

Keyser & Lowe join SLLA Board

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Making short work of a packed agenda of discussion items, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors met for an hour long evening Work Session on Monday, May 9.

The meeting time change was prompted by a call for more openness and public participation in the planning and decision-making process — in particular as the Board begins to tackle the financial impact of last year's Reserve Study recommendations.

Lowe & Keyser Join Board

However, the newly seated majority of four directors had to first clear an early hurdle brought about when two veteran Board members resigned shortly after the Organizational Meeting.

At the April 27 Open Meeting, former Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. who was unsuccessful in his bid to retain his seat in the last election, was appointed by a vote of acclamation to fill one of those vacancies. *[A full report on the April 27 Open Meeting is available at sevenlakes-times.com.]*

During the May 9 Work

Session, the Board gave a unanimous nod of support to Anderson Lowe, who was nominated to claim the other seat. A formal vote on Lowe's appointment will be called at the May Open Meeting.

A longtime Northside resident, Andy Lowe has served on various committee and subcommittees in the past and has been asked to serve as Security Director. He is well-known for his expertise in working with electronics, particularly in correcting malfunctions in the barcode security system and the North Clubhouse public address equipment. During his professional career, Lowe was the AT&T Representative to the Consultive Committee International Telephone and Telegraph [CCITT] in Geneva, Switzerland. A graduate of Elon University, he also completed Master's programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic in Troy, New York, and the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania.

Keyser served two years as Recreation Director, but with newly seated Director Bob Racine already in place, he was tasked with overseeing Grounds and Maintenance interests. Keyser has signif-

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

Big Bear Wins Big Smiles



Seven Lakes Kiwanis President Marty Matula presents Mr. Ted. E. Bear to the High Falls Elementary First Grade Class of Traci Maness, which won the big bear in a raffle at FirstHealth's annual Teddy Bear Fair. [See story on page 6.]

County budget holds line on taxes, school funding

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

There's no tax increase in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget that County Manager Cary McSwain presented to the Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, May 3 meeting -- and, despite a threatened \$12 million shortfall in school funding, there's no additional money for Moore County Schools [MCS].

If you needed a single word to describe McSwain's budget, it would be "flat" -- at least when compared to the budget the Commissioners approved for the current year.

Last June, the Commis-

sioners approved a General Fund budget of \$85 million. This year, McSwain is recommending \$85 million. Last year, the County budgeted \$26 million for schools; this year, McSwain is recommending \$26 million for schools. Last year, the County budgeted \$4 million for Sandhills Community College [SCC]; this year, McSwain is recommending \$4 million for SCC.

Last year, the County allocated \$13 million for public utilities; this year, McSwain suggests spending \$13 million on public utilities.

Last year, the Commission-

ers set the tax rate at 46.5 cents per hundred dollars of valuation, plus two cents for advanced life support. This year, McSwain is recommending a tax rate of 46.5 cents per hundred with a two cent per hundred advanced life support levy.

No new money for schools

Just two weeks ago, Moore County Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser came to the Board of Commissioners asking for \$3.1 million in additional funding for FY2011-2012 school year to help offset \$12 million in

(See "Commissioners," p. 25)

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Meet the Merchants is this Saturday, May 14

by Darrell Marks, President
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild will host their first "Spring Meet the Merchants" this Saturday, May 14, from 11 am, until 3 pm in the Business Village park at the corner of Highway 211 and Seven Lakes Drive.

Phoenix Fashions, Quality Care Pharmacy, Seven Lakes Friendly Mart, Whelan Realty and Casa Garcia Mexican Restaurant have gone together to provide free refreshments and entertainment for the event. The stage will be provided by Don Thomas Trucking.

Although there were still a few spaces available at press time, the event has drawn a wide range of goods

and services to be available to those who attend.

Among this years' participants are the Lions Club with their annual plant sale, assisted by the Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe; a bake sale by Project Linus; farm fresh strawberries from Triple L Farms; a local crafters area sponsored by Phoenix Fashions; offerings from Seven Lakes' newest business,

Ornaments; and wooden yard and garden articles from Quality Arbors.

Last minute decisions to participate can be accommodated by calling Guild President Darrell Marks at 673-5998.

During the last few months, both at guild meetings and in general discussions at various businesses throughout the area, it has become

apparent that the depressed economy has not gotten much better for many businesses trying to call Seven Lakes home.

At this time, local businesses are trying to put their best foot forward to attract more business and survive these hard times, it is particularly important that local residents support the business efforts of those they want to see survive.

Most members of the Guild recognize that no one owes anyone else a living. Support is earned and is never guar-

anteed just because someone opens their doors for business.

Meet the Merchants has always been the Guild's way of saying "thank you" to local citizens for another year of support. Those of us in a position to sponsor this event appreciate the local market, but also know that we are better off with the wide mix of products and services we now have available in Seven Lakes, than we would ever be without them. Once again, the community's support is greatly appreciated.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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West Side makes communications key priority

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Nearly half of Seven Lakes West is receiving weekly "e-blasts" Secretary Jane Sessler reported during the Tuesday, May 10 Work Session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

The number of households receiving the emails has nearly doubled — to 450 — since March, Sessler told *The Times*, adding that a bug that has some households receiving multiple copies of the email updates is still being worked out.

She noted that the SLWLA website itself continues to grow as more community organizations utilize it to get the word out about their activities.

One major "disappointment" with the website, Sessler said, is that more people are not communicating directly with Board members on matters of concern.

"We are trying to make it easy to communicate," said Sessler, who encouraged individuals to reach out to the Board by email or phone.

To keep members informed the website is also being utilized to add minutes of the Board's work sessions within 24 hours of a meeting.

Area Reps are trying to help with the communication process by compiling a list of individuals without access to a computer, so the Board can better communicate with them.

A meeting of the Area Reps is scheduled for May 9 with a website "tour" on the agenda.

Also on the communications front, the Area Reps will be hosting a wine and cheese party on Monday, June 13 for newcomers to the community and are assembling an emergency contact list.

Board Approves Culvert Repairs

The Board voted during Tuesday's Work Session to move forward with repairing eight additional culverts, as requested by Infrastructure Director, John Goodman. The project is estimated to take four weeks for completion.

Aside from the cost, estimated at \$200,000, the Board's major concern was to avoid imposing a large inconvenience on the community. In the end, it was agreed that the community can better deal with a "burst of chaos" as Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly put it, rather than prolonging the project.

Goodman said he will try to make the project as "painless as possible" by posting detour maps online, placing signage around the community and informing the gate guards. Goodman told *The Times* that now is the best time to tackle such a project.

When the culvert repairs will begin has yet to be determined, but Goodman told *The Times* he will get the information out to the community as soon as it is available.

Treasurer Friert told the Board not to "worry about whether culverts are budgeted for," since capital improvements projects are not budgeted as a line item and can be taken from the Reserve Fund if necessary.

Preparations for Boating Season

Boat patrol on Lake Auman will begin this weekend and will be "out in full force," reported Lake and Dam Director Wimberly. Three members from the Lake and Dam Committee — Wimberly, Charlie Flinchum, and Don Smith — will be accompanying the new patrol officer for the first few scheduled patrols.

In addition to checking for

rules compliance among boaters, the patrol officer will also be checking docked boats to make sure they have current stickers.

Boat safety rules and regulations will be posted on the community website for review; and Wimberly is asking that boaters comply with speed limits, specifically around Pine Island, where children may be swimming.

All boats on Lake Auman must have a North Carolina Wildlife Registration and tickets for not complying "will not be waived this year," said Wimberly. A missing NC Wildlife Registration can result in fines from both the Association and the Wildlife Resources Commission, he added.

Wimberly reminded the community that subleasing your Johnson Point boat slip can result in a loss of boating privileges and your slip for a year. Director John Hoff-

(See "Westside," p. 18)



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Concern expressed over Village appearance

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Making short work of a lengthy agenda, the Foxfire Village Council tackled a variety of topics at a sparsely attended meeting on Tuesday, May 10.

Echoing comments that were also raised in two recent citizens' participation budget workshops, Craig Ramey expressed concern that the overall appearance of the Village was on the decline.

"I know we don't have a Zoning Administrator and that enforcement has been lax," said Ramey. "And with Woodland Circle and the [Foxfire Golf] Club's bankruptcy, I realize appearance is low on the list of priorities. But, some areas haven't been mowed in years. Several lots have trees down. It's not a major concern, but just something you get sick of looking at all the time."

He also reported that a debris pile behind the golf maintenance yard is growing and the entire area is a mess, including two buildings he said should be condemned.

Ramey volunteered to chair a community standards-type committee of five members, as was originally developed by the late Carl Munro, which could address the problem.

"It wasn't just one person, but a group of people looking

at items and agreeing whether something needed to be done," said Ramey.

Picking up on his suggestion later in the meeting, Long Range Planning Chair Mick McCue recommended that, rather than form another committee, the work could be tasked as part of the responsibilities of the existing Appearance Committee.

Signage concerns

Drastic action may be needed to save the large community sign at the entrance to Foxfire Village at Tie Road.

Councilman Vic Koos reported that both police and NC Department of Transportation [NC-DOT] have recommended the sign be removed because it obscures vision at the intersection.

"It is a beautiful sign with a brick stone base," said

Koos. "It would require dismantling the bricks and rebuilding it at another location, but we have to make a decision pretty quick."

Koos said he welcomed input from any residents with interest or expertise, particularly in masonry work.

Other recent signage work included an upgraded "Town Crier" board at the Village Green Park. The structure has been repaired and a corrected walking path map has been hung. Koos thanked Foxfire Police Patrolman Scott Patterson for his assistance with the project.

Foxfire Fire Department

The Council voted unanimously to renew a fire and rescue services contract with West End Fire & Rescue. The contract automatically renews for an additional year and

the fee is based on the standard West End fire tax rate.

During public comment, Ramey said he frequently saw the fire truck riding around town and argued the ten ton truck could be damaging roads that are already degrading.

"Before the station was manned all the time, you'd see the fire truck taken out once a month. So why now do I see it three times a day?" he asked. "It doesn't make a lot of sense. Maybe there is a reason, but I'm not aware of it."

Koos responded that he has met with WEFR Chief Wayne Kennedy to discuss the issue and is satisfied the fire truck is only taken out for a definite purpose.

"People see the fire truck, and it looks like they are out for a joy ride. It is never a joy ride," he stated.

Koos said the fire truck is used for every call, including many that turn out to be frivolous, such as smelling gas in a home only to discover the stove has been left on.

"I guarantee that it is not a joy ride you are seeing, and it never has been," said Koos.

He recommended a few steps to improve public relations with WEFR, including inviting Chief Kennedy to an upcoming meeting and also asking the Fire Department to spend a few minutes talking with residents before the annual Fourth of July fireworks event.

Finance

The Council unanimously approved waiving the accelerated payments required on the Woodland Circle extension project assessments for sev-

(See "Foxfire Council," p. 17)

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Foxfire Council gathers input on budget

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Looking to increase resident awareness, interest and participation in the municipal budget process, on Thursday, May 5, Foxfire Village Finance Director Leslie Frusco and Mayor George Erickson led a second budget workshop meeting in as many weeks before a packed room of residents. [A full report on the first budget input session is available at sevenlakes.com.]

With the second-lowest tax rate in Moore County — currently set at thirty-two cents per hundred dollars of valuation — Foxfire has retained its small town feel despite significant growth over the past decade through several voluntary annexations and a multi-year spurt of new residential development.

