

## West Side Board votes to build new mailhouse

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter

Westsidiers will continue to be able to collect their mail at a facility within the gates, rather than renting a Post Office box in West End, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors decided Tuesday evening, June 28.

The Board, during a regular work session, unanimously approved a recommendation by the Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee to move forward with constructing a new mailhouse or mailhouses in Seven Lakes West, and also approved an expenditure of up to \$25,000 for study and design to determine the appropriate number and size of mail facilities.

After the Board made the issue of mail delivery “a mat-

ter of significant interest,” the LRP Committee held a town hall meeting on the matter, as well as collecting additional feedback from members that suggested about 85 percent of the community is in favor of onsite

and placement.

- Focus on convenience and safety.
- Recognize that the mailhouse serves as a community meeting place.
- Simplify the current box numbering system by using street addresses.
- Increase box size and enhance parcel handling.
- Incorporate a flexible design to accommodate future changes at the Postal Service.

Before the motion was approved, Westsider Bill Price encouraged the Board to move forward with the project, saying the “community has expressed itself . . . Move ahead with it and not let it get buried in a committee some place.”

Westside resident Joel Martin said he would like to see street addresses used instead (See “Westside,” p. 27)

mail delivery, according to LRP member Ron Shepard.

The LRP’s report delivered during Tuesday’s meeting said the group had received “many excellent comments from the Community concerning the type, number and locations for the potential new mail house(s),” including suggestions that the design should:

- Be cost effective in design

West Side Landowners  
6/28 Meeting

## 7 Lakes & Foxfire are changing – New Census data shows how

The US Census Bureau has released new data on Seven Lakes and Moore County from the 2010 Census.

So, guess what age group is the fastest-growing in Seven Lakes . . . Write down your guess . . .

And then turn to page 4 for the answer.

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## Little guy, big fish



Jack Lynn helps grandson Caleb show off a big bass the youngster caught in Longleaf Lake.

## Mother asks Board for domestic violence policy

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Wednesday, June 29 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] began with an impassioned plea from a mother that the Association develop better options for dealing with security issues raised by domestic violence. The woman recounted how she, her adult daughter, and a grandchild were unable to secure assurances from Talis Management or Security Forces Inc. that the daughter’s husband would not be allowed to enter the community, even after obtaining a

restraining order and an eviction notice regarding the husband.

Having the husband’s barcode deactivated required a call to Talis headquarters in

seemed not to appreciate the seriousness of the situation.

“They did not seem to understand that they should call the Sheriff — and try to reach us, if he tried to enter the community,” she explained. “The gate guard was very flippant with me. She said she couldn’t guarantee, if it

got busy, that he wouldn’t get through.”

“As landowners, we should not have to fight the homeowners staff and security to (See “SLLA,” p. 16)

Seven Lakes Landowners  
6/29 Association Meeting

Raleigh, the woman said. Obtaining cooperation from front gate personnel required dealing with the Landowners Office — and even then, the woman said, the gate guard

# Deputies nab two for drugs in Family Dollar lot

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Moore County Sheriff's Officers arrested an Eagle Springs mother and son in the parking lot of the Seven Lakes Dollar General store on Wednesday, June 29, on charges related to trafficking in prescription medications.

Brandon Monroe Duncan, 26, and his mother Laura Ann Duncan, 48, both of 275 Dorilee Lane in Eagle Springs were caught with 115 dosage units of Roxicodone, 24 dosage units of Alprazolam

pills, and \$630.00 in U. S. currency, according to a press release from Sheriff Lane Carter's Drug Enforcement unit. The investigation revealed that the prescription medications were obtained from doctors in Maryland and Florida and then brought back to Moore County.

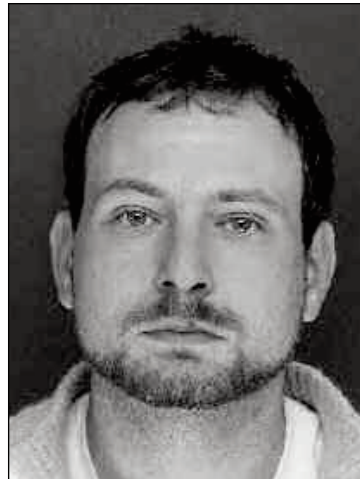
Officers searching the residence at 275 Dorilee Lane in Eagle Springs reportedly found a sawed-off shotgun, a .22-calibre handgun, drug paraphernalia, and \$591 in cash. The Sheriff's office esti-

mated the street value of the prescription drugs at \$3,200.

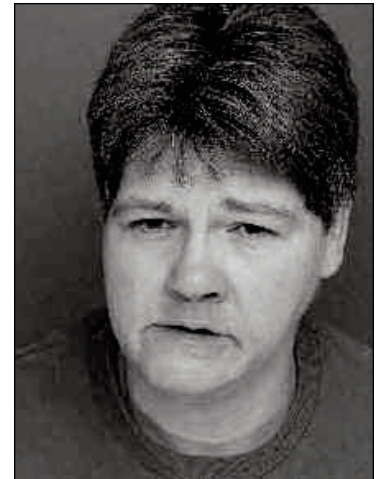
Both Duncans face multiple felony counts related to trafficking in opiates; Brandon Duncan was also charged with felony possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Both were placed in the Moore County Detention Center — Brandon Duncan with a \$50,000 secured bond and Laura Duncan with a \$15,000 secured bond.

The Sheriff's Office indicates additional charges are pending in the case.



Brandon Duncan



Laura Duncan

## 2nd Saturdays at Museum of the Cape Fear

Families are always on the lookout for things to do that don't break their budget. 2nd Saturdays 2011 combine arts and heritage with food and fun on July 9, and August 13 at all 37 museums and

Historic Sites. The Museum of the Cape Fear will sponsor 2nd Saturdays, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Cape Fear Basket Makers Association, Hoke Co. Beekeepers, author Ron Gable from Parkton, and artist Kevin Gregory, will be on site. Museum staff will have "make it, take it" stations where visitors can weave on a hand loom to make a bracelet or bookmark,

make a small hand-dipped candle from beeswax, and paint a watercolor picture. In addition, visitors will delight in the aroma coming from the Poe House kitchen where fritters frying on the 1902 stove will entice them to a taste test.

"The 2nd Saturdays events are an initiative by the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources to spur economic stimulus through the creative industry,

such as cultural tourism and the arts, says Leisa Greathouse, Curator of Education at the museum. "Therefore, this is an opportunity for the public to see the wealth of culture and arts in the community and the artists and cultural vendors can find new audiences for their work," adds Greathouse.

Admission to the event is

Free!

For more information about the museum, call 910-486-1330 or access [www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov](http://www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov)

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, located on the corner of Bradford and Arsenal avenues in Fayetteville, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm.

### CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

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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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# Landowners challenge Aeromodelers' permit

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

"It ain't over, 'til it's over," Yogi Berra said, and members of the Seven Lakes Aeromodelers Club can definitely testify to the truth of that tautology.

The Club's county-issued permit to fly their planes in a rural area near West End is being appealed to Moore County's Board of Adjustment by a Fayetteville attorney representing the Raleigh owners of an adjacent property.

The hearing, expected to take place on Wednesday, July 27, is the latest chapter in a saga that began when the two-dozen Aeromodelers decided to look for a home to call their own.

## Looking for a home

The model airplane club, which has been around for more than 25 years, flew their planes from the old airstrip in Seven Lakes West for a number of years, and then moved their regular sessions to a field near Samarkand in the far western end of the county, President Bill Sherman of Pinewild told *The Times*.

After researching a number of possible locations, the club last Fall leased 14 acres on NC Highway 73 in West End as an area for takeoffs and landings, flying their planes over an adjacent 60-acre hayfield.

Literally before the Aeromodelers could get off the ground at the new location, adjacent property owners Samuel A. Blackwell, III, and Elizabeth Blackwell, of Raleigh, filed a complaint that brought the club and its plan to the attention of the Moore County Planning Department. The Blackwells purchased their property in January of last year.

Realizing that the Moore County Zoning Ordinance had no provision for the flying of model airplanes, the Planning Staff asked the Planning Board to consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would define flying model airplanes as one among a number of outdoor recreation

uses allowed in certain zoning districts.

The idea of re-engineering the ordinance to deal with a complaint generated strenuous objections from the Blackwell's attorney, Neil Yarborough, of Fayetteville, during an April 7 Planning Board meeting. Board members also questioned the wisdom of trying to define, in the Zoning Ordinance, every possible type of outdoor recreation, including the flying of model airplanes.

After consultation with County Attorney Misty Leland, Planning Director Joey Raczkowski advised the Aeromodelers that what they needed was not a re-write of county ordinances, but simply a zoning permit required for the private, non-profit club to meet on the West End property. "Club (Private Nonprofit)" is already a permitted use in the RA-5 zoning

district that applies to the property.

