual report will be provided on the SLLA website and for review at the office.

## A controversial year

After concluding his Recreation report, Director Keyser addressed the assembled crowd on a more personal level.

"I have learned that there is a lot more to this community than being behind a gate, and having the amenities that we have," Keyser said. "I learned that you have to keep moving forward, accepting change, and learning in the process. I learned all too well that not everyone thinks about the greater good, but of their individual gain. Most of all, I have learned that no matter how hard you try, you cannot please everyone."

Addressing the financial impact of Board decisions during his term, Keyser said he works two jobs, as does his wife, so he took a hard look at all decisions before the Board that could potentially cause an increase in dues.

"I am happy and confident to say that, over the last two years, I have honestly made my decisions thinking of how to move this community forward, and keeping everyone in mind."

Keyser thanked the community for the opportunity to serve and said it has been his pleasure, adding that it is important for landowners to remember that Board members serve as volunteers.

"Regardless of the outcome here today," he said, "I hope that in the next two years you will keep in mind that all of us elected here today are doing this voluntarily. Think about how you would feel if you were receiving threats from your neighbors, or losing a job because of them. Then remember, we still chose to take on the task." [See page 26 for Keyser's full remarks.]

## SLLA Election Results

### BOARD

Meyer	404
Fentzlauff	391
Racine	386
Darr	381
Keyser	101
Zielsdorf	71

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