With net projected valuations for 2011-2012 at \$141,694,500, a one cent tax increase would generate

\$14,169 annually and a five cent tax increase — or approximately \$150 in additional annual property taxes on a \$300K home — would generate \$70,847.

With an agenda that includes future capital projects, the potential need for a tax increase, concern over the aging pool and tennis facilities, and ongoing debt service, the Council is actively seeking input and direction from the community.

However, one major factor over which the Council has no control is the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings at Foxfire Golf & Country Club. Currently the Club owes \$80,000 in delinquent taxes, and the Village's projected budget anticipates no tax revenue from the Club. The property is listed to be auctioned on Tuesday, May 10.

Frusco said her understanding of the situation is that the bank that is the primary creditor in the bank-

ruptcy proceedings is not interested in selling the Club for pennies on the dollar. Instead, she suggested the bank may be inclined to make a competitive bid themselves and then hold onto the property until the economy improves.

Budget summary

Using last year's budget figures, Frusco offered a brief overview of projected revenue and expenses for the coming fiscal year.

With a \$798,000 annual budget, property and motor vehicle taxes are the primary source of revenue for Foxfire Village at 58%, followed by assessments (17%), sales tax (13%), other taxes (8%), and Powell Bill funds (4%). Public safety carries the highest price tag for expenses at 24% of budgeted funds, followed by administration (21%), debt service (21%), fire contract (12%), streets (9%), pool (8%), capital reserve fund (3%) and

park maintenance (2%).

"Foxfire has a number of things to offer," said Frusco. "First, we are an extremely safe community. We have a very effective police force, and we have a safe community because we have an

effective police force."

Responding to a resident's complaint that speeding continues to be a problem, particularly along Hoffman and Richmond Roads, Frusco agreed, but said totally elim-

(See "Foxfire budget," p. 14)

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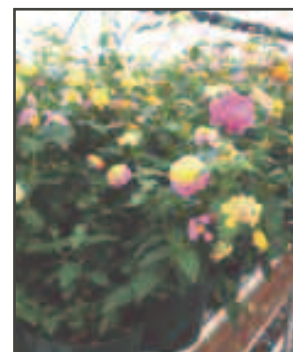
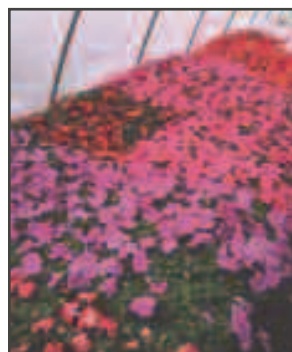
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'Ted E. Bear' finds home at High Falls School

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club President, Marty Matula, and Kiwanian Ken Jenkins visited High Falls Elementary School to present to the first grade class of Mrs. Traci Maness, Mr. Ted E Bear as their new class mascot on Tuesday, April 19. [See photo on front page.]

For several years, Mr. Bear, the personal property of Kiwanian Ginny Richmond, has been present at the annual Teddy Bear Fair at FirstHealth Hospital. This year the bear was raffled off to one of the first grade classes in Moore County who had attended the week long Fair, and Mrs. Maness' class was the winner. The class was thrilled to win the almost six foot high bear, and they are eagerly holding a contest to name their new mascot.

The Teddy Bear Fair is an annual event sponsored by FirstHealth for every first grade class in the County. Using teddy bears, instead of real people, the students are shown how x-rays are taken, how broken limbs are repaired, how stitches (staples, these days) are used, and generally acquaint the kids with things in the Hospital in a fashion that reduces their fear of the unknown.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis assists at these Fairs, helping to get the children on and off their busses, directing them to the auditorium, and also helps pack a bags of "goodies" that the Hospital supplies to each child.

Fitness Run

West End Elementary PTA will host their First Annual WEE Fitness Run held at McLendon Hills subdivision, on Saturday, May 21, at 8:30 am. There will be a 1 mile fun run and a 5K run.

For more information, please visit the West End Elementary PTA website or contact Sue Povish at 910-638-1801 or spovish@yahoo.com.



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West Pine Middle pursues 'Green Initiative'

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

West Pine Middle School may receive its "Green Initiative" certification by the end of the school year, Skyla Stuckey, told the Moore County Board of Education during its Monday, May 9 regular meeting. Stuckey, an intern with Sustainable Sandhills, reported that she has been working with various schools in Moore County to pursue Green Initiative certification and become more sustainable.

Currently, three schools in Moore County, including West Pine Middle, have met various criteria — including promoting a recycling program, compiling data on energy consumption, and encouraging environmentally responsible behavior — in order to become "Green Initiative" certified. Stuckey said she was particularly impressed with West Pine Middle's pilot recycling program and with the involvement of the staff and maintenance department.

"Everyone is really wonderful" at West Pine Middle and is taking the "Green Initiative" checklist very seriously," said Stuckey.

The Green Initiative program covers five key areas: Awareness/Education, Pollution Control, Waste Reduction/Recycling, Water Conservation/Efficiency, and Energy Conservation/Efficiency.

Financial Update

The state has allotted an additional \$130,000 to Moore County Schools [MCS], of which \$98,000 is going towards fuel costs, reported Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin, who presented the School Board with an amended budget resolution and quarterly financial update.

MCS will benefit from an additional \$7 million in federal dollars, though some of those funds will simply pass through to other grant recipients. Of the total, \$6 million will fund a four-year Sandhills Leadership Academy Race to the Top program in which Moore County is the designated fiscal agent for the money; not the sole recipient. Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser pointed out that twelve other recipients will benefit from the money. The remaining \$1 million will fund MCS' Race to the Top initiative.

Griffin also reported that the capital fund is down by \$18,000 due to sales tax refunds being recorded as a reimbursement of cost rather than revenue.

The Board unanimously approved the resolution and financial update.

Board Opposes HB 344

Board members approved a resolution to oppose House Bill 344, which could divert funds for students with special needs from Moore County

Schools.

The resolution would give a homeschooled child with a disability a \$3,000 stipend per semester for education and related services. To be eligible a child must have spent two preceding semesters, prior to entering home school, in a public school in which it was deemed necessary that the child be taught using an individualized education plan.

If a school cannot serve a child that has a specific learning disability, School Board Chair Laura Lang said, it is the school's responsibility to pay for that child to receive an education elsewhere.

Lang disagreed with taking special needs funding away from public schools saying, "It is a step backwards." Dr.

Purser said MCS is known for being a compassionate system and has provided "tremendous support" for children with special needs. Last year, Moore County received a little over \$5 million in supplemental funds to educate exceptional children.

The Board's resolution opposing HB 344 will be sent to Representatives Jamie Boles and Joe Hackney and to Senator Harris Blake.

Legislative Update

The state budget is expected to be on Governor Beverly Purdue's desk by early June, Griffin told the Board. The House has already passed its version of a Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget, which includes an almost nine percent decrease in public edu-

cation funding.

Moore County is anticipating an \$80,000 cut to funding for driver's education programs, which had a budget of \$280,000 last year. Griffin said the program may have to begin charging students a \$75 fee.

Since 2005, the schools have not received a share of state sales tax refunds, which could amount to an additional \$400,000 in revenue for the system, Mike Griffin told the Board. Currently, Moore County schools receive \$125,500 in local sales tax refunds.

Recognitions

The following individuals were recognized at the School Board's Monday, May 9 meet-

(See "Schools," p. 11)

REID HEART CENTER EDUCATION SERIES

Join us to learn more about your heart and vascular system – how it works, what can go wrong and all the wonderful treatment options that are available to you at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital at the new Reid Heart Center: The FirstHealth Cardiac & Vascular Institute.

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Thursday, May 19, at 6 p.m.

- Clinton K. Atkinson, M.D. – Vascular Surgeon, Pinehurst Surgical
- Joel Berman, M.D. – Vascular Surgeon, Pinehurst Surgical



Clinton K. Atkinson, M.D.

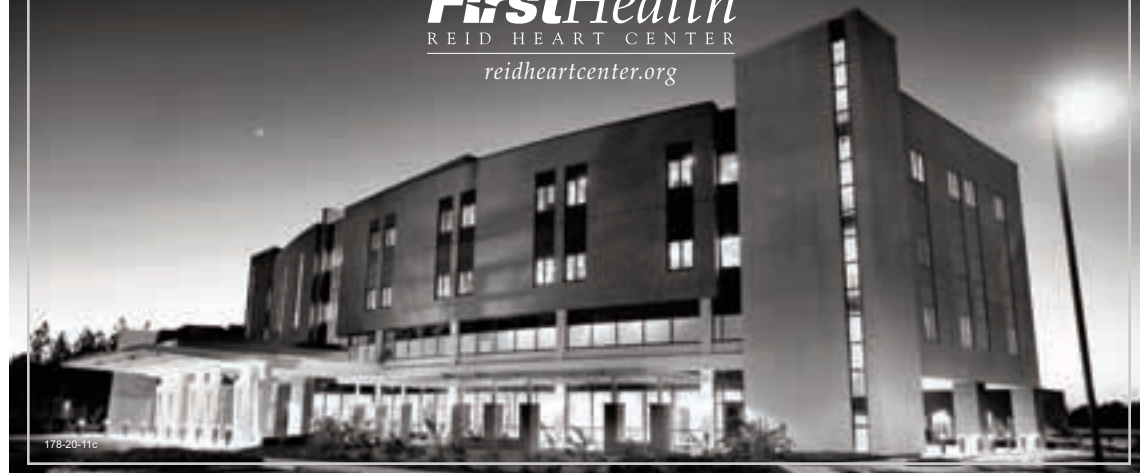


Joel Berman, M.D.

This event will be held at the Reid Heart Center on the campus of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. The Reid Heart Center is located at 120 Page Road North, Pinehurst, NC.

Registration is required. Please call (910) 715-1478 or toll-free at (800) 213-3284 for more information or to register.

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JoAn Moses is WSL 'Citizen of the Year'

by Pat Weber

Women of Seven Lakes

Her smile will light up a room and she always takes time to share a thought intended to make you feel special, confident and appreciated.

This is the best way to

describe JoAn Moses, who was recently honored by the Women of Seven Lakes as 'Citizen of the Year.'

Moses has spent countless hours as a volunteer and leader, working to make the community a better place to live through service on the

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors, Women of Seven Lakes Board, committee roles with the American Red Cross, FirstHealth Cancer Care Fund and Moore Regional Hospital Foundation Board, and work on the ARB, Nom-

inating, Lakes & Dams, and Community Standards Committees.

She is also a member of The Chapel in the Pines choir, played on the Seven Lakes women's tennis team, and

has served on the Seven Lakes Civic Group for nearly a decade.

"JoAn is what we all strive to be: an intelligent, strong woman," said Pat Weber in presenting the WSL award.

Royal Wedding celebration



A "Tea and Scones" party was held at the Winsford Circle home of Gail Cummins in honor of the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

The women who attended wore hats and white gloves.

The group enjoyed two hours of animated conversation, along with carefully brewed Earl Grey or China Oolong tea and homemade scones served with strawberry jam.

Guests for the Celebration were: Back row: Jule Thornton, Joyce Charles, Ann Bright, Rose Coxhill, Kathleen Peterson, Roni Hann. Middle row: Dolores Thompson, Jeannie Settles, June Hale, Brenda Massimo, Mary Kay Allen. Front row: Gail Cummins, Helen Longnecker, Laura Rolls, Ione Katz Not Pictured: Glo Cunningham, Peg Wallace



'Citizen of the Year' JoAn Moses [center] receives her award from Women of Seven Lakes President Lois Ann Eisel and past-President Pat Weber.