## Permit granted, and appealed

The Aeromodelers filed their application and obtained the zoning permit, including the right to erect a small shelter on the property. Yarborough, on behalf of his clients, has appealed that permit, Planning Director Raczkowski's interpretation of the zoning and land use ordinances, and his decision not to pursue the zoning violation alleged in the original complaint. The task of adjudicating the appeal will fall to the County's Board of Adjustment, a five member committee (with two alternates) appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Raczkowski told *The Times* that any decision he makes in his role as Zoning Administrator can be appealed to

the Board of Adjustment. The hearing of that appeal is a quasi-judicial process; witnesses will give testimony under oath, and the Board will rule on the merits of the case.

Any appeal beyond the Board of Adjustment would go first to Superior Court, and then work its way up the appellate levels of the NC Courts system, Raczkowski explained.

But any hearing before the court would be focused more on whether due process was followed than on the merits of the complaint. The Planning Director said, in his fifteen years serving in that capacity in North Carolina, he has had only one decision appealed to Superior Court.

## Still flying

Meanwhile the Aeromodelers are in a bit of legal limbo. The construction of a shelter on the West End property is on hold, President Sherman told *The Times*. But they are still flying their planes on Wednesday and Friday mornings, from 9:00 am to Noon. For now, those are the only days the Club flies, though Sherman told *The Times* they'd like to be able to fly every day of the week, though restricting weekend flights to nearly silent electric planes.

Sherman said about 30 percent of the planes the group flies are electric; the remainder use glow engines, which he said were much

(See "Aeromodelers," p. 26)

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# 2010 Census reveals big changes in 7 Lakes

What's the fastest growing age group in Seven Lakes?

Go on, take a guess.

Kids? Excellent guess. After all, hardly a landowners association election goes by that doesn't have one board candidate or another talking

about how many more families with kids there are.

But, sorry. Smart answer, but wrong answer.

55-60 year olds?

Another smart answer. After all, the baby boom peaked in 1956 — and those babies

will make their double-nickel this year.

Very smart. But, no dice.

The fastest-growing age group in Seven Lakes? Adults 85-plus. A combination of modern medical miracles and the aging of the pioneers who

settled this burg means the oldest age group reported by the US Census Bureau is also the fastest-growing in Seven Lakes. The number of adults 85 and older in Seven Lakes nearly quadrupled from 2000 to 2010, according to new data from the US Census Bureau.

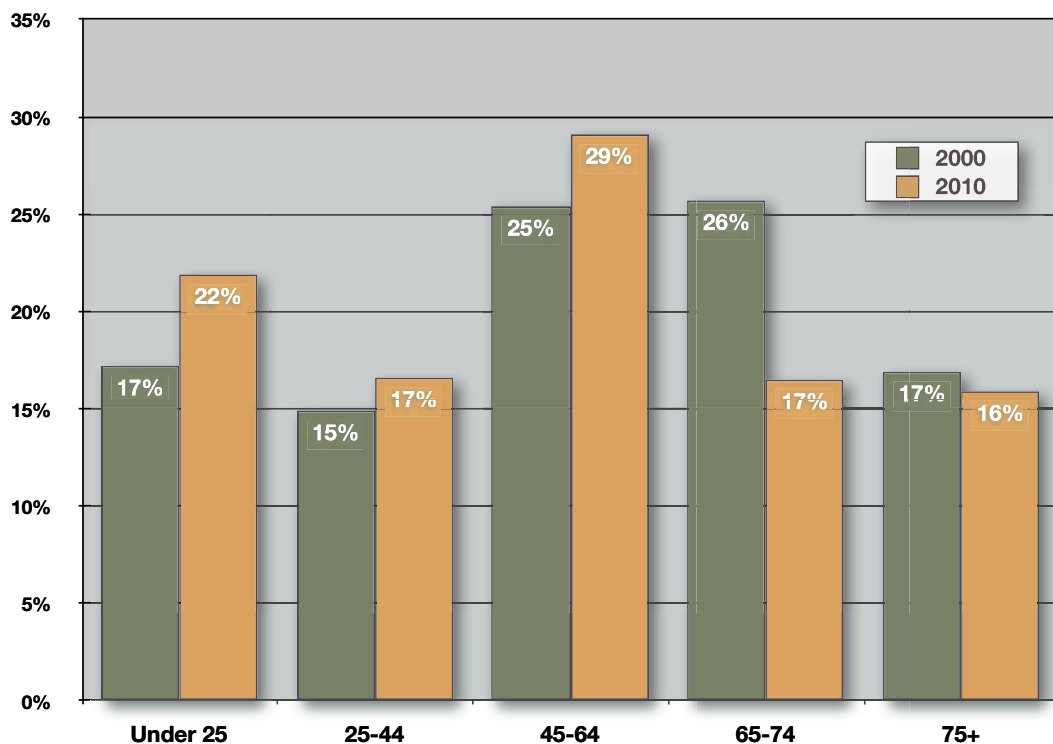
Of course, those modern medical miracles work for only a small sliver of the population. Though their ranks are growing rapidly, the most

senior of our citizens increased in number from just 41 in the year 2000 to 157 in 2010. They account for a mere three percent of the population in Seven Lakes.

"Kids," in contrast, now make up 18 percent of all Lakers — 22 percent if you include those 20-24 year olds, many of whom may have flown back to the nest after college. Looking at Seven

(Continued on page 5)

Seven Lakes Age Groups as Percent of Total Population



65-74 year-olds declined markedly as a percentage of the Seven Lakes population from 2000 to 2010.

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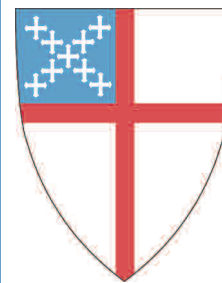
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# and more 'young folks' moving to Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)

Lakes households, 22 percent include children under the age of 18, up from 18 percent in 2000.

At the other end of the age scale, ten years ago, 43 percent of Lakers were aged 65 or older, by the time of the 2010 census, that percentage had dropped to 33 percent. Most of that drop came among younger retirees, those aged 65-74, who made up 26 percent of all Lakers in 2000, but are now just 17 percent.

The end result of this growth on either end of the age spectrum was an overall lowering of the median age in Seven Lakes, from 60.4 years in 2000 to 54.4 years in 2010. That is still a bit older than the 45.0 median age for the county as a whole. Seven Lakes is not, however, the "oldest" of the County's communities. The median age in Pinehurst is 57.6 years, down from 60.4 in the year 2000.

Most Seven Lakes households are classified by the Census Bureau as "families." Families made up 82 percent of Seven Lakes households in 2000 and account for 80 percent in the 2010 Census tables. The average Seven

Lakes family size is 2.63 persons, up from 2.47 in 2000.

Folks living alone comprise 18 percent of the community's households, and, of those singles, more than two-thirds are aged 65 or older.

Of the 2,089 housing units census workers found in Seven Lakes, 139, or 6.7 percent, were occupied by renters.

## Foxfire Village

The age profile of Foxfire Village has changed even more dramatically than that of Seven Lakes over the past ten years.

Foxfire has seen substantial growth in the past decade, seeing its population nearly double, from 474 in 2000 to 902 in the 2010 Census results.

Middle-aged families have accounted for much of that growth. Adults over the age of 65 once made up nearly half of all Village residents. But those of retirement age now account for only 30 percent.

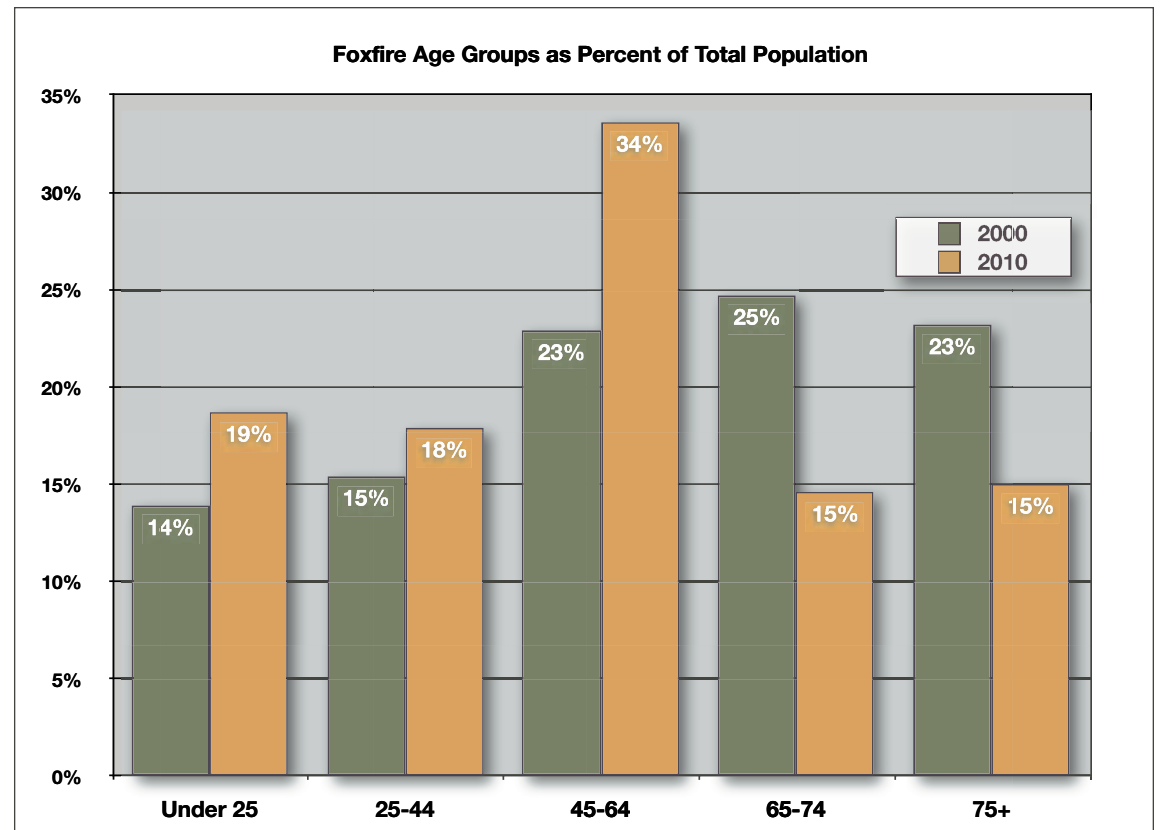
Meanwhile, the number of 45-64 year-olds has rocketed from 23 percent to 34 percent of the population, and the number of folks under the age of 25 has jumped by five percentage points. As a result,