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Lunch Bunch visits NYC on historic day

The Lunch Bunch — Westsiders Carmela Chase, Patti Cleary, Nelda Cockman and Johanna Moran — originated in October 2007 with a plan to go somewhere new for lunch once a month. Over time lunch became a day trip, with many interesting destinations.

On April 29, the group traveled to New York City for a five day trip. They were in Times Square just minutes before the announcement that Osama bin Laden had been killed, but did not hear the news until Monday morning, May 2.

The original itinerary for

that day began with a trip to The World Trade Center, but no one could have known what a historic day it would be. There were large crowds, press, cameras and satellite dishes everywhere.

Local fire districts brought their fire trucks to park at the firefighters memorial at Ground Zero. Each truck bears the names of the men from that firehouse lost on 9/11. Several people placed flowers at the site.

The four local ladies agree that it was an especially memorable trip because they shared the day with New Yorkers and others who remember a day in 2001 when our world changed.

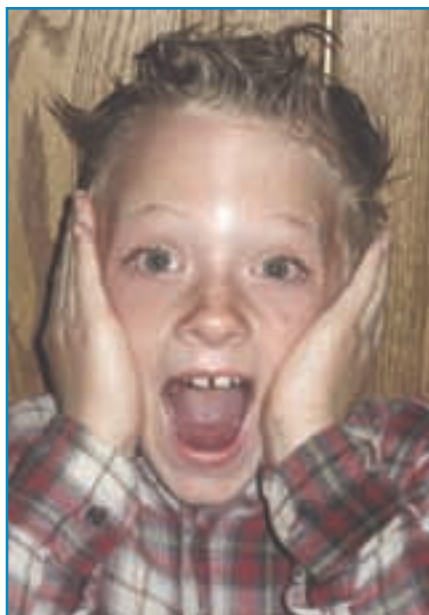


The Lunch Bunch — Westsiders Nelda Cockman, Johanna Moran, Patti Cleary, and Carmela Chase.



Welcome Home — Last year, the U.S. Senate designated March 30 as "Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans Day" to honor those who served during the Vietnam era conflict. Moore County Chapter 966, Vietnam Veterans of America, placed a "Welcome Home" wreath at the entrance of Seven Lakes West on March 30. For information about VVA membership contact Mike Pusillo, Chapter President, at 910-400-3056.

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Planning Board okays Chapel expansion

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

A planned expansion that will add Sunday School rooms and meeting spaces to The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines was approved unanimously by the Moore County Planning Board on Thursday, May 5.

Peggy Olson, Chair of the Chapel Board, told Planning Board members that the expansion would answer a need for meeting space in Seven Lakes -- for example, to accommodate a growing support group for those caring for those suffering with Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia.

Because the 3.5 acre property on which the Chapel sits is zoned Gated Community - Seven Lakes, a primarily residential designation, the church must obtain a conditional use zoning permit, which is what the Planning Board approved Thursday night.

No one spoke in opposition to the expansion, and only Board member Robert Hayter addressed the issue, asking whether there was sufficient parking to support the expansion.

Planner Tim Garner explained that only sanctuary capacity is counted toward parking space requirements in the county's zoning ordinance. Since the Chapel addition will not increase the size of the sanctuary, the parking issue was moot.

However, Olson assured the Board that the Chapel's current gravel parking lots exceed the county's requirements based on the size of the sanctuary. She added that a lower parking lot may see more use once the addition is built, because it will include a lower level entrance and an elevator and stairs.

Planning Board member Dave Kinney, a longtime Seven Lakes resident who now lives in Southern Pines, recused himself from the matter because of his association with the Chapel.

Aeromodelers seek Zoning Permit

Planning Director Joey Raczkowski told the Planning Board that the Seven Lakes Aeromodelers Club has applied for a zoning permit that would allow them to continue to fly their radio-

controlled planes on a 60-acre tract on NC Highway 73 near West End.

The Club's use of the property was the subject of a complaint from the owners of an adjacent ten-acre vacant tract, whose attorney complained about noise and traffic during the April meeting of the Board.

The Planning Staff continues to work on refinements to the zoning ordinance that would help define what types of outdoor recreation are permitted in which zoning districts, Raczkowski said. But those refinements are a separate matter from the complaint.

Raczkowski told *The Times* that seeking a Zoning Permit is the typically the first step in changing how a property is used; the Aeromodelers Club was unaware that a permit was needed for their use of the 60-acre property.

Once the application is filed, the Planning Staff will either approve or disapprove it, based on the current ordinance. If that decision doesn't satisfy either the Club or the complaining property owner, they can appeal the staff

decision to the Board of Equalization and Review.

That procedure assures each party due process in the matter, Raczkowski told *The Times*.

Other Business

In other business during its Thursday, May 5 meeting, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Unanimously approved rules for Public Hearings that imposes no time limit on speakers.
- Received for review a final draft of the Small Area A Annual Report. Approval of the report is likely to be on the Board's June Agenda.
- Learned that the Planning Staff will present the Board

with a new draft of the Unified Development Ordinance for review at the August meeting, after incorporating changes already suggested, or suggested between now and August, by Board members.

This reflects a change in the process as originally envisioned, which would have required the Board to work its way through the ordinance at least twice.

Also at the August meeting, the staff will present for Board consideration changes to the ordinance suggested by members of the public. The draft UDO is available on the county website; suggestions and comments on the document can be directed to the Planning Department.

Garden Club Tour is Saturday

Seven Lakes Garden Club Annual Garden Tour will be held Saturday, May 14, from 9 am until 1 pm. Seven Lakes North, South and West gardens will be featured on the tour. Maps available at North, South & West gatehouses. You can buy a raffle ticket for one of the lovely themed baskets that will be available at the various gardens.

Many of the gardens feature not only flowers and water features, but also inventive ways to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs.

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County chooses VIPER for EMS communications

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

While continuing to protest that it's the result of an unfunded federal mandate, Moore County's Board of Commissioners have decided to move the County's Emergency Communications System to the VIPER [Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders] system developed by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

At their special budget work session on Thursday, May

5, they approved the Public Safety Department's recommendation to move forward with implementing the transition to VIPER, because of a Federal Communications Commission [FCC] mandate that requires emergency communicators to move from the current 512 megahertz [MHz] to a 12.5 [kHz] kilohertz narrowband by the beginning of 2013.

The Board did not settle on a plan for covering the estimated \$5 million cost of the transition. Chairman Nick

Picerno said he is "trying to find a way to pay for this without increasing the burden on taxpayers."

The Board sent a resolution to Congressman Howard Coble, as well as Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan last month asking to be exempt from the mandate, but have had not response as yet.

Commissioner Larry Caddell asked Phillips about repercussions to the County if narrowbanding requirements are not met.

"It is an unfunded mandate," Caddell said, "What are they [federal government] going to do if we don't?"

Phillips said the federal government can fine the county every single day that they are not in compliance — and can revoke the county's license to operate radios in the emergency bands.

Assistant County Manager Ken Larking presented the Board with four funding options, two of which would ask municipalities, which utilize the County's Emergency Communications System, to pick up part of the cost.

Under those scenarios, a small village like Foxfire would be responsible for paying anywhere from \$9,000 to \$18,000 for the narrowbanding system.

Phillips recommended instead that the County is to use money from the general fund instead of asking municipalities to pay or increasing the fire tax to cover part of the cost.

County Manager Cary McSwain said the project can be appropriated over several years as a major capital project ordinance.

Schools

(Continued from page 7)
ing:

- Mildred Bankhead-Smith of West Pine Middle School was recognized as a recipient of the Kenan Fellows Program Class of 2012 award. The Kenan Fellows Program is an initiative of the Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science at North Carolina State University. Bankhead-Smith is developing an "Integrated Course Learning Community" in which she will participate in a five week hands on summer research experience, two weeks of residential professional development, and three additional days the following fall and spring. She will then bring back her findings to other teachers in North Carolina.

- West Pine Middle School's Assistant Principle, Eric Torres, was recognized for receiving his doctoral degree.

- Jessica Blanton, a guidance counselor, and Monica Williams, a fifth grade teacher, both from West Pine Elementary School, received recognition by the Board for obtaining their Master's Degrees.

- Joshua Martin of West Pine Middle was recognized for winning the NC State Middle School Individual Golf Championship.

Other News

Other news at the Board of Education's Monday, May 9 meeting included:

- Dr. Purser announced that the graduation ceremony for Union Pines High School and North Moore High School will be held on Friday, June 10 at 8 pm. The graduation ceremony for Pinecrest High School will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 8 am.

- HeartSafe Moore County was recognized by the Board for installing fifty-four Automatic External Defibrillators [AED] throughout Moore County Schools with transportable devices at all of the

high schools. Gymnasiums in the county also have AEDs since these are visited frequently by the community. Currently, Moore County is the only school system in the state to have AEDs, which were made possible through \$97,000 in private donations.

- The Board approved the addition of a work session for the Superintendent's Evaluation on May 23 and June 6. Both meetings will be held at 5 pm.



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In memory of . . .

Mildred B. Madden, 97, formerly of Charlotte, died Saturday, May 7, at Covenant Towers Health Care, Myrtle Beach, SC.

She was born in Westminster, SC daughter of the late Rev. Maxie M. and Myrtle Keys Brooks.

She was a graduate of Lander College and Emory University's School of Nursing and retired from the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department. Mrs. Madden was a former member of Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church in Charlotte, West End United Methodist Church in Seven Lakes; First United Methodist Church in Winnsboro, SC and a member of First United Methodist Church of Myrtle Beach, SC.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 10, at the First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, SC. Graveside interment service was held Wednesday, May 11 in the New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery, Laurens, SC.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 901 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or to the charity of your choice.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Henry, brothers Phillip and William Brooks and sisters Lillian Johnson and Nella Crawford.

Mrs. Madden is survived by her son Lee and wife Kathy, of Mint Hill; daughter Martha Gentry and husband Peyton, of Seven Lakes West; son Jim and wife Jean, of Springdale, AR; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

McMillan-Small Funeral Home assisted the family.

Master Sergeant Benjamin Franklin Bitner, 37, of Jackson Springs, was killed in action Saturday, April 23, in Afghanistan. Master Sgt. Bitner was serving with 3d Special Forces Group (Airborne) as the ODA 3236 Team Sergeant, and had been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

since March 2011. It was his tenth operational deployment.

A memorial service was Friday, May 6 in the John F. Kennedy Chapel in Fort Bragg.

Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, he was the son of Roger and Beverly Bitner of Greencastle, PA, and a 1991 graduate of Greencastle Antrim High School.

Master Sgt. Bitner enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1991 and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course as an engineer sergeant in 2000. He served in a variety of assignments to include assault team member for Company B, 2d Battalion, 3d Special Forces Group (Airborne) and senior Special Forces engineer sergeant, intelligence sergeant, and team sergeant for Company C, 2d Battalion, 3d Special Forces Group (Airborne).

He is remembered as a great leader and also as a

loving father, husband, and son, an avid outdoors sportsman. He was a dedicated soldier who devoted his life to his family and the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife, April Bitner and children, Gunnar and Rogue; as well as his parents, Beverly and Roger Bitner, Grandma Millie, brother Brian Bitner his wife and sons.

In memory of MSG Benjamin Franklin Bitner, you may make donations to the Montagnards at Treasure Chapter 57 SFA 5209 Mockingbird Rd. Greensboro, NC 27406 Attn: Sam Todaro. Make checks payable to Treasure Chapter 57 SFA. Have donations marked "Montagnards."

For information on the Montagnards go to montagnards.org

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

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SCC hosts Art in the Gardens through May 26

by Skip Ragland
Seven Lakes West

When one thinks of garden art, images of flamingos, gnomes, bottle trees and gazing balls spring to mind. Actually, garden art can be taken to a whole new level as evidenced in the Art in the Gardens exhibit at the Horticultural Gardens of Sandhills Community College (SCC).

SCC has hosted Art in the Gardens for the last 12 years. Fourteen different artists exhibited 30 of their creations which were placed around the spectacular setting of the SCC Horticultural Gardens this year.

An awards ceremony was held the end of March as part of the Palustris Festival. The Best in Show was awarded to Tom Grubb for his piece called "Voyager." First Place went to Mike Roig for "What in the Whirled," and the second place award went to Jeff Hackney for "Light Before

Time."

Judges for the event were Judy Broadhurst who is a local art judge and owner of Broadhurst Gallery and Judy Jones owner of 311 Galleries and The Print Studio in Raleigh.

The show will end on May

26th and between now and then visitors to the SCC Horticultural Gardens will be asked to vote on the "People's Choice" Award. The award will be presented at a reception to be held in the Ball Visitor Center of the SCC Horticultural Gardens on

May 26 beginning at 4 pm.

Dee Johnson who heads the Landscape Gardening Department at SCC feels that Art in the Gardens is a unique experience for visitors to the horticultural gardens. "I'm very proud of this program. Not only does it give the visitors a new way to look at gardens and how art can play a large role in enhancing one's enjoyment of a garden, it gives both our art students and our landscape gardening students the opportunity to see how the two disciplines can work together."

Peter Pottle, President of the Sandhills Horticultural Society agrees: "In addition to helping the students, it provides our organization another vehicle to allow us to reach our goals of providing horticultural education to the community and gain exposure for our beautiful SCC Horticultural Gardens."

"We hope the people of the Sandhills will participate in the "People's Choice" award and join us on May 26 to meet the artists at the awards presentation."



Jeannette Brossart created "Currently Nesting."



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Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 5)

inating speeding would require at least twelve hours a day of police coverage.

"The police force is working on the problem," she said. "I know they're stopping people. I've seen them." She added that the state had declined the Village's request to reduce the speed limit to 35 mph.

Current expenses for public safety include salaries and equipment for two full time police officers, a K9 officer, and one part-time officer.

The fire department contract fee with West End Fire & Rescue remains unchanged, despite an increased presence this year due to facility improvements that now allow for 24/7 coverage at the Foxfire Fire Department building.

A town manager?

While one resident expressed concern that administrative expenses are already too high, another resident argued in favor of growing the Village staff to include a professional town manager.

Currently, administration costs are shared with the Water Department and cover salaries and benefits for a Village Clerk and a Deputy Village Clerk/Tax Collector, in addition to other related administrative expenses such as postage; internet; computers and copiers; professional legal fees; annual audit fee; office supplies, rent, and utilities; dues and subscriptions; and travel expenses, among others.

Frusco said the topic of hiring a town manager has come up frequently over the years, and she recommended that any exploration of the issue must include a detailed study of both costs and also potential cost benefits.

"There is a lot of interest. Some are dead set against it, and others are adamant about the benefits," she noted. "The question facing the Council is how much do we know? How much do we do before we have final results from the Long Range Planning committee survey and

recommendations? And what needs to be done first?"

While a town manager could provide critical advice and guidance for planning and operations, Frusco reminded the room that the Council would still be ultimately responsible for making final decisions about when, where, and what funds were spent.

With no money in the current budget — or even the projected budget — to cover such a position, Mayor Erickson said the Council has anticipated that hiring a Town Manager would most likely coincide with the start of development of the Stonehill Pines project.

Tennis courts, pool & park

Again this year, Foxfire Village submitted a \$375,000 grant application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Foundation (PARTF). Awards will be announced in mid-May and,

if approved and accepted, the Village would be required to provide matching funds.

Within the PARTF request is a capital improvement plan that includes a total renovation of the central pool/tennis facility, including construction of a new pool house with a community center room, improvements to the pool, a walking path and small playground, and refurbishing the tennis courts.

"If we felt that it was not appropriate for the Village to incur additional debt, we could decline the grant," Frusco said. "The other option is to come up with the money from somewhere else, but I don't see borrowing more in the cards."

Regardless whether or not the Village receives the grant, dealing with the decrepit tennis courts and aging pool are two issues that must be addressed.

"Do we need a Village Green Park? No. Do we need tennis

courts and a pool? No," Frusco said. "But, if we are going to maintain Foxfire in a positive light and as a place that people will want to come to, then we must provide things that attract them."

She noted that funds were pulled from various line items and departments in the current budget to satisfy necessary repairs to the pool so the facility could open this year, including fencing that complies with new state regulations.

"Do we have to have a pool? No. But since we have it — we have to maintain it," said Frusco. "If we were to eliminate it, there would be a cost associated with that as well."

Turning attention to the tennis facility, Erickson reported that estimates to refurbish both courts had come in between \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Currently, the capital reserve fund has a balance of \$50,000, with an additional

\$25,000 anticipated for next year. Responding to a question, Frusco confirmed that the reserve can only be used for new construction projects, not repairs.

One resident suggested that, if the Village fails to win a PARTF grant again this year, perhaps the plan should be reworked to eliminate the current tennis and pool facility in favor of new construction at the Village Green Park. Erickson said that idea has been considered, but that the central location of the current pool facility was a key factor.

Echoing discussion from the previous budget workshop, many recommended that fees could help off-set costs for the tennis courts and also pool maintenance. Frusco explained that non-resident pool fees were significantly increased last year and revenue had increased, but that pool fees alone would

(See "Foxfire budget," p. 15)



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Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 14)

never provide enough funds to operate the facility.

Looking to potential usage fees for the tennis courts, Frusco said she envisioned a coded gate lock that would restrict access.

"If we decide to refurbish the tennis courts, the people who use it should help to foot some of the costs associated with it," she said.

"Our task is to find ways to make Foxfire more attractive and maintain this community for new and existing residents," she continued. "People came here because they wanted a community that is not in middle of hustle and bustle and didn't want to be in a gated community. We wanted amenities and a neighborhood feel. It is safe place; and, because of that, people want to be here."

Another resident said he favored an even more aggressive plan to improve the Village — looking towards not only refurbishing the tennis and pool facilities, but also to installing street lights, improving roads, and enhancing other areas.

"I'm not put off by a tax increase," he said. "The amount I pay for my taxes is less than a three-month golf club membership and a small fraction of what I paid before I came here. I would like to see a really attractive community."

With humor, he noted that, while he did not necessarily trust leaders at the state and national levels to make rational decisions, he did trust his neighbors sitting on the Foxfire Village Council to make good decisions.

Another resident suggested that potential capital projects should involve a referendum and include clear explanations of costs associated with each choice.

Frusco responded that the most recent municipal election cost the Village \$5,000; therefore, a referendum is not feasible and information would have to be gathered on an informal basis.

Long Range Planning Chair Mick McCue noted that a detailed community survey

would be distributed soon and would provide an excellent opportunity to collect feedback and input on potential project interest.

Appearance

Speaking in favor of a tax increase, another villager recommended that any additional revenue should be directed towards beautification and appearance projects.

"I am completely satisfied with services, but the appearance of our Village has gone downhill in the last four years," he said. "We also need to get someone to enforce the ordinances we have on properties. We are letting it get out of hand."

Frusco responded that enforcement is based on complaints; however, several said they have lodged complaints and the issues have not been resolved.

Frusco suggested that several days each year should be organized as volunteer

beautification events.

"With volunteer labor and the Village covering the materials expense, there are curb appeal things that could be done which would not cost a lot," she said. "If we have someone go out and do it, that will cost more."

Without a maintenance department, she noted, many minor tasks were historically done by resident volunteers, such as carrying water buckets on their golf carts to irrigate crepe myrtles and plantings along the road.

"For the most part this is how the Village has run: by volunteer residents putting forth the effort. I believe we can do curb appeal — but when we start talking about tennis courts and roads, that is a different matter," said Frusco.

Debt Service

Foxfire Village owes approximately \$200,000 with an annual payment of \$27,740 on a loan incurred with the

original PARTF grant award that funded construction of the Village Green Park. In addition the Village owes \$413,673 from the Water Fund for new wells with an annual loan payment of \$41,145.

The Woodland Circle road extension project is the most costly project to date, with approximately \$1.9 million owed from the General Fund and \$135,000 from the Water Fund. Annual loan payments total \$75,810 and \$5,358 respectively.

Frusco explained that the Village is in the process of taking title of an expansive property recently donated in lieu of the assessment due for the project. At \$1.4 million, the tract garnered the lion's share of costs for the

1.5 mile road.

"It is not nice. It is not pretty. But it is what it is, and we have to move forward," she said of the process.

Moving forward has been a two-step process: first the loan was renegotiated for two years of interest-only payments; and, secondly, the 156-acre property will be marketed for sale.

The Council is anticipating an appraisal on the property from the donor, and Frusco reported that the county assesses the land value at \$1.1 million.

A resident recommended that not one, but perhaps three independent appraisals, should be determined prior to listing the tract; however, Frusco said the appraisal

(See "Budget," p. 16)



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Budget

(Continued from page 15)

that is anticipated will be reviewed by Realtors and also legal council to determine if the figure is appropriate.

"Woodland Circle is in an issue, no question," she said. "But it does not change the fact that we have a Village to maintain and assets to take care of."

Streets

Mayor Erickson reported that an error in calculations has been corrected for Powell Bill funding in North Carolina and that Foxfire Village will receive approximately \$1,000 in additional revenue.

Typically the Village receives \$30,000 each year in Powell Bill funds, which are used to repave interior roads and pay the mowing contract for easements along the state roads crisscrossing the Village.

On a positive note, Erickson said it now appears that the General Assembly will not attempt to turn over responsibility of state roads within city limits to municipalities.

However, another factor that may affect Foxfire is the potential of a cap on the gas tax at 32.5 cents. If approved by the General Assembly, such action would necessitate a \$250 million scale back of plans by NC Department of Transportation.

Last year, the Village repaved a road and several adjacent cul-de-sacs using accumulated Powell Bill funds which, altogether, totaled not quite a mile of pavement at a cost of \$39,000.

"The less paving you do, the more it costs per square foot," explained Frusco. "If the Council purposely accumulates funds, say from a five cent tax increase, you can have four or five streets repaved rather than one cul-de-sac or small section of road."

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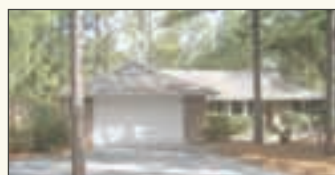
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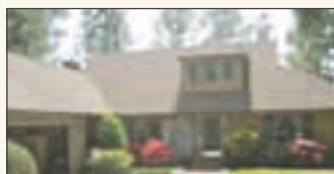
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Foxfire council meeting

(Continued from page 4)

eral property owners. As written, the policy states that any late payment will automatically render the entire assessment amount due; however, for payments that were made within days of the deadline, Finance Director Leslie Frusco recommended leniency.

"The vast majority of these owners paid their installment payment on April 6 instead of April 3," she explained. "This does not absolve them of making payments, it just says the next installment is due April 3, 2012."

Frusco reported the General Fund balance, as of April 30, at \$751,943, including \$20,983 in the Stonehill Pines account, \$50,038 in capital reserves, and \$8,370 in pre-paid Woodland Circle assessments that will be held in reserve until the next loan payment is due. The Water Fund stands at \$261,527 and includes a restricted portion of \$591 that will also be held as part of the Woodland Circle loan. In addition, \$135,000 is held in a restricted escrow account for a new well.