the median age in the Village has dropped by ten years — from 64 to 54.

Families with children under the age of 18 were 12 percent of Village households

in 2000, but are now 16 percent.

(See "Census," p. 6)



Adults aged 65 and older dropped from nearly 50% of Foxfire Village's population to only 30% from 2000 to 2010.

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# Coyotes, bears, and wild hogs, oh my!

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

A couple of weeks ago, Westsider Ann Kunce was walking her two dogs near her Morgan Wood home when, to her surprise, a couple of coyotes ran across the road in front of her and the Labs. The larger, stronger Lab pulled out of her leash and took off in hot pursuit.

"After hearing sounds of barking and howling," Kunce told *The Times*, "I suddenly heard a lot of rustling in the leaves from them running and my chocolate lab comes running out of the woods with both coyotes right behind her."

"She came running to me, (where I was still holding the other dog's leash) and they kept coming, only to stop about 25 feet from where I was standing. They froze for a moment, then turned and headed back in the woods beside my neighbor's house."

The experience was frightening, Kunce said, but it may be an increasingly common experience in Seven Lakes West. Thirty years ago, coyotes were present only in the westernmost of North Carolina counties. But, according to North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] Piedmont

Wildlife Diversity Specialist Jeff Marcus, the adaptable canines have now spread to all one hundred counties in the state, including Moore County.

Taking the very long view, they are here because, in centuries past, settlers, farmers, and pressure from development wiped out the wolves that formerly occupied the ecological niche that coyotes are now beginning to fill.

## The key: keep them wary

Kunce's experience was fairly typical: coyotes are wary of humans, but more curious and not as skittish as, for example, deer or bears. She told *The Times* that she has since learned that other neighbors have seen coyotes — and that some folks are carrying pistols as they walk in the undeveloped areas around Morgan Wood.

The single most important precaution humans can take in co-existing with coyotes, Marcus told *The Times*, is to make sure the animals stay wary. Ideally, in Kunce's encounter, as she and the coyotes stood sizing each other up, she would have done something to frighten them — throw a tennis ball

or some other object at them or yell at them in a commanding voice, for example.

The worst mistake humans can make is to allow the local coyotes to lose their fear of humans and their houses. The NCWRC cautions against attempting to feed or pet coyotes — and against unintentionally feeding them by leaving pet food outdoors or failing to secure garbage cans.

Coyotes are omnivores, snacking on everything from rabbits to roadkill, watermelon to that half-eaten Big Mac someone threw out of the car window.

Here are some NCWRC tips for keeping them away from your house:

- Secure garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids, and take them out in the morning of pick up, not the night before.
- Feed pets indoors or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside.
- Keep bird-feeder areas clean. Use bird feeders that keep seed off the ground. Coyotes are attracted to small animals congregating on the ground.
- Close off crawl spaces under sheds and porches. Coyotes and other wildlife may use

these spaces for resting and raising young.

- Cut back brushy edges in your yard, which provide cover for coyotes.
  - Don't be intimidated by a coyote. Maintain its wariness by throwing a small object, such as a tennis ball, at it, making a loud noise or spraying it with a hose. Let it know it is unwelcome near your home.
  - Clear fallen fruit from around fruit trees.
- A final precaution: don't let your small dog or cat roam outdoors alone. Coyotes are predators, and will just as happily pick off Mittens or Spot as a young rabbit.

## Can we get rid of them?

Marcus told *The Times* that any effort to eliminate coyotes from an area in which they have settled is unlikely to be successful in the long term.

You'd have a hard time trapping them out," Marcus said, explaining that coyotes will respond to a decrease in population number by breeding at a younger age and rearing more pups.

If coyotes are present in a

particular location, it's likely because they've found it to be a good place to set up shop, with ample water, food, and habitat.

"The most important thing in keeping coyotes away from people," Marcus said, "is to eliminate any food sources around the home — so that they don't keep coming back and lose their innate fear of humans."

## And bears, no less!

In addition to sightings of coyotes by Kunce and her neighbors, a black bear was reportedly sighted on James Drive recently, leading to a fruitless search by Westside Security Director Jim McCarthy and some Moore County Sheriff's Officers. Another bear — or perhaps the same bear — was spotted in Southern Pines last week-end.

Marcus explained that, as far as NCWRC biologists have been able to determine, there is no breeding population of black bears in Moore County — or elsewhere in the Sandhills. There are well-established breeding populations

(See "Coyote," p. 15)

## Census

(Continued from page 5)

2010 Census tables show that a surprising 30 percent of Foxfire households are single-person households — 44 percent of those householders are over the age of 65. As a result, average household size in Foxfire is just 2.06 persons — the lowest in Moore County, though only one one-hundredth of a person smaller than Southern pines, at 2.07 persons per household.

The percentage of Village housing units occupied by renters is up sharply since 2000. The 2010 Census puts renter-occupied units at 27 percent, up from 13 percent in 2000.



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# Pinecrest seniors win US Kids Golf scholarships



**Pinecrest Seniors Kate Hieronymus & Evan Sherwood flank Richard Lawson, Chairman of the US Kids Golf World Championship volunteers**

Westsider Evan Sherwood was one of two members of the 2011 Pinecrest High School graduating class awarded the second US Kids Golf Foundation Volunteer Scholarships. Sherwood and Kate Hieronymus each received a \$750 scholarship.

Richard Lawson, Chairman of the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship Volunteers, presented the scholarships in honor and recognition of the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship volunteers during Senior Awards night.

This will mark the sixth year that U.S. Kids Golf, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, has held the World Golf Championships on many of the Pinehurst area courses. More than 700 volunteers help with the tournaments

each August.

The scholarships were presented to one female and one male student who have demonstrated exceptional citizenship, community service, willingness to serve as a volunteer, and extracurricular activities.

Dewey Crim, Chairman of the US Kids Golf Foundation, commended the student winners.

"Kate and Evan are a wonderful embodiment of what the U.S. Kids Golf Foundation stands for," said Crim. "Through this scholarship, we are pleased to pay tribute to the countless number of hardworking volunteers, without whom the World Championship would not be possible."

Sherwood is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Student Government Association and very involved in his school and community. He has performed in three Pinecrest theatre productions, and most recently,

Sherwood has been active in a fund-raising effort to help a local student acquire a seeing-eye dog through his

affiliation with MIRA, an organization which helps young visually-challenged teens acquire these dogs. Sherwood will attend UNC-Chapel Hill as a Business and Exercise and Sport Science major.

Hieronymus has a strong belief in giving back to her community, and in doing so, she has volunteered with the Sandhills Coalition, local nursing homes, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, US Kids Golf Tournament, and in local elementary schools. As a student athlete, Hieronymus has been captain of the ladies' soccer team, a volunteer coach for a youth soccer team, and served her church in many capacities. Last summer she completed a 10 day mission trip to Guatemala. She will attend UNC-Chapel Hill as a NC Teaching Fellow in the fall.

The mission of the U.S. Kids Golf Foundation is to introduce, develop, and enhance the opportunities for kids to play the game of golf through instruction, positive family interaction and competitive play.

## McClung to co-chair Thrift Shop

Seven Lakes resident Donna McClung has been elected Co-Chair of the Emmanuel Thrift Shop in Southern Pines which is affil-

iated with Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Donna is a member of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Seven Lakes.


Begun in 1932, the Thrift Shop serves the Sandhills community by providing funds generated by the sale of donated clothing and household items to charitable organizations. In 2010, the Thrift Shop contributed nearly \$40,000 to local non-profits like the Literacy Council and Backpack Pals.

The Thrift Shop is staffed completely by volunteers – many of whom have years of service to this mission of the church.

Other members of St. Mary Magdalene who volunteer at Emmanuel Thrift Shop are: Teeny Thompson, Martha Ragland, Jeanne Helmstetter, and Phyllis Olson.



**Donna McClung**



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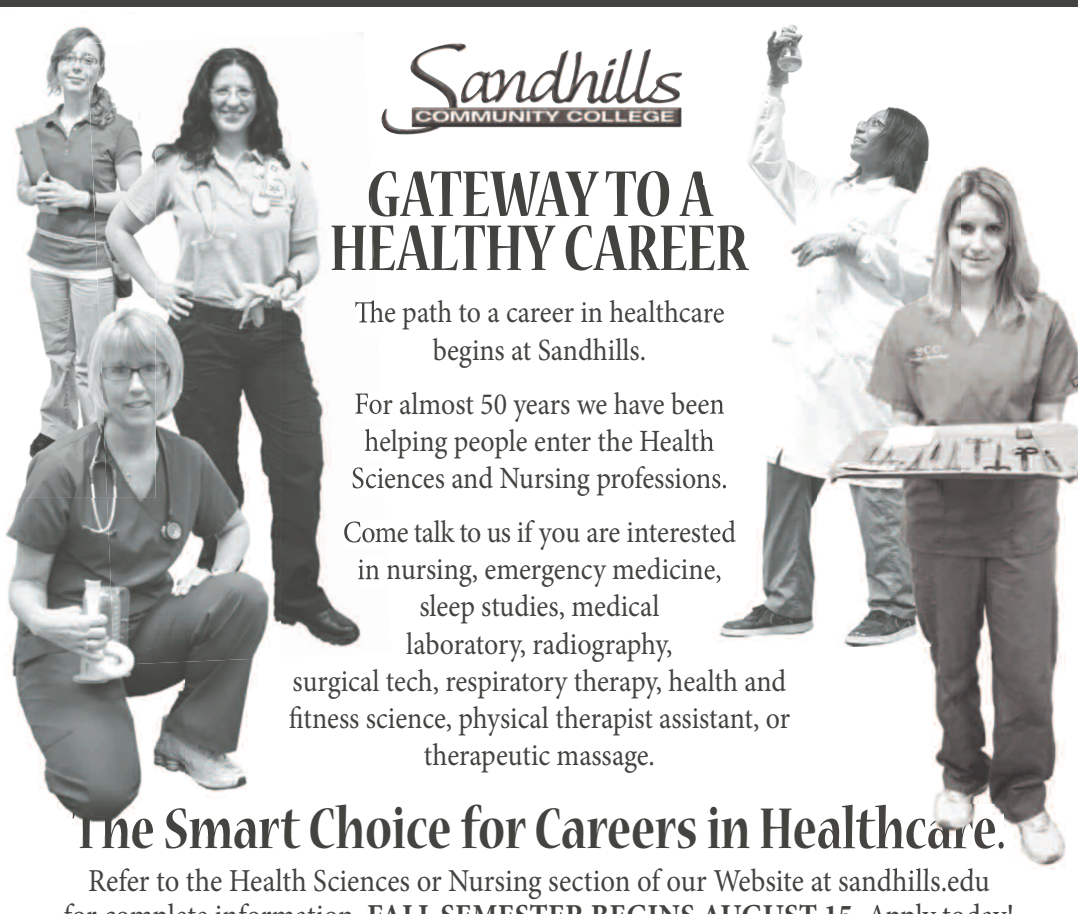
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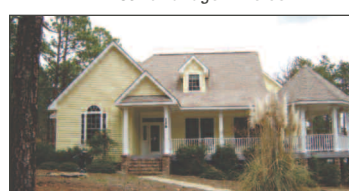
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# Goldie Toon – a brand new US Citizen

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Just in time to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, popular local chef Goldie Toon has a most personal reason to celebrate a bit more this year: she became a United States citizen.

"Citizenship was never really a big issue for me; but now that it's done, I'm very happy," she told *The Times*.

On the last Friday of June, Toon went to Raleigh to join forty-eight applicants, representing twenty countries, in reciting the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.

But it was simply a glitch in renewing her driver's license this past Spring that finally set the wheels of citizenship in motion.

"About ten years ago, I started the process; but then I opened my business and it was put on the backburner," explained Toon.

That business, of course, is the well-known Goldie's Gourmet in West End, which provides packaged dinners, soups, salads, and desserts, in addition to catering services.

Born in the Belgian Congo, where her father owned a coffee plantation, Toon was just a young girl, when that African nation gained their independence and her family

was forced to leave. Rather than settle back in Belgium, her father began farming Belgium endive in New Jersey and, later, served as the head gardener for many years on the Doris Duke estate.

"My father can grow anything," explained Toon. Give him some dirt and he will make something grow out of it. And that's what he did: every morning he got up and did what he loved to do."

As the eldest daughter of five children, Toon didn't get to spend a lot of time playing in the dirt, but was instead busy helping her mother in the kitchen.

"I hated it," she laughed. "My mother was a very good cook. Every day she would make soup. With five children, she needed it to fill us up."

Once in college, Toon vowed to stay out of the kitchen; but when friends started hosting dinner parties she couldn't resist trying her hand at it . . . because she knew she could do better.

"It just sort of evolved into catering," said Toon. "I'm just passionate about food. I wake up thinking about what I'm going to make and eat. I read cook books all the time and I am always curious to try different things."

While her mother taught

her the basics, Toon describes herself as a self-taught chef.

"There is a misconception that all chefs go to culinary school. Passion in cooking is a lot more important than schooling," she said. "Anyone can follow a cook book and read a recipe, but without love it won't taste the same."

Together with her husband, Alan, Toon lived in Orlando, Florida, for eighteen years, where she was a personal chef and then caterer, before settling in Southern Pines and then Seven Lakes North.

Seven years ago, the couple opened Goldie's Gourmet — and have since enjoyed a thriving business that offers an ever-changing seasonal menu of delicious daily soups and dinners.

"Every time I make something, I want to try to make it better than ever before,"

said Toon. "I think that is what keeps me in business. I love it! It's not just for the sake of an income. You have to have passion for what you do."

Goldie's Gourmet is located

on Highway 211 in West End near the post office and is open Monday to Friday from 11:00 am to 6:30 pm. Delivery services are available, please call 673-2211 for more information.



Brand new US Citizen Goldie Toon

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# In memory of . . .

**John A. Lawkins**, 89, of Seven Lakes, died June 20 at University Health Systems, Inpatient Hospice, Greenville.

Mr. Lawkins was born in Bayside, NY. He attended Bayside High School, went on to the University of Iowa and later graduated cum laude from Queens College, NY. He served in the US Army Corps in navigation and in 1950 served in Greenland as an agent with a criminal investigation detachment.

He worked for Equifax Corporation for 26 years and then for Chrysler Military Sales in Woodbury, NY until he retired in 1983.

Mr. Lawkins and his wife Pauline moved to North Carolina in 1992.

Funeral mass was held on Thursday, July 21 at Our Lady of Americas Roman Catholic Church, Candor. Father Ricardo Sanchez officiated. Burial will be at a later date in Jamesville, NC.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline on April 3, 2011.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Mr. John Lawkins to Our Lady

of the Americas Roman Catholic Church, PO Box 519, Candor, NC 27229.

**Virginia Wolf Powers**, 88, of Seven Lakes, died Wednesday, June 29, at Penick Village, Southern Pines. A memorial service will be held at the Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes at a later date. Committal will be in the Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Mrs. Powers was born in Pittsburgh, daughter of the late Walter Gustave Leo Wolf and Florentine Sophia Schell Wolf. Prior to her retirement, she was secretary and treasurer of the S. Howe Company, a small manufacturer in Silver Creek, NY.

As an active volunteer, Mrs. Powers worked during World War II with the Salvation Army in Pittsburgh. She later continued her involvement with the Salvation Army in Syracuse, NY. She was a member of the board for the Seven Lakes Townhouse Association.

Mrs. Powers was preceded in death by her husband, David R. Powers. Survivors include four children: James

Powers and wife, Lill; Joanne Urban; Richard Powers; and Wendy Powers; ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Chapel in the Pines, 921 Seven Lakes North, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

**Meredith Eltschlager** of Foxfire Village, died on Monday, June 20 in her home.

She was born in Annapolis, Maryland, daughter of Capt. Malcolm S. MacNichol, USN (Ret.) and Joette C. MacNichol.

Mrs. Eltschlager was a graduate of Meade High School at Fort Meade, Maryland and received her BA in English from Lynchburg College.

Survivors include her husband of nineteen years, John, and her children, Spencer and Lisl, as well as her parents, also of Foxfire Village; brother, Duncan MacNichol, of Charlotte, NC.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, June 25 at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes.