The Council approved a budget amendment of \$150,000 for Stonehill Pines that eliminated both projected revenue and expenses in the current fiscal year related to the massive development project — which has stalled indefinitely while the economy improves.

A Public Hearing on the 2012 Budget will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14 at Foxfire Town Hall, immediately preceding the monthly meeting.

Reduced pool fees for active military

At \$500 for a family of four, the cost of a non-resident family pool pass was increased significantly last year in an effort to raise revenue and perhaps limit over-use of the pool by swimmers from outside of town.

Village Clerk Lisa Kivett reported an active duty family residing in Pinewild had requested a reduced rate. She explained that renters

in Pinewild may not use community amenities unless full annual dues are paid. Kivett said that, in addition to the requesting family, there are at least four or five additional active duty military families in that community with the same concern.

She recommended a ten percent discount, but Ramey quickly volunteered a bigger reduction was warranted.

"This is our military. These are our families," said Ramey.

Going around the table, the Council agreed and approved a 20% active duty military discount that can be applied to fees for both resident and non-resident pool passes.

Water

Councilman Ed Lauer said that he has heard discussion of radium concerns coming up in Long Range Planning roundtable meetings and said it was important for residents to understand that there is no radium in the well system.

Remediation work corrected the problem reported several years ago, and Lauer said the water quality is checked frequently through regular testing.

"Our wells are in good condition, and everything is in good operating condition," he said.

Streets

The intersection of Hoffman and Richmond Roads in the center of town has been an

ongoing safety concern, because of both speeding vehicles and the lack of a bypass for heavy trucks. Eltschlager said that, while the State would not recommend a traffic light, a new, larger stop sign was installed — increased in size from 30 to 36 inches. In addition, a more reflective warning sign was installed and the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] is considering adding painted stripes on the asphalt that would alert drivers to the upcoming intersection.

Earlier in the meeting Ramey had introduced an interesting argument against any potential traffic light, suggesting that, while it would slow traffic, the addition of the light would also increase road noise in the Village, with large trucks grinding through gears to accelerate and decelerate.

In other discussion, Eltschlager said he submitted a request to NCDOT to

replace a sign he believes was damaged by the agency during a recent project.

Deputy Village Clerk Sharon Sanchez is completing a grant application that will be submitted to the State to reimburse the Village for some of the costs incurred by mowing easements along Hoffman and Richmond Roads.

Long Range Planning

Final touches are being applied to the Long Range Planning Committee's detailed survey, which will be distributed to all residents, reported Chair Mick McCue. The survey will be sent electronically to all email addresses on file and will be available by regular mail and for pick up at the Village office.

Frusco expressed concern about how the surveys would be tracked to prevent skewed results if multiple surveys are completed by a single person; however, McCue said if any resident had that level

of interest, then he welcomed their input on the issue.

Appointments

The Council unanimously reappointed Robert Thorne to serve on the Planning & Zoning Committee for another term, effective July 2011 to Jan 2015.

Mayor George Erickson and Councilman Vic Koos were reappointed to represent Foxfire Village on the Moore County Transportation Committee.

Legislative update

Mayor George Erickson offered a brief update on key legislation that could affect Foxfire Village.

Of note, the budget currently under consideration by the NC Senate, which was already approved by the NC House, would eliminate PARTF funding for 2012-2013. A full copy of the proposed state budget is available for review at the Village office.

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673-6789

Westside work session

(Continued from page 3)

man echoed this saying "We have residents on a waiting list for a boat slip," and this type of subleasing is "not fair" to them.

Stickers on the boat must match that on the boat slip. Boating stickers must be obtained by June 2 and fines will be issued to those not in compliance, Wimberly said.

Other points covered by Wimberly included:

- Lake Auman Sports Club will have a bass fishing event on Saturday, May 21.
- Fishermen should consult the rules on the number and size of fish that can be taken from Lake Auman.
- Community Manager Joan Frost is obtaining estimates on the cost of repairs to the fishing dock at Johnson Point. Other repairs around Johnson Point are being estimated at \$400.

Evening Classes Offered

Community Events Director Jim Ferguson reported that many of the day time classes offered in the community are being considered for evening classes, as long as, "instructors are willing to teach and enough community interest is shown."

Andrea Schmidt will continue her daytime art classes and has agreed to hold a two-hour evening class if enough interest is generated. Other evening classes being considered are Tai Chi and Yoga.

Ferguson said instructors for those classes have yet to be contacted, but information regarding evening classes will be posted on the community website.

The summer season opening concert was "well received," said Ferguson, with the next one to be held on June 3 featuring "The Musicians."

The Board approved the following members for the Events Committee: Cathy Martinez, Joyce Freiert, Theresa Clark, Patti Patullo, Debbie Fee, and Cathy Baldwin.

New Yard Waste Hours

At the request of Community Manager Frost, the Board approved opening the Yard Waste Area from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, May thru October, with Mike Ellison manning at the site. The new hours will begin on Wednesday, May 18. If demand warrants, the Board may consider adding additional hours of operation.

The estimated cost is less than \$600, which Treasurer Freiert said would "be worked out" in the budget.

Archiving of Community Documents

A new computer tower for archiving community documents is expected to be delivered on May 23, Frost reporter.

Legal Director Jack Stevens is continuing the process of having all the Associations current and past documents archived and categorized for easy look up. In order to speed up the archiving process, Stevens has been reaching out to local companies who deal with archiving to determine whether it would be cost-effective to outsource the process.

Pool Repairs

Repairs to the pool fence are underway and should be complete by May 13, Frost reported. The Southern Landscape Group will be repairing eroded areas behind the pool.

The pool inspection is scheduled for May 17, and passes will be distributed on May 15, Frost said.

Community Center

Power washing of the West Side Park Community Center is complete and has shown that the paint is "in bad shape and will need work," said Frost. Estimates for the repairs are being evaluated.

Entrance Codes to the community center are in full operation and the Board has agreed to give the cleaning crew a code to be used during cleaning hours on Mondays and Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Manager's Report

Other items covered by Community Manager Frost during Tuesday's work session included:

- Members are adjusting "quite well" to new payment options such as automatic drafts. Frost reported that more payments are being sent to the lock box, which is helping CAS to be more "efficient" and "effectively control costs" for SLWLA.
- Boat Registration forms are arriving daily, and the CAS staff is making sure that insurance forms and requests for decals are all signed and attached.
- CAS administration is developing a new way to categorize compliance letters, which will be available at the next Board work session.

Safety and Security Report

After extensive review, the Safety and Security Committee has decided to withdraw their proposal for speed humps as a means of speed control in the community, Director of Safety and Security Jim McCarthy reported. He explained that, on roads

without curbs, drivers tend to swing to the right and bypass the hump, which then creates damage to the road shoulder.

The Safety and Security

Committee is looking into the possible installation of a gate on the Beacon Ridge side of Seven Lakes West. Four areas under consider-

(See "Westside," p. 19)



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Westside work session

(Continued from page 18)

ation include: Banbridge Drive, Grace Court, Paula Court, and Finch Gate Drive. McCarthy said he believes the best option is Bainbridge Drive.

The vehicle stickers of Seven Lakes Landowners Association members will be expiring soon but the black stickers will still be honored by the gate guards for thirty more days reported McCarthy.

Finances in "good shape"

Treasure Don Freiert reported during Tuesday's Work Session that cash disbursements for April were \$127,500. Freiert has received dues payments in excess of \$200,000 from dues paid by homeowners and is investigating a safe option for depositing the excess cash, because deposits are only insured by the FDIC up to \$250,000.

Current cash checking is \$300,000 and long term investments are at \$1.1 million for a total of \$1.4 million for the quarter ending April 30, Freiert reported. About \$140,000 is in long term CDs, which are callable and marketable with no penalty accrued if money is removed early.

However, if the money remains in the CD it will gain the designated interest rate. One of the CDs is with Bank of America at a three percent interest rate while the other is with JP Morgan at a two

percent interest rate.

Two CDs are expected to mature within the next two quarters, Freiert said, the first for \$147,000 and the second for \$200,000.

Architectural Review

Each new home, remodel, or other project under the jurisdiction of the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] must be recommended and approved separately with a description for that specific project, ARC Director Hoffman told his fellow Directors during Tuesday's Work Session.

Luci Hadlock from the CAS staff will be reviewing project applications. Currently, there are seven homes under construction and thirty other ongoing projects in the community. A review of the three-year-old ARC Standards has begun and is being cross-checked with the rules and regulations.

Hoffmann said ARC has received a request from homeowners Robert Weich and Suzanne Wilson to recombine lots 3031 thru 3038 on Gibbon Drive in order to build a garage/workshop adjacent to the existing home. ARC has no opposition to the request, Hoffmann said, but are awaiting adequate plans for the total area before it can be approved.

On May 23, the Army Corp of Engineers will be stopping by Seven Lakes West to meet with Hoffman and discuss bulkheads on shoreline lots,

installation of docks, and the area around the dam.

Hoffman said he is awaiting recommendations from ARC members regarding dock length extension from 20 feet to 22 feet 8 inches, which is the longest allowable length of a boat. Some concerns regarding dock extensions have included: safety, access limitations, and navigation and channel congestion in narrow coves. Recommendations will be brought to Hoffman within the next two weeks.

ARC Members

Joshua Haire and Bill Carl are new members to the ARC committee. Ed Shemp and Dick Williams were assigned as co-deputy chairs to the ARC committee to "deal promptly" with questions about ARC.

Bob Williams is responsible for review of all new construction; Ray MacKay is responsible for all site evaluations; and Sam Narayan is responsible for architectural review.

Long Range Planning:

Treasurer Freiert reported that the Long Range Planning [LRP] committee will meet on Wednesday, May 11, to discuss results from a recent survey of the community.

A priority for the LRP is to update the mail delivery proposal from last year. LRP also wants to work with the Board and community members to take Seven Lakes West from "a group of mergers and annexations, into a Planned Community," Freiert said.

President's Goals

Though goals weren't a topic of discussion during Tuesday's Work Session, the packet prepared for the meeting included President Mick Herdrich's three primary objectives for the SLWLA in the coming year, including:

- Improve communications within the community especially by using the website.
- Finalize a decision on the new mail house and front entrance project, and
- Take Seven Lake's West from "a group of mergers and acquisitions to a Planned Community."

The packet also included objectives for each director's area of responsibility.

Public Comment Period

After hearing from Ed and Betty Zebley, as well as Sheila and Ray Sibiga and Bill Erickson during the public comment segment of Tuesday's meeting, the Board approved a request from the Zebleys for an additional \$775 to complete repairs to their property, which was damaged as a result of the culvert repairs in February.

The Board has already paid \$1,000 in repairs to the Zebley's property. However, Star Ridge Aquatics, a company that specializes in bogs and wetlands, recommended additional planting, in particular to re-stabilize a creek embankment.

Erickson said the Zebleys "have set the tone" in landscaping in the community, which has helped Westside property values.

The Board vote in favor of the reimbursement passed 6 to 3 with Sessler, Herdrich, and McCarthy opposed.



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- **Raiding the Kitchen with Ken** – 10 am - 12 noon, Hands-on class that teaches how to make quick meals with often used ingredients. Limited space; by reservation. \$3 fee, 215-0900. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **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.
- **Moore Humane/Pooch Park in the Pines Adoption Event** - Noon - 3pm. Members of Pooch Park and their friends are invited to come to the park from noon until 3:00 pm to see all the prospective adoptees at play in the small fenced

area. Pooch Park has two parks, a large three acre park for large dogs and a smaller 1 and one half acre for little dogs. The park is located directly across from the Moore County Airport. Adoption fees are \$75, includes all shots and spay/neutering the animal. Come visit and



select a life-time companion. 947-2631.