Memorial contributions be

made in Meredith Eltschlager's name to the Interstitial Cystitis Association

(www.ichelp.org) on their website or to: PO Box 17522, Baltimore, MD 21297-1522.

## Smart Computing

by **Bill Beardslee**

Seven Lakes Computer Club

*Smart Computing* magazine was the topic at the final meeting of the year for the Seven Lakes Computer Club. The magazine covers the gamut or personal computer and consumer electronic topics in plain, nontechnical language which is very easy to follow. Those topics include: Product reviews; Tech support; Software updates; Quick studies on new electronics; Readers solutions to common problems; and a monthly section for Mac users. The current issue of the magazine was given to each member.

There is also a very valuable "Archives" section online with a search tool where someone with a problem or interest can research for a solution or direction. The magazine

is available in either print or electronic format from Sandhills Publishing Company at (800) 424-7900, or online at [www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com).

Thanks was given to Al Nichols and Bob Woollard

for their service to the club as they move on to other interests. They have been the backbone of the club for many years.

The next meeting of the club will be September 13, at 3 pm.



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# Save Our Sandhills to host 'fracking' discussion

Save Our Sandhills will host a forum on fracking for shale gas in North Carolina on Thursday, July 28 at 7 pm, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The forum will follow up the recent local screening of the movie *GASLAND* with an open question-and-answer panel discussion that will feature Senator Harris Blake and Representative Jamie Boles explaining their support for North Carolina's Senate Bill 709 and House Bill 242. Both bills, in slightly different ways, take the first steps towards allowing "fracking" for shale gas in the state.

Senate Bill 709 was opposed by the environmental community and vetoed by Governor Bev Perdue, but the General Assembly may attempt to override that veto when they reconvene later this month. House Bill 242, which takes a more cautious approach to fracking, was signed by the Governor.

## Moore County may have shale gas deposits

There is a natural gas drilling boom sweeping across the United States, and it is about to reach Lee County and northern Moore County. Geologists believe that there is a major sub-basin of natural gas that extends from Granville County above Durham southward through the Sanford area and into Moore County to the vicinity of Carthage. It's been esti-

mated that this area could yield as much as a 40-year supply of natural gas.

Fracking of natural gas wells would take place in northern Moore County within the Triassic Deep River Basin/Sanford Sub-basin.

We keep hearing that fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, has been around for decades. Therefore, why the big fuss now?

Until recently, natural gas drilling consisted of "vertical" wells being drilled or fracked in order to retrieve the gas from porous rocks such as limestone and sandstone. Other gas in tight rock formations, such as shale, tight sand and coal beds, was uneconomical to extract until fracking with "horizontal" wells was conceived.

This method of drilling involves injecting more than a million gallons of water and sand, along with a mix of chemicals under high pressure into the rock formation to release the gas.

Both fracking and horizontal drilling are currently prohibited by state law in North Carolina, but House Bill 242 and Senate Bill 709 would set the state on a path to lifting those prohibitions.

## Process uses large amounts of water

Water is a perennial concern in the Sandhills, both in terms of quantity and quality. In fact, Moore County finds it necessary to garner water outside of its borders.

North Carolina has yet to

create a statewide water management system. As a result, users who consume over 100,000 gallons of water of day must merely document what they use. They are not restricted in any way.

In addition to Senator Blake and Representative Boles, the SOS forum will feature experts including an attorney from Southern Environmental Law Center and a mineral rights coordinator from Rural Advancement Foundation International.

The panel is expected to address questions and concerns including:

- What are the true economic benefits and costs of shale gas drilling?
- What potential does the shale gas industry have to create jobs, as well as royalty payments to landowners?
- Given the tremendous amounts of water required for the fracking process, who gets first rights to water: drillers, farmers, residents, other businesses? Is there enough water to go around?

• Could our ground water and, therefore, our drinking water be contaminated by chemicals?

• Would drillers be required to treat the wastewater produced by the fracking process? If so, would wastewater treatment plants be apprised of all the chemicals in order to know how — and whether — the water can be treated?

• What will be the environmental effects of the fracking wastewater containment ponds?

As more and more natural gas reserves are discovered in the US, these questions are being raised — and answered in different ways — in states from North Dako-

ta to Texas, New York, and Pennsylvania.

With two "fracking" bills passed in North Carolina's General Assembly — and one signed by the governor — citizens need to become informed about the issues surrounding fracking.

The SOS forum on fracking will meet Thursday, July 28 at 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

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## SLWLA COMMUNITY NOTICE MORE CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association plans to replace eight more roadway culverts from late May through early August.

**Four locations can accommodate detours. Four will require that part of the community use the back gate while others use the front gate; a temporary guard will man the back gate during these repairs.**

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

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July 13 – July 21

Barricade - Guard at Back Gate

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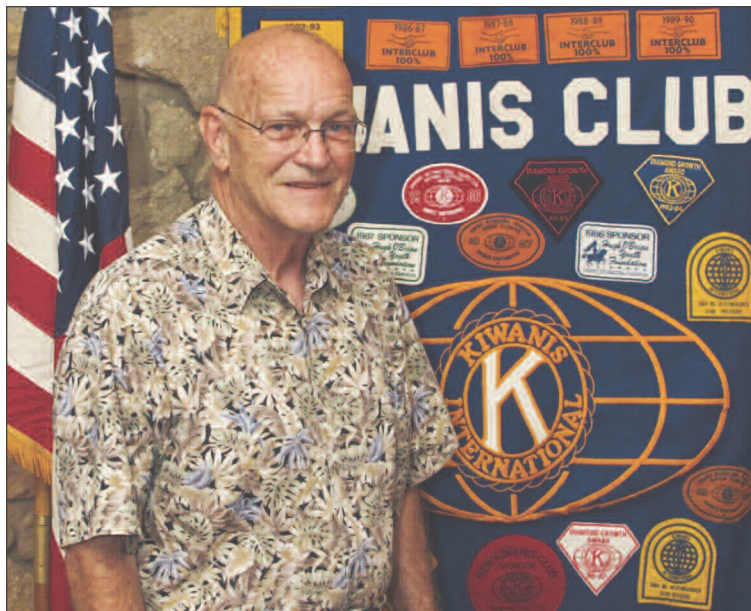
# Darr briefs Kiwanis on key SLLA issues

by Rollin Tomberlin  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Bob Darr, the new President of the Seven Lakes Land Owners Board of Directors, addressed the Kiwanis of Seven Lakes on Tuesday, May 21.

Stating that the Board's first priority was the development of a total repaving plan for the community, he noted that this would be a \$3 to \$5 million investment. With so many facets to a program of this magnitude, he was unable to give an estimate of any specific startup date.

"We must do this repaving project right," he summed



Seven Lakes Landowners Association President Bob Darr

up.

The rest of his remarks concerned his eagerness to negotiate an effective plan for easy access of Westsiders to the North and Southside's amenities along with a smooth reciprocal program for the North and Southsiders entrance through the Westside's gates.

"Look at the programs scheduled in the *Interlake*," he said. Citing swimming pool aerobics, various club & group agendas, organized bridge and other type

games, he mentioned that a sizable number of Westsiders were in and out of our gates daily.

"It's vital that we develop an easy entry system for both sides," he stated. Subsequent discussion with the Kiwanian's explored the difficulties of merging the multiple systems of bar codes and decals now in use by the two sides.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets at 11:30 am at the Seven Lakes Country Club every Tuesday.

## Pottery Center plans auction

The North Carolina Pottery Center, partnering with Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales, Ltd (LLAES), is pleased to announce, the 12th annual Going, Going, Gone to Pots fundraising auction on August 11.

The auction, the main fundraising event of the year, will feature an outstanding selection of contemporary and vintage North Carolina pottery donated by top NC potters and collectors, as well as other exciting participatory and pottery related items.

The pieces are available for viewing now at [www.ncpotterycenter.com](http://www.ncpotterycenter.com), and next month, on two additional web sites; [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com), and [www.llauctions.com](http://www.llauctions.com).

This provides an excellent opportunity to purchase the work of nationally known NC artists for your collection, whether you live in NC or thousands of miles away.

The move of the auction to Hillsborough and LLEA's offers the opportunity for absentee, advance and live telephone bidding for persons unable to attend the live auction.

The Auction is Thursday evening, at 6 pm with a wine and cheese reception with The Potters, a chance to meet and talk with several of North

Carolina's prominent potters. The auction begins at 7 pm with raffles and more. There is no admission and everyone is welcome.

Fundraising efforts are already underway on line, with more being added soon. Visit [www.ncpotterycenter.org](http://www.ncpotterycenter.org) to purchase raffle tickets for an 18" Donna Craven covered

jar valued at \$450. This piece will be on display at the NC Pottery Center until August 9th and then again at the auction reception. Tickets are \$10, or 3 for \$25.

For more information call 336-873-8430, email: [info@ncpotterycenter.org](mailto:info@ncpotterycenter.org) or visit [www.NCPotteryCenter.org](http://www.NCPotteryCenter.org).

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# BRCC Golf camp

by Barbara Horan

Who ever said that "golf is a sport you can play for a lifetime" really knew what he was talking about.

Some other wise person told another wise person that the earlier you start to play golf the longer you can play . . . so I guess the 12 or so kids taking the golf camp recently at the Beacon Ridge Country Club are all set for the future.

Instructing this fun camp were Golf Pro Instructors Matt Austin and Adam Romaine.

Campers were taught the basics of youth golf consisting of full swing, chipping, put-

ting and then the fun, skills contests with awards being presented. Golf course "manners" were stressed with a ride around the course with kids asking a million questions . . . it doesn't get any better than that, according to both instructors.

So it looks like those of us who live on the golf course will be fortunate enough to watch these young players improve and develop their game and have a lot of fun – just like "us old folks!"

For more information on youth golf call Golf Professional Dean Allgeyer, Beacon Ridge Country Club, 673-2950.



Golf Campers clown around to celebrate a successful session

## Paige Baker awarded Girl Scouting's top honor

North Carolina Coastal Pines has awarded Paige Baker of West End, the Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting.

A young woman who "goes for the Gold" must have dedication and determination in order to attain this prestigious honor. This award symbolizes

outstanding accomplishments and a significant time investment in the areas of leadership, career planning, personal development, and community service.

For her Gold Award project, Baker created four campsites at Johnson's Park in West End at the Youth Lodge. She made trails from the camps

to the main shelter and to the other camps. At each campsite she built a picnic table for that site and also put signs of local plants and trees that surrounded the grounds.

Baker is the daughter of Sandra and Ronald Baker. Boy Scout leader Dwane Parsons served as Baker's project

advisor.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout between the ages of 14 and 18 can earn. Currently 5.4 percent of eligible Girls Scouts earn the Gold Award annually.

The Gold Award recognizes the work of Girl Scouts who demonstrate leadership cul-

minating in 50 hours or more, dedicated toward a service project that has lasting effects in their community.



Paige Baker

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# Kiwanis quiz Commissioner

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Tim Lea, a former chairman and current member of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Tuesday, June 7.

Lea is a local Moore County native, and during his career has served his home community well in multiple ways.

Lea spoke briefly about the current budget process and its major concerns. He also passed out an outline of the various parts of the budget that are of major concern, along with the costs of those items.

His comments prompted a few questions, and from that point on, the meeting became a very interesting question and answer session. Lea answered a question about how the Fire Tax is figured and allocated, followed by a comment on the next county reassessment in 2015.

The two items of most interest to the group were future



Moore County Commissioner Tim Lea

sources of water for the County — and in particular, Seven Lakes — and also the possible development of the Pine Forest community. Lea went through the various options being considered for the improvement of the water supply for the County, including getting water from Robbins or Asheboro.

Currently, there is adequate supply because the County has drilled two new wells in Pinehurst, but the need to plan for the future is well recognized.

With an obvious negative feeling in the room regarding the possible Pine Forest development, Lea took quite some time to explain the process the Commissioners are going through, and spoke to some of the obvious concerns. He was careful not to commit himself to his feeling about the development.

When asked about the possibility of having sewers in Seven Lakes, he said he would like nothing more than to have them available, but said that the cost to do that would be approximately \$60 million and that cost would be divided up evenly in an assessment to each landowner in Seven Lakes. You could hear everyone's brain working to figure the cost to each landowner for sewers, which quickly led to the next and last comments by Lea. He also mentioned that Moore County is ranked in the top twenty percent of NC Counties in funds designated to education, and remarked that education is a major concern of the Commissioners.

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

## West End Methodist VBS

Join the fun at the West End United Methodist Church, Sunday, July 31 – Thursday, August 4 from 6:00 pm – 8:15 pm. Registration is at 5:30 pm on Sunday, July 31.

Children age 3 thru 6th grade are invited to attend and enjoy Sidewalk Celebrations with music and skits, age appropriate Bible study, snack, crafts and recreation!

This year's theme will include the study of Jesus' Parables. Thursday, August 4th will be Family Night so that parents, family and church members can come and see what VBS is all about.

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## Coyote

(Continued from page 6)

of the critters in both the mountains and the coastal plain, however, and the peculiarities of the black bear life cycle makes sightings in the Sandhills not uncommon.

Young male bears, Marcus explained, once they reach a certain age, are kicked out of their mother's family group, sent packing to make their way in the world. They wander for hundreds of miles, searching for suitable habitat and a suitable mate to start their own family.

It is these wandering juvenile males that account for most black bear sightings in Moore County, Marcus told *The Times*.

Unlike coyotes, breeding populations of black bears aren't likely to become established in the Sandhills, Marcus said. He explained that the Coastal plain offers plenty of food for bears, both wild foods and row crops from the extensive agricultural operations in that part of the state.

Similarly, the oak forests and other nut bearing trees in the mountains provide bears with plenty of mast on which to fatten. By contrast, the poor sandy soil and pine trees of the Sandhills offer a less attractive environment.

Precautions relative to black bears are essentially the same as for coyotes. Bears are normally even more wary of humans and are likely to come near dwellings only in search of a food: pet food left out, accessible garbage cans, bird feeders. Making sure these temptations are controlled is the key to discouraging visits by bears.

"If you see a bear in your yard or around your house, you should try to scare it away," Marcus advised. "Throw a rock at it, yell at it, clap your hands loudly, and it will likely move on." Of course, all those measures need to be undertaken at a safe distance, so the bear doesn't feel threatened enough to defend itself.

### And wild pigs?

Finally, *The Times* heard tell of a wild pig sighting on the Westside. Marcus said that wouldn't stretch the imagination quite as much as one might think. All one hundred NC counties have wild pigs thought to be both descendants of the original European wild boars brought to the continent by the original settlers and descendants of escaped domestic pigs.

Marcus said nice pink domestic pigs, once on the

loose for a couple of generations, acquire the dark color, scruffy hair and tusks of their wild boar cousins, because they are, in fact, the same species of animal.

Wildlife Commission biologists know for sure that there are a couple of sizable

breeding colonies of wild pigs along Drowning Creek, Marcus told *The Times*, adding that he wouldn't be surprised if one or more wandered up that waterway to its headwaters — Lake Auman.

He noted that wild pigs are omnivores who cause sub-

stantial environmental damage by rooting up large swathes of ground searching for tubers, reptiles, anything they can find to eat. Keeping them away from your house — like with coyotes and bears — is all about not providing a food source.

## While is new Lions Prez

Outgoing President Keith Wood welcomes new Seven Lakes Lions President John While.

Other Officers Installed at

the meeting were: 1st Vice President: Sam Halpin; 2nd Vice President: Bill Seldomridge; 3rd Vice President: Roger Erwin; Secretary: Gary

Elliott; and Treasurer: Cenda Hoogerland.

The Lions is a service organization providing eyeglasses to the needy of the community, sponsor the Vision Van each year at Food Lion for free eye exams, support Camp Dogwood in North Carolina a summer camp for the handicapped, support a cottage at the Boys & Girls Home of NC at Lake Waccamaw and numerous other activities.

The Seven Lakes Lions meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at the Seven Lakes North Side Clubhouse at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome.



Keith Wood & John While

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

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## SLLA meeting

(Continued from front page)

protect our safety, especially when there is a judge's order," she said, asking that the Board develop a "clear, step-by-step policy" for handling such situations, and that the security staff receive training in domestic violence issues.

Community Manager Alina Cochran told the Board that Talis had deactivated the husband's barcode even before receiving a copy of the restraining order, and that she, once that order was in hand, had instructed gate personnel on how to handle the situation.

Security Director Andy Lowe explained that gate security personnel cannot take orders from residents — or even directly from Board members — but must, under the SFI contract, receive written instruction from the Community Manager.

President Bob Darr said he had witnessed some of the interaction between the distraught mother and

Landowners Office staff and assured the woman: "I know of the concern and the frustration. We will address these issues. Certainly we will do all that we can do. We will be discussing this and addressing it."

### President's Report

Reporting on the June 29 inaugural SLLA Town Hall Meeting, President Darr said he was very pleased with the positive tone of the meeting. Though the turnout was smaller than he had hoped, Darr said he felt better communication about the time, location, and purpose would improve attendance the next time the Board hosts a Town Hall.

Issues raised at the meeting, Darr said, included parking at Sequoia Point, Community Standards enforcement, the possibility of instituting a community watch, debris site issues, and the communications process itself.

### Informal Meetings of Board Members

Darr reported that the Board has established its own workspace in the Landowners Office and indicated that would likely become the site of ad hoc informal meetings of Board members when issues arose that needed immediate attention — or brainstorming.

As an example, Darr said he had received an email on a recent evening from Lakes & Dams Director Don Fentzlauff "on a bunch of Sequoia Point stuff." He suggested they meet the following morning at 10:00 am at the Board office, and copied the rest of the Board on that email. Four Board members showed up; and they had a productive hour-long discussion, covering items that "would have taken three days and 25 emails," Darr said.