- **May Tennis Social** – 2 pm to 4 pm. Join in for tennis games and match play. Tennis Center will provide the B&B (beverages, and balls); you bring some of your favorite food to share. Bring your friends. No guest fees. RSVP at 673-1096 or 7lakestenniscen@gmail.com
- **Casual Friday at Seven Lakes Country Club** – 5 to 9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. Food, games & socializing.
- **Kool Kids Parent Date Night** - 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Recreational play for kids grades K-5th. An evening out for just the two of you. Cost for 3 hour evening is \$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

- **Angel Food Ministries at**

Seven Lakes Baptist Church – last day to order food boxes. A Signature Box will feed a family of 4 for a week, or a single person for a month, costing around \$30. Orders must be picked up at the church Saturday May 21, between 9:00 & 10:00am. Call for information and orders 910-315-4655 or 910-673-4656 or order on line @

www.anglefoodministries.com/ Payment by cash, money order or food stamps. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Ticks, Chiggers & Spiders** – 3 pm, Spiders, ticks and chiggers are very prevalent in the Sandhills. Poisonous spiders and disease-carrying ticks will be identified as well as others that are not harmful, but actually are a benefit to mankind. In the auditorium at Visitor's Center. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg

Rd., Southern Pines. 692-2167

- **Moore County Historical Association** – lecture at 2 pm, "A North Carolina Icon Brought to Life" sea stories from aboard the USS North Carolina battleship during World War II. Free program speaker will be Cindy Ramsey, presenting sea stories from the enlisted men serving on the battleship at First Baptist Church of Southern Pines, corner of North May and East New York Ave. (910) 692-2051.
- **Pinecrest Chamber Ensemble & Sotto Voce Performance** – 4 pm, Village Chapel, Pinehurst. Performance is free and open to the public.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, musical guests Hobex, Anthony DaCosta and Plume Giant opening guest, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

- **Greeting Card Workshop** – 10 am - 12 noon, Patti Patullo, class on creating beautiful all occasion greet-

ing cards. \$5 materials fee. By reservation, 215-0900. Held at the Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **League of Women Voters** – Check-in time is 11:30 am; the meeting will start at 11:45 am. Major Scott Greenblatt, US Army, will speak to the League of Women Voters and guests about his experiences conducting elections in Iraq. Luncheon meeting will be held at the Table on the Green Restaurant, Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Road, Southern Pines. Public welcome, call Charlotte Gallagher at 910-944-9611. Cost for the luncheon is \$12; a check made out to the LWVMC is the preferred method of payment.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Held at Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist

Help SARL Help the Animals!



Sandhills Animal Rescue League, Inc needs your help with tax deductible donations to continue our rescue and rehoming of abandoned and unwanted cats and dogs in the Seven Lakes and surrounding area.

Sandhills Animal Rescue League [SARL] is a no kill shelter, 501(c)3 organization operating since January 2002.

Please help Sandhills Animal Rescue League continue to provide excellent vet care and good nutrition, and to buy supplies

that are needed on a daily basis by sending a tax deductible donation using the form below.

You may choose yearly, monthly, or a one time contribution.

Thank you from the cats and dogs we rescue, our volunteers, and the board of directors of Sandhills Animal Rescue League.

For more information about the League, volunteer opportunities or other information please contact Lou Atkins at 974-4468 or 638-1921.

Donations to S.A.R.L. will provide shelter, healthcare, and adoptions for rescued pets.

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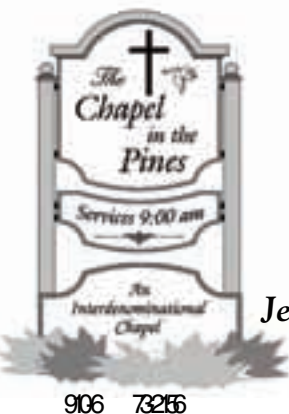
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Minister

Reverend Fran Stark
Minister of Visitation & Outreach

May 15th –
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May 22nd –
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Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal \$5.

- **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
- **Is Your Blood Flowing Like it Should: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Peripheral Artery Disease** – 6-7:30 pm, join Clinton K. Atkinson, M.D. and Joel Berman, M.D., both vascular surgeons with Pinehurst Surgical for the third event in the Reid Heart Center Education Series. Reid Heart Center, Page Road off Hwy. 211 and Memorial Drive. Free, but registration required. Call (800) 213-3284 to register.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

- **Casual Friday at Seven Lakes Country Club** – 5 to 9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. Food, games & socializing.
- **BackPack Pals Benefit at Beacon Ridge** – Fifth Annual BackPack Pals Benefit played at Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club. Entry fee is \$65 includes

green and cart fees, lunch and on-course beverages. Proceeds will benefit the BackPack Pals program. Registration form, contact Ginger Finney, 673-1330 or Jo Nicholas at 673-3604.

- **West End United Methodist Church Spaghetti Supper** – at 5:00 pm, sponsored by the United Methodist Men in the church Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$8 each and are available by contacting Jason Dickerson 673-5484 or weumc@hotmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 21

- **Armed Forces Day**
- **WEE Fitness Run** – 8:30 am, West End Elementary PTA will hosts their First Annual WEE Fitness Run at McLendon Hills subdivision. There will be a 1 mile fun run and a 5K run. Visit the West End Elementary PTA website or contact Sue Povish 910-638-1801 or spovish@yahoo.com.
- **Middle Cross Baptist Church** – 3 to 7 pm, Old Fashioned Outdoor Festival. Featuring Gospel Groups: The Guiding Lights and The Carpenter Tools, and guest speaker Chris Metzger, Varsity Head Coach, Pinecrest High School Foot-

ball. Displays, Booths, Games, Fun, and lots of Door Prizes. Bring your lawn chair, kids, and come to spend the day. Middle Cross Baptist Church, 440 Lucas Road, West End.

- **Pinecrest Choral Program Spring Concert** – 7 pm, at Pinecrest High School - Robert E. Lee Auditorium. Doors will be open one hour prior to concerts Tickets: \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors.
- **Casino Night to Benefit West Pine Elementary** – 7:00 – 11:00 pm, a "House of Blues" Casino Night, at National Golf Club. Evening includes gaming tables, dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres. \$35/person includes hors d'oeuvres, raffle ticket, & \$100 in chips. Tickets at the door \$45. 910-603-2739 or West Pine Elementary 910-673-2004.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

- **National Maritime Day**
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Discovery Hike** – 3 pm, the group will look at any flowers, shrubs, bugs, birds, frogs, toads, lizards,

snakes, turtles and mammals that we encounter on Bring binoculars, sunscreen and bug spray. Visitor Center, Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

- **Pinecrest Choral Program Spring Concert** – 4 pm, at Pinecrest High School - Robert E. Lee Auditorium. Doors will be open one hour prior to concerts Tickets: \$6 adults, \$4 students and senior citizens.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, music guests, Rebecca Pronsky and Sally Spring, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Buy your tickets online or at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, MAY 23

- **Craft Supplies on Sale** – 10 am to 11:30 am at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Sponsored by the Morning Glories.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting, 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Sandhills Wildflowers and Natural

Communities, Bruce Sorrie, Biologist with NC Natural Heritage Program and President of the Natural History Society, to speak about his new field guide to the wildflowers of the Sandhills. 910-692-2167.

TUESDAY, MAY 24

- **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.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

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

THURSDAY, MAY 26

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



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Seven Lakes Times
May 13, 2011

OPINION

Happy Mother's Day!

Our front door got a pounding this weekend with a chaotic to-do list and house guests and visiting family coming and going.

Happily we still found time amongst the bedlam to enjoy the most important part: celebrating Mother's Day.

As a friend said on Sunday, we may not all be mothers but we all have a mother.

Indeed, I do.

A brilliant and charismatic force of nature, she offers spot-on advice and brings me great joy but, alas, lives hundreds of miles away: same is true for Darling Hubby's mom.

Lucky for us, we've got Biscuit.

And yes, I mean the dog.

"Where are you going? Who are you going with? When are you coming back?"

No matter how many times a day I slip in and out of the house, she faithfully begs out the ultimate mothering trifecta of questions.

With soulful brown eyes and a creased brow pinched with concern, she frets over my well-being until I am safely home again and properly guarded over. Clearly, she is convinced that only her vigilant watch out the window will ensure my prompt return.

Now, since I'm a bit brand loyal on canine breeds you'll have to educate me whether this is typical behavior for

the average Fido friend or if this incessant pattern of anxiety is mainly a Labrador underachiever trait.

Not quite a purebred, Biscuit carries a post-graduate in the worrying arts, but shares the calm demeanor of her primary heritage.

Unfortunately, she also volunteers a few highly suspect peculiarities, like a blue-splotched tongue and the slightly curled tail that whisper of Chow Chow lineage.

She won't fetch. She won't swim.

But if you need any trenching work done around the garden, she digs on demand. And digs . . . and digs.

the whereabouts of her buried treasure. It's like winning the puppy lottery on those days that she inadvertently dredges up an old piece of rawhide.

I kept this in mind while out shopping for Mother's Day gifts.

Because unlike flowers or gilded picture frames that despite much thought and love can never possibly convey all the appreciation we have for our mothers, I know deep in my heart that all Biscuit wanted was a new bone and for her mommy to stay close by.

Done.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Occasionally, she even channels Marmaduke with her landscaping efforts — though, like her intellectually-challenged squirrel friends, Biscuit never recalls

Why bother feeding the poor?

Question: Did Jesus say, "The poor you will always have with you?" If he did, why do Christians give away so much money and food to help poor people, if poverty can never be eliminated?

Response: This is a very good question and the answer may be more complicated than it first appears. In the 26th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament, Jesus is having dinner at the home of a man named Simon. A woman appears and breaks open a

jar of nard, a very costly perfume and begins to pour it on Jesus' head.

When Jesus' disciples saw this they were angry and said, "Why this waste? This ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." Hearing this, Jesus said, "Why do you trouble this woman? She has performed a good

service for me. You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me."

Anticipating that he would soon be killed, he goes on



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

to say, "By pouring this ointment on my body, she has prepared me for burial. Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

The Gospel of Mark quotes Jesus as saying, "You always have the poor with you and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me."

The disciples were probably surprised by Jesus response. They had every reason to believe Jesus would rather see the money that was spent for the perfume used instead

to feed the hungry.

Jesus spent much of his ministry with the poor, the people of the land. He healed their sick, fed their hungry, and preached to them the good news of the Kingdom of God, a kingdom where the values embraced in this world are turned upside down.

The poor, the meek, the bereaved and the peacemakers will be blessed, and the positions of honor will not go to the rich and the powerful but to those who practice sacrificial love and become servants of their neighbors.

It always surprises me when many of those who want to make the United States a Christian nation champion legislation and policies that deny many services — including health care and food for the poor and dispossessed — while refusing to ask those of us who have plenty and live well to pay more in taxes to assist those who have not.

Many of these people misinterpret this passage from Matthew in order to justify

their greed and lack of both sympathy and charity. By referring to the poor as lazy and immoral, they excuse their lack of compassion.

Is it possible to eliminate abject poverty from the earth? I choose to believe that it is, but only if the religions of the world, including Christians, begin to insist on the control of population growth, simpler life styles, and an economy built around production of what the world needs, rather than one built on debt and run-a-way consumerism.