The question, he added, is whether that ad hoc meeting, which attracted four Board members — a quorum, as

defined by the Association by-laws — constituted an unannounced closed meeting. "Four of us ran [for election to the Board] on a contention about closed meetings," Darr noted.

"We are going to use that office, and we are going to meet up there and talk about stuff," Darr said, "and save us a whole lot of time. The promise is that those are not decision-making meetings. They will be discussions about things we are concerned about. If they need to be discussed, they will go to work sessions."

He invited any member of the Association to drop by and observe any such conversation in progress. "If we are there, come on in," Darr said. "The door is open."

Director Bud Shaver said he felt that SLLA By-Law 6.6 should be refined to define a "meeting" of the Board as only those occasions when "a decision is made and agreed to."

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. said he felt any discussion that involved four Board members constitutes a quorum, and, as a result, should result in minutes being taken and filed.

Director Bob Racine said he reads By-Law 6.6 as pertaining only to "lawfully called meetings," not to informal "discussion groups" of Board members.

### Committee reports

President Darr announced that, in the spirit of enhancing communications with Association members, written committee reports will become a part of the material distributed to members as part of the month-end Open Meeting packet.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer, while supporting the idea of making the reports available, suggested that they be distributed via email or on the Association website and made available at the office, rather

(See "SLLA," p. 17)

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## SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 16)

than printing out multiple copies for distribution at the meeting.

Darr asked the landowners in attendance for their thoughts on the matter, and those who spoke seemed to agree that making the reports available on the website or at the office was preferable to mass distribution of printed copies.

### Reserve Study

Director Shaver passed out to Board members a list of Association roads broken down into clusters, as well as a proposed bid sheet for repaving. He said bidding repaving work on a cluster-by-cluster basis could provide the Board with a means of scheduling repaving work that would allow the Association to do only as much of the total \$4 million or \$5 million repaving project as it could afford at a given time.

Shaver said he had recommended that the Board hire an engineering firm to guide the Board in planning the project. Darr said the Board has begun the process of identifying firms to bid on the engineering work.

"This whole project is the biggest thing this Board will do in a long long time," President Darr said. "We are taking some time, but we are going to do this right."

Asked whether the overall project would include paving community roads that are currently unpaved, Shaver said that would be handled in line with the current policy, under which the Association splits the cost of paving 50-50 with the landowners along the unpaved street, assuming the majority of them agree.

### Canada Geese

Director Keyser said he had received a communication from John Allen scolding the Board for not taking action on Allen's request last year that something be done to control the growing population of resident Canada Geese.

"Not true," Keyser responded. "We looked into it. It's

not really the Association's responsibility to take care of the goose population. They are mother nature's creatures; we can't go around eliminating them."

That response didn't sit well with landowner Jim Allen (no relation) who noted the geese can present a health hazard when their droppings foul certain areas of the lake. He encouraged the Board to continue regular testing of lake water for e.coli bacteria — and, when the bacterial load exceeds safe levels, "shut down the beaches."

President Darr said the Board would investigate whether there is new guidance from state wildlife or county health officials on dealing with resident Canada Geese.

Director Shaver said previous Boards had encouraged residents to coat goose eggs with oil and then return them to the nest, a process that prevents the eggs from hatching while ensuring the adult geese continue to tend the

nest. [According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, either the individual landowner or the Association must register annually before the destruction or oiling of resident Canada Goose eggs — and must report the number of nests disturbed. Online registration is available at [epermits.fws.gov](http://epermits.fws.gov). — Ed.]

"We have two groups," Shaver added, "those who hate the geese and those who love them."

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Meyer reported that the Association's restricted reserves — reserved for use on roads and dams — total \$518,000; unrestricted reserves total \$425,000. Pending the result of an audit currently underway, the Board may be able to add another \$43,000 to the reserves, Meyer said.

Meyer said that, "after the dust settles," he will put together an ad hoc committee to evaluate the annual process of billing, collecting dues, and issuing stickers,

to see what improvements can be made.

The Finance Committee will be meeting with a Talis finance manager to fine tune the Association's cash management procedures, Meyer reported. He explained that, as annual dues payments are received in May, the Association finds itself with approximately \$1 million in cash on hand, which, at today's interest rates, can generate \$17 per day. One of the challenges of a cash management policy is maximizing the return on that cash while it is available.

Another policy in the works involves internal controls on signature authority, which controls the types and amounts of budgeted expenditures the Community Manager is authorized to make without prior Board approval. Meyer said the current policy in place is essentially the same as that used when Dalton Fulcher was Community Manager.

### Manager's Report

Noting that the financials distributed along with the meeting agenda included a budget analysis through the end of May, Community Manager Cochran said the only unusual expense was a \$3,800 heating and air conditioning unit for the Game Room, replacing a 30-year old unit. Overall, however, the Association spent \$14,000 less than anticipated in May.

Cochran added she expects that debris site expenditures will be over budget in June.

The Manager reported that mailing of stickers and membership cards has been completed and noted that guest cards, priced at four for \$25, are now available at the Landowners Office.

Independence Day fireworks will begin at dusk on the Fourth of July, Cochran said, noting that Sequoia Dam will close at 8:30 pm. Because state law requires a safety zone of 400 feet around the site from which

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

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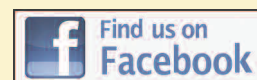
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**FRIDAY, JULY 8**

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$8.15 (+ tax & gratuity). Food, games & socializing

**SATURDAY, JULY 9**

- **Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc.** – 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Mixed Paper Recycling Drive, at the Kangaroo Station in the Fresh Market Shopping Center, Southern Pines. Acceptable items include anything that is paper: flattened boxes, paper grocery bags, telephone books, paperback books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, shredded paper, flattened corrugated cardboard, office paper, and newspapers. Also accepting: Any type of Household and Rechargeable Batteries, Ink jet Cartridges, Cameras, Cell Phones, diskettes, CDs, DVDs, and Laptops. kmcbinc@gmail.com or 947-3478.

**SUNDAY, JULY 10**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Turtle Talk** – 3 pm, meet in the Auditorium. Escape the heat and come celebrate the "Year of the Turtle" by attending this program on shelled critters of the Sandhills. Learn to recognize different species, hear some fun facts, and hold empty turtle shells. This program is fit for all ages. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. (910) 692-2167

**MONDAY, JULY 11**

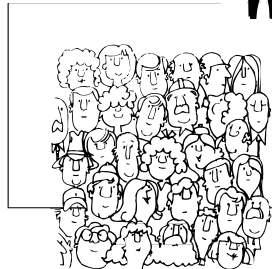
- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, just east of Hwy 220, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. 910 974-3051.
- **Second Monday** – 6:30 pm, Sandhills Community College Outdoor Jazz Band Concert, at Boyd Library Green. Free - bring your lawn chair or blanket to sit on and enjoy an evening

of music.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

**TUESDAY, JULY 12**

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all



## What's When Calendar

landowners.

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 13**

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 14**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly).

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

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 2:30 - 7:00 pm, First Line Safety, 11828 Hwy. 15-501, Aberdeen.

Schedule on line: [www.redcross-blood.org](http://www.redcross-blood.org) Sponsor Code 16740. For

eligibility questions, call the donor counselor at 1-866-448-3543.

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

**FRIDAY JULY 15**

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:00 - 5:30 pm, Sandhills Cycle, 7540 Hwy. 15-501, Pinehurst. Call Center for appt.: 692-8571. For eligibility questions, call the donor counselor at 1-866-448-3543.

**SATURDAY, JULY 16**

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society** – 9 am to 2:30 pm, hosting a Pen and Watercolor Floral Painting class conducted by Donna Whitman, at the Ball Visitors Center, Sandhills Community College. 20 participants maximum will take home a finished painting - no painting experience necessary and most supplies

needed will be provided. \$45 horticultural society members - \$50 nonmembers. Call Tricia Mabe to register at 695-3882. All participants must prepay.

**SUNDAY, JULY 17**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

- **Geology of the Sandhills** – 3 pm, meet at Weymouth Woods Visitor Center. Have you ever wondered where all this sand in the Sandhills came from? What is paint rock and soap stone? Join the Park Ranger to learn the answers to these questions and discover more about the geology of the Sandhills. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. (910) 692-2167.

- **Belford Baptist Church** – 4 pm, hosting a Women's program. Pastor Anthony Quick of Prayer Deliverance Church, Rockingham will be the guest speaker. 925 Windblow Rd. Jackson Springs.

**TUESDAY, JULY 19**

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes.

Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 20**

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Arts & Crafts for Kids** – 1-3pm. Painted pinwheels & Create a puzzle. \$12. Pre-registration is a must. Sign-up at the Seven Lakes West Community Center Office. Questions? Call Linda at 910-400-5169.