Meanwhile, the poor will be with us in greater numbers as the population of the earth increases in this century from 7 billion to over 10 billion people.

The existence of poverty is both a judgment on Christianity and an opportunity for Christians.

We can not feed the whole world, but we can feed far more than we do.

Contact Rev. Don Welch
at dwelch1@nc.rr.com

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,
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Seven Lakes businesses deserve support

Dear Editor:

During recent visits to some of our local businesses, I got the impression they are just hanging on. This got me thinking about a subject near and dear to me — home values.

What would happen to our home values if some of our local businesses closed?

What would happen to the convenience value of having welcome businesses right outside our gates?

Not having to burn a few

gallons of \$4, \$5, \$6 of gas to buy a nut or a bolt, a bottle of aspirin or a bottle of wine is of great value.

When we buy a can of paint from our Seven Lakes Hardware, a bottle of wine from Sandhills Winery, or a box

of Band-Aids from Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, they really care.

Do the big box stores downtown really care? Do you get personal service when you visit those stores? Does that mail order prescription business greet you with a smile and offer advice?

Who supports our Seven Lakes Phone Directory and *The Seven Lakes Times* with their advertising?

A prime example of a local business is Sandhills Winery. (I do visit frequently!) Leslie and Bob have been our neighbors for 17 years. They offer a warm and friendly atmosphere, personal service, and

competitive prices; plus it is fun.

I'm sometimes tempted to pick up a bottle of wine while food shopping; but I resist, because I know that a bottle of wine I buy is important to Leslie and Bob.

We can't just buy some of our items from our local businesses, we need to buy most, if not all, from them. They can't survive if we buy the occasional item from them.

It is beneficial to both us and them to keep our local businesses open.

Bruce Ashley
Seven Lakes West

Kudos for The Times

Dear Editor:

Every other week in Seven Lakes we have the privilege of receiving *The Seven Lakes*

Times, free, and placed in our mailbox.

I look forward to receiving it to find out what has been happening in this "Little Bit of Heaven" we call home, without much thought of how it got there and what had to happen to make sure that it is there every other Friday.

Greg, your Diggin Deeper column, "A Little Times Change," in the April 29 issue gave us a "thumbnail sketch" of some of the antics you've had to go through, over time,

to make it happen.

And now with the addition of color, you've added some "class" to the "newsy" *Times*.

So often we take for granted, not realizing what has to happen for somebody to make life easier and better for us.

You've done that and I thought it was time for this reader to offer my congratulations for your continued fine service to our community.

Ray Nies
Seven Lakes North

Bowlers Wanted!

Memo to Seven Lakes bowlers! In case you didn't know, the season may be over but the fun goes on for the Quarters Club. This is a Thursday morning group of bowlers that have been meeting at 9 am every Thursday year-round for the last six years at the Sandhills Bowling Alley in Aberdeen.

So before "bowling withdrawal" begins, come on out and join the fun each Thursday at 10 am during the summer months.

The group has their own handicap system. There's a "red head pin" game, a "break-the-bank" challenge, and even a "poker" game as well as actual high-game and high-series, all with handicap. A guaranteed fun experience. If anyone has questions, call 673-7565.

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Former SLLA Guard explains incident

Dear Editor:

The article published online concerning the Seven Lakes Landowners Association board meeting on Wednesday, April 27 included a section about me asking for support from the residents. I would like to clarify my remarks.

The resident that called in the accident called the North Gate; not EMS or Law Enforcement, as you reported.

After responding to the scene of the accident and encountering the driver, I returned to the truck to get the paperwork and flashlight to check for damages. I debated whether or not I should have grabbed the handcuffs because the driver was already disorderly.

At that point in time, it never crossed my mind that I was "going to make a citizen's arrest." It was not until a few days later, when I was giving my deposition a second time to Captain Talbot of the Moore County Sheriff's Office,

that I asked what I did wrong. I was told that when I handcuffed him -- for his safety and the safety of the residents

Letters to the Editor



and myself -- that it was a form of kidnapping. That's when I found out that there is no such thing as citizen's arrest in North Carolina.

When I asked the first deputy on the scene what I could have done differently, I was told chasing him was my first mistake. During my twelve years of security work in Virginia, I learned that it was a felony to flee from an accident. Who knew that in backwoods North Carolina it was a misdemeanor?

Your article reported that I followed the driver when he left the scene. In fact I chased him to just past Overlook. When he stopped, I professionally asked him to return to his car, said that Moore County deputies were on their way to talk to him, and told him that he was making this harder for himself. I did not tackle him or try to fight him.

There wasn't much detail in your article about my description of the driver swinging his belt as a weapon. After about two to three repetitions of the subject swinging the belt like nunchuks, when he stopped, I moved forward to knock the belt from his hand.

I didn't explain well enough to the residents that I don't know if I moved in the distance too fast and misjudged or the subject staggered or moved; but I made contact to the left side of his head behind the ear instead of his

hand.

The last thing was the comment about my disgust at law enforcement. It's not disgust, it is disappointment. Law Enforcement is not there to protect the public anymore: they are there to generate revenue and to pick up the pieces. The last thing I said to the residents was "If we don't stick together then we hang separately" -- an abbreviated quote from Ben Franklin.

Because my time to speak at the meeting was limited, there were a few things I didn't get to add. I loved my job at Seven Lakes. I loved being there for the residents, and my top priority was the safety and security of the residents. I have a lot of people that were very happy at the services I provided, and they knew I gave 100 percent.

Suppose I had let that kid run off and not pursued him. He could have confronted any number of residents that

were out that night, got hit by a car, or, worse, fell in to the lake at Longleaf. I tried my best to contain the situation until law enforcement arrived; there was no power hunger or need to be hero or cop. I had nothing but the safety of everyone in mind.

I am the type of person that it is very compassionate for my fellow human beings. When this kid went to the hospital I wanted to go and check on him.

Isn't it sad that we can't have compassion anymore and succumb to political correctness and have to go our separate corners and get a lawyer?

This incident has really put a burden on my life and I need the support from the residents to contact the District Attorney to let them know I have a community behind me.

Thank you everyone.

Stephen McVey

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

expected funding cuts and costs shifted from the state to local school boards.

Meeting the schools' request would require a 2.7 cent increase in the property tax levy, predicted McSwain, who said he hopes cuts to state education funding will be "less severe" than Purser expects.

"The schools and County have cut deeply over the last two years" and "are at the mercy of the General Assembly," McSwain said. The manager's budget includes a total of \$32 million in funding for the public schools, which amounts to just under 45 percent of the County's General Fund expenditures. About \$6 million of that total goes to the debt service on school bonds approved by the voters to fund school construction.

State outlook uncertain

The General Assembly continues to wrangle with a difficult state budget that could impact tax revenues and expenses at the county level. With the state budget process in flux, McSwain told the Commissioners that he had relied on the best available information to project revenues for the FY2011-2012 fiscal year.

Commissioner Tim Lea said he had spoken with Senator Harris Blake and Representative Jamie Boles, who both said they are trying to prevent a "roll down" to the counties of unfunded mandates and have set June 1 as a deadline to complete the state budget. However, Boles and Blake

both predicted that Democratic Governor Beverly Purdue may veto any proposed budget approved by the new Republican majority in the General Assembly.

No Property Tax Increase

Property taxes will not increase under the new budget, McSwain told the Board, but will remain at 46.5 cents per \$100, which should bring in \$50.6 million in FY 2011-2012.

Sales tax revenue has declined since the economic downturn in 2008, but is expected to increase modestly next year, providing the county with approximately \$10.3 million in revenue.

Utility rates would also remain the same under the proposed budget, McSwain said.

Special Meeting Scheduled on Pine Forest

As of April 25, the Planning Board has matched seventy-seven speakers with sixty-six attachments of evidence presented during extensive public hearing on the rezoning request for the proposed Pine Forest development, and has divided them into three categories: proponent, opponent, and neutral, Planning Director Joey Raczkowski told the Commissioners during Tuesday's meeting.

"The time invested in this activity will ensure that we have produced a comprehensive quick reference listing of all speakers, issues, and evidence as we develop the 'findings of fact' associated with this case," Raczkowski said, "and that we will have

addressed all relevant concerns expressed by the public."

He added that the Planning staff is reaching out to colleagues across the state to better understand certain issues that surfaced during the hearing, such as bonding of private wastewater treatment plants.

The Planning staff will present their findings to the Board of Commissioners at a special meeting, open to the public, on Tuesday, May 24 at 5 pm in the Historic Courthouse in Carthage. A final recommendation on Pine Forest from the Planning staff is expected during the Tuesday, June 21 Commissioners' meeting.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Board approved the refusal of Commissioner Larry Caddell, due to a conflict of interest, from the Pine Forest special meeting.

During the Public Comment segment of the meeting, SOS President Joe McDonald "urged the Board to consider" purchasing development rights on some parcels of open land and "to look to the future" when the population increases and the need

for open space and wildlife will become more necessary. McDonald said with funding from the County some individuals could keep their land and preserve it for the future.

Hiring Freeze approved

At the suggestion of Commissioner Kennedy, the Board approved a hiring freeze on all non-essential County vacancies until the FY2011-2012 budget has been set. The freeze would not apply to positions directly impacting citizen safety or public works.

There are currently thirty vacancies, and, Kennedy said, "we are operating fine without them." If a department head feels a position should be

filled they can come to the Board for approval.

The County Manager's proposed FY 2011-2012 budget recommends cutting eight full time positions and one part time position, currently vacant, in an effort to balance the upcoming budget.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

icant experience in management and the building industry, having first begun his professional career in restaurant management before owning and operating his own successful construction business for over twelve years. He also has the unique experience of growing up in Seven Lakes and has a thirty-year history with the community.

"Thank you for allowing me to step in. I will do the best I can this year," said Keyser.

He then shared two timely fortunes he received in cookies from a Chinese meal that he enjoyed earlier in the evening with his family.

"I opened my first cookie and the fortune read, 'There is nothing permanent except change.'" Keyser said. "And then I opened my second cookie, which read, 'To build a better world, start in your community.'"

Davenport Landscaping

Key representatives from Davenport Landscaping were introduced at Monday's Work Session. Only months into a hotly debated three-year contract to provide landscaping maintenance services, Davenport has received many rave reviews and positive comments, reported Community Manager Alina Cochran.

"It is a pleasure to be here,"

said President Damon Davenport, "and we look forward to working both with the Board and the community. This is a beautiful community. It is a place we absolutely enjoy, and something that we are taking a tremendous amount of pride in."

He noted that the on-site crew has been receiving positive and constructive feedback almost on a daily basis.

"It has been very exciting to see things coming together," Davenport said. "We're hoping to have more good turf grass in priority areas. Flowers are also a big deal to us. I want people to feel like they're coming home when they come in the gates. I am tickled to drive in and see how things are growing."

He explained that in addition to the installation of many new flowering plants, the entrance areas are also being mowed twice a week to maintain a crisp appearance.

"We have a ton of ideas; but we want to take our time, do it right and pace ourselves," he said. "We are very open to your comments and suggestions."

During public comment, Frank Hayes, a member of the currently inactive Beautification Committee, expressed appreciation for their work.

"The entrance to Sequoia Point and the North and South gates have been decorated and the place looks one hundred percent better," Hayes said. "It is a pleasure to ride around. Finally, after all these years, it's good to see people do a little planting."

Cochran said many residents had visited the office or made calls in the last few weeks to offer positive feedback. She said one resident admitted that she had opposed outsourced contracts for management and landscaping, and said she had been wrong twice.

"She said she appreciates the changes, even though she didn't want to accept them in the beginning," said Cochran.

Director Bud Shaver, who also opposed the contract, thanked Davenport for their work but reminded residents that any suggestions or ideas should be presented to Community Manager Alina Cochran, rather than directly to Davenport staff.

Sequoia Point

A popular weekend hangout for boaters and families, Sequoia Point is a well-used amenity, but it is also a frequent problem spot for vandalism and security concerns.

Finance Committee member Ed Sanchez addressed the problems during the Work Session's public comment segment. In particular, Sanchez reported recent van-

dalism to his own boat while it was moored at the marina docks.

He said he found ashes and cigarette butts on his boat, adding that a neighbor had contacted security to report kids jumping off his craft — a violation of the rules and also clearly outside of the marked swimming area. Sanchez said security told the neighbor he could not enforce the rules, because he did not know the community rules and had not been given instructions.

"We need to let the community know what is going on around here," Sanchez said. "We pay close to a quarter million dollars on security — let's get something for that quarter million," he demanded.

Addressing a common practice of keeping reports of van-

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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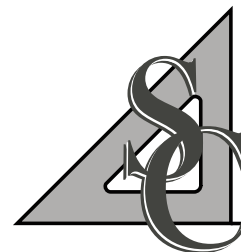
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 26)

dalism and other potentially inflammatory events from publication, he pushed for more openness.

"Let's not hide things that happen here because we don't want to drive people away," Sanchez said. "Because we, the residents, are the ones who suffer."

Director Bob Racine said he was aware that vandalism concerns prompted many boat owners to leave their marina slips vacant except on the weekends, and said one idea under consideration is to remove two of the three gangplanks: leaving one in place that could be securely gated.

During public comment, Frank Hayes also complained that security was lax at Sequoia Point.

"I saw a car drive through the gate and park down by the gazebo," he reported. "They started fishing. I went back an hour later and they were still there fishing with the car parked at the gazebo. Where was security?"

He also noted that a parking post had been knocked down.

Director Shaver responded that Roving Security has very little power to enforce. Their primary role is to watch and report any violations. Shaver said he is also working with state representatives to see if legislation can provide additional powers, such as writing parking tickets.

"We do have a problem," Shaver said, "and what you're talking about, we can't control with security guards. They don't have police authority. They have been told to report any violations they see and the issue will be handled through our Judicial Committee."

Hayes countered that security doesn't need to "hit them over the head with a club." Instead he recommended they should politely tell such violators to move their car.

Parking at Sequoia Point is allowed in the gravel lot near the beach and along Primrose Circle.

Parking is not allowed along Firetree Lane, and only vehi-

cles with handicap permits may park near the gazebo restroom facility.

Echo Dam concern

A Seven Lakes West resident with experience in dam safety issues alerted the Association to a plume of murky water in Lake Sequoia that was emanating from Echo Dam.

"He was very involved with the Auman Dam project and recognized the murky water could be a possible sign of trouble," explained Director Don Fentzlaff.

Fentzlaff said pictures were taken and forwarded to dam engineers S&ME. In addition, peizometer readings will be taken. This information will also help determine the

health of the dam and whether there is any need for alarm.

"It's something we're keeping an eye on," said Fentzlaff.

Streets

Seeking professional advice before moving forward with what could quickly become a multi-million dollar project,

the Board has tasked Cochran with recommending several competent paving engineers to assist the Association with drafting a paving contract and then monitoring progress on the project.

"Neither I nor anyone on this Board is qualified to define what we need to have done to a contractor,"

(See "SLLA," p. 28)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)
explained Shaver.

He said he was correcting some details in his own road analysis and made several recommendations for moving forward, including maintaining a policy that property owners along unpaved community roads should assist with funding a portion of the cost if paving is desired.

In addition, Shaver said he was in favor of paving secondary roads first. He explained that the primary roads may be damaged by heavy trucks moving in and out of the secondary roads, therefore, paving the primary roads later would be beneficial. Shaver said he is currently trying to map out clusters of roads that could potentially be paved at the same time.

Treasurer Meyer compared the approach to how the Association contracts with a dam engineer to provide direction on relevant concerns. He said he also would be in favor of "one stop shopping" with a single engineering firm to draft the road repair specifications and then oversee the project to completion.

"If something comes up, there's only one person to point the finger at," he explained.

A critical decision will be how much paving to do at any one time.

"There's not enough extra in the budget to fund these big paving projects," said Meyer. "We have to decide if we do it piecemeal — a little every year — or do we take out a loan to do it in a big chunk because it will be cheaper [to pave] — but then we will have to pay interest. That's why it is important to get into looking at this: what is it going to cost?"

Shaver reminded the Board that the Reserve Study recommended a monthly reserve of funding set aside to pave in sections rather than borrowing money or approving a special assessment to fund all the paving work at once.

"That's what we're wrestling with," Shaver said. "We want to see what the paving engi-

neer might say versus what the reserve study has recommended. We need an engineering firm to tell us what to do and how to maintain our roads."

Lakes & Dams

The newly reconstituted Lakes & Dams Committee met for the first time this week, Director Fentzlaff reported. Fentzlaff said discussion items would include installation of a sign at the Sequoia Point boat launch that lists a few of the most important rules and regulations concerning boat operation.

He said a similar sign had been located at the launch, but had fallen into disrepair and was eventually removed.

"Because education is our best chance at our rules being observed by as many as possible, we need to get the sign back up," he explained. "We're just hoping it will help."

Also in the works is another boating safety course conducted by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. All

boat operators under the age of twenty-six must have complete this certification, per state law and recently updated community rules.

Any interested residents should contact Cochran at the SLLA office to register.

Northsider Dennis Mueller said education was fine, but stated that more stringent enforcement of the rules was necessary.

"It doesn't help people who live on the lake when you have boats coming outside the buoy line at full speed while towing skiers," said Mueller. "If the Board doesn't determine some way to deal with this stuff, then it will continue to be out of control."

Deb Temple also complained that she has seen families violating the rules and creating hazardous conditions by towing children — sometimes two at a time — outside the ski area.

"We need to prevent a terrible catastrophe," she said.

Fentzlaff said her concern will be discussed by the Lakes

& Dams Committee, adding that he still needs a few more members. Any interested resident should contact him directly.

Northsider George Temple said it was the responsibility of the Boat Patrol officer to take down sticker numbers of boats seen in violation and then turn that information over to the Judicial Committee for review.

However, many seemed in agreement that the current boat stickers are small and difficult to read — particularly when entering the gates on a trailer. A sign at the entrance directs all trailers to the guest lane, but some residents are not adhering

to that restriction.

New stickers for boats will be issued in June, following a slight delay at the printers, explained Cochran.

In a related discussion, several suggested that the Boat Patrol pontoon boat could be more clearly marked as security vessel. In addition, Andy Lowe recommended having a yellow flag affixed to the craft. He explained that, in previous years, a volunteer group of boaters had enforced safe practices on the water and had identified themselves by yellow flags.

Tom Zaleski also made a well-received suggestion that all registered boat owners

(See "SLLA," p. 29)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 28)

should be invited to attend a meeting called specifically to cover the many safety and boat related concerns that were presented.

"The vast majority of our boat owners follow the law," Director Shaver said. "It is only a minority that is not doing what is right. I feel that pulling in all the owners for a discussion is a good idea. Perhaps there may be a little more policing on the lake by other boat owners."

However, he cautioned against a suggestion to reform the volunteer boat patrol, especially since so many recent incidents have involved drunken operators.

"We don't want a resident to get in conflict with someone who has been drinking," he cautioned.

Lake chemicals

Chemicals will be sprayed in the lakes over the next few days and residents are urged not to swim for at least 24-48 hours or irrigate for the next five days.

The Spraying schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, May 11 - Big Juniper and Lake Sequoia
- Thursday, May 12 - Echo Lake, Longleaf Lake, and Little Juniper
- Friday, May 13 - Timber Lake, Dogwood, and Lake Ramapo.

Northsider Ron Erskine recommended that "No Swimming" signs should be posted at public beaches at those locations during the restricted period.

Cochran reported the chemicals will be applied by in-house maintenance staff who have been certified for aquatics and ground maintenance. In addition, she thanked those staff members for also undertaking and completing Certified Pool Operator training.

Grounds and Maintenance

Several minor capital projects have been completed recently, reported Cochran, including replacement of a portion of the stables roof, significant repairs to the North Clubhouse roof,

replacement of the window frames at the Clubhouse that were damaged by termites.

In addition, self-latching doors were installed at the Clubhouse to comply with new state legislation for pool areas, the parking area at Sequoia Point was graded and new gravel installed, and new sand was added to the playground and beach areas.

Management evaluation

Emphasizing Talis' primary responsibility for financial services to the Association, Shaver distributed copies of a draft document that he proposed should be used to evaluate Talis Management and the performance of Community Manager Alina Cochran.

Shaver recommended that the draft should be finalized by Treasurer Meyer following a meeting with Cochran to help define what she feels she should be held responsible for — based on the two page contract with Talis.

Meyer agreed, but added that a thorough evaluation must also include a review and study of other areas of performance in addition to financial considerations.

List of tabled items

Secretary Bob Racine presided over the Work Session meeting for SLLA President Bob Darr, who was unable to attend because of a death in his family.

Because of Darr's absence, many agenda items were tabled, including discussion of By Laws concerning Board meetings, a central Board email address, windshield stickers for Westside residents, and security cameras.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, May 9, the SLLA Board:

- Appointed Jane Lowe to serve on the Judicial Committee, to replace Ken Keating who recently resigned.
- Appointed Richard Weber as the alternate member of the Judicial Committee, to replace Bob Racine who resigned following his election to the Board.
- Heard from Cochran that she is waiting for additional information on a drainage solution for a location at Overlook.
- Heard a request from Jim Allen to develop a formalized follow-up mechanism, other than meeting minutes, for

issues under discussion. He commended the Board's efforts to create a more open forum for input, but said such action would not be as effective without a follow up communication.

- Heard from Director Fentzlaiff that he is drafting a simple explanation of responsibilities for the ARB Chair, committee members, and management. "If someone came in here cold, there is nothing in place to help clarify who is responsible for what," he explained. "With this in place, in the future, we would be able to move right in with a brand new crew."

- Heard from Southsider Tom Zaleski that a section of new pavement has created a "speed bump" on Hastings Drive near the ninth tee. Cochran explained the bump was intentional, to prevent an eventual dip in the road because the repair work at that location is anticipated to settle.

- Heard from former ARB Director Donna Stephan that community rules are not being followed that require that, whenever possible, water lines should go under the road.

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Seven Lakes Times
May 13, 2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

J&R LANDSCAPING – for your landscaping needs. Fully licensed & insured. 910-944-7331.

LAWN DEBRIS REMOVAL – You pile it; I'll pick it up. \$25 monthly. Fallen Leaf Lawn Care, Randy Dowd. Cell: 528-6143. Home: 947-3366.

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SIX POINT ROOF TUNE UP – Call Mike at 910-986-3732. 6/10 3/18

JOHN KELLY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR LLC – 25 yrs of experience, no job too small. Seven Lakes resident. Call 673-1605.

HASICK PAINTING & SMALL MAINTENANCE JOBS – 30 years experience, 24 years 7 Lakes resident. 673-1952 or 910-813-7253. No Job too small.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Advertise in The Times

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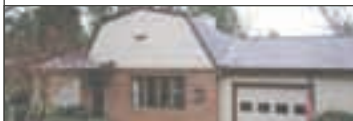
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