**THURSDAY, JULY 21**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist 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 provided \$5.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 11:30 am - 4:00 pm, FirstHealth Fitness Center, 170 Memorial Dr., Pinehurst. Call for appt.: 715-1800. For eli-



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- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

### FRIDAY, JULY 22

- **Arts & Crafts for Kids** – 1-3pm. Painted Halloween tote & Create an eye mask. \$12. Pre-registration is a must. Sign-up at the Seven Lakes West Community Center Office. Questions? Call Linda at 910-400-5169.
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$8.15 (+ tax & gratuity). Food, games & socializing.

### SUNDAY, JULY 24

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **For the Birds (Kids Program)** – 3 pm, meet at Weymouth Woods Visitor Center. This ranger-led program will explore the basics of birding . . . for kids! Parents, bring along the youngsters to learn about the birds in your backyard, get familiar with different bird calls, learn how to use binoculars. Be prepared with tennis shoes, sun-

screen. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. (910) 692-2167

### MONDAY, JULY 25

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Honey Bees: Join Hugh Madison to learn all about honey bees - the different types, their division of labor lifestyle, pollination, how important they are to our food chain, their life expectancy, how they make honey, and the different things they forage for. Visitors Welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)
- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, Candor. Doors open at 6:30 pm. 910 974-3051.

### TUESDAY, JULY 26

- **"Christmas in July Sale"** – 10 am to 4 pm, today through Friday, July 29, at The Coalition Resale Shops, 1117 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Proceeds to help Coalition for Human Care.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in

harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon.

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30-6:00 pm, Penick Village, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 340 S. Ridge Road, Southern Pines. Call for appt.: 692-8571.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

- **Arts & Crafts for Kids** – 1-3pm. Painted Picture Frames & Fun with clay. \$12. Pre-registration is a must. Sign-up at the Seven Lakes West Community Center Office. Questions? 910-400-5169.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

### THURSDAY, JULY 28

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

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 provided \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Blake And Boles To Explain Fracking Bill** – 7 pm, join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. This is a follow up of the recent screening of the movie *Gasland* with an open question-and-answer panel discussion that will feature Senator Harris Blake and Representative Jamie Boles explaining their position to endorse North Carolina's Senate Bill 709.

### FRIDAY, JULY 29

- **Arts & Crafts for Kids** – 1-3pm. Kids Pick. Kids Pick and Choose their Project.

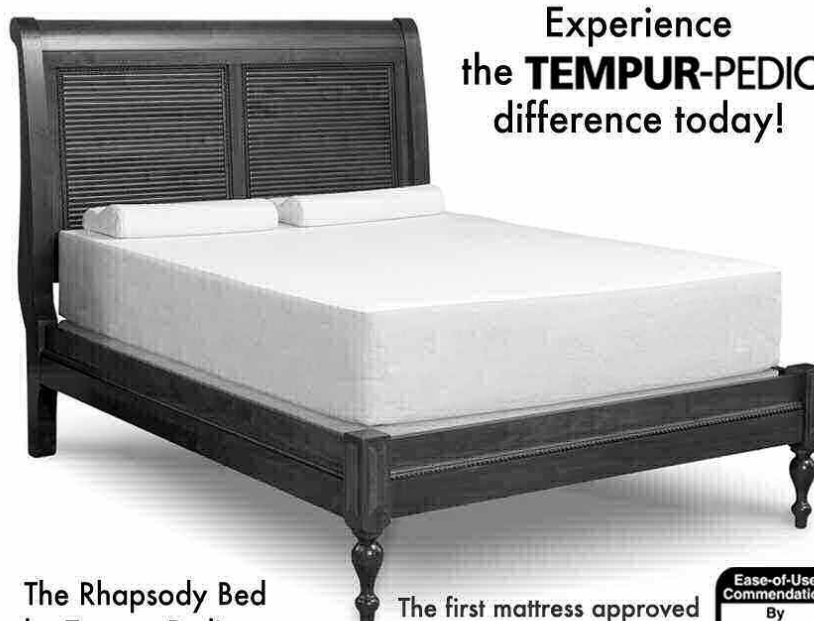
\$14. Pre-registration is a must. Sign-up at the Seven Lakes West Community Center Office. Questions? 910-400-5169.

### SUNDAY, JULY 31

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Hoppers, Climbers, and Swimmers** – 3 pm, meet at Weymouth Woods Auditorium. Nights are filled with sounds of frogs and species from the tiny grass frog to the great bull frog. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. (910) 692-2167
- **Vacation Bible School** – West End United Methodist Church, West End. Held Sunday, July 31 to Thursday, August 4, 6:00 pm – 8:15 pm. Registration will be at 5:30 pm. Children age 3 thru 6th grade are invited to attend and enjoy Sidewalk Celebrations with music and skits, age appropriate Bible study, snack, crafts and recreation! This year's theme will include the study of Jesus' Parables. Thursday, August 4 will be Family Night .

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## SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 17)

fireworks will be launched while the display is being prepared, Sequoia Point will be closed for most of the Day on July 4, Cochran reported. That closure will not interfere with the traditional morning boat parade, she said.

Pool hours have been extended from Noon to 8:00 pm every day but Monday and Wednesday. Swim team and swim lessons take place in the evening on those two days through the end of July, after which residents will be able to swim on Monday and Wednesday evenings through the end of the season.

Cochran said she participated in a Talis Management community service day that included work on a Habitat for Humanity house.

### Community Standards

Director Racine noted that the Judicial Committee has two processes for dealing with two different types of rules infractions. Community Standards violations are typically dealt with by issuing a notice of violation to the landowner, giving them time to correct the problem before the matter moves to a formal

hearing.

Serious rules infractions, however, can be dealt with immediately through a special called meeting of the Judicial Committee.

Racine said 70 new notices of violation had been sent out in the past month; 25 pending violations are being updated. Noting that he had seen some violations hang in the pending file for five or six months, Racine said he felt unresolved violations could be brought before the Judicial Committee after 30 days.

The Community Standards Committee will meet next on Tuesday, July 5 at 8:30 am; Racine said the committee needs additional members.

### Lakes & Dams

Director Fentzlaff said his committee continues to work on a large sign to be posted at the Sequoia Point boat ramp that will feature ten of the most important boating rules. Items still under review include the cloudy water emanating from the base of Echo Dam and repair of the bulkhead around the Lake Sequoia island, which could cost more than \$100,000.

The Committee has moved the Lake Sequoia buoys to the locations approved by the Board in 2007, Fentzlaff said.

He noted that the Lakes & Dams Committee had welcomed a new member, retired Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Jr., a former head of the US Army Corps of Engineers and an earthen dam expert.

### Other Committees

**Recreation.** The Recreation Committee, which will meet next on Wednesday, July 6 at 9:30 am, is also in need of new members, Racine said, adding that he expects to provide a report at the next Board meeting on the number of people participating in Association-sponsored Summer programs.

**Security.** Security Director Lowe said he had determined that a currently out-of-service camera installed for monitoring the debris site could be reactivated, using the Time Warner cable system, at a cost of \$120 per month. He noted that the Association recently spent \$1,500 to dispose of a load of lumber improperly dumped at the

site. The Board took no action on reactivating the cameras during Wednesday's meeting.

### Grounds & maintenance.

Keyser reported that his grounds and maintenance to-do list includes parking concerns at Sequoia Point; mowing schedules; and debris site control, hours, and fines.

### Action Items

The Board approved, in a unanimous vote on Wednesday night, a formal collection policy that Treasurer Conrad

Meyer said had been in the works for some time and was reviewed by both the present and previous Finance Committee.

The Board also approved a Standard Operating Procedure that instructs SFI Security Guards on when to lower the flags at the gate to half staff, but tabled a proposal to spend up to \$10,000 to update the Emergency Action Plans that the Association must file, as the owner of high hazard dams, with

(See "SLLA," p. 21)

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## SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 20)

the state Dam Safety Office. Both Directors Bob Racine and Bud Shaver said they needed more information about the process before approving the expenditure.

### Public Comment

Southside resident Kathy Goodman, during public comment, noted that the road-sides in front of her home had not been mowed recently, resulting in knee-high grass. Darr explained that Seven Lakes is currently in what he called "Bahaia Season" — when the Bahaia grass commonly used on roadsides sends up tall bloom stalks.

He also noted that, before the initiation of the mowing contract with Davenport Landscaping, some residents asked not to have the roadside grass in front of their home mowed by the Association crews, preferring to handle the task themselves.

A former Association employee who now works for Davenport is apparently still acting on those instructions. Residents who do want Davenport to mow the roadside in front of the property, but who are not currently receiving that service, should contact the Landowners Office, Darr said.

## Sandhills Children's Center Bocce Bash

Sandhills Children's Center will be hosting its 4th Annual Backyard Bocce Bash, Saturday, August 20, at The Harness Track, located in Pinehurst.

VIP Team of four is \$350 or General Team of four is \$100.

For additional information, contact Teresa Copper by calling (910) 692-3323 or visit our website at [www.BackyardBocce.org](http://www.BackyardBocce.org)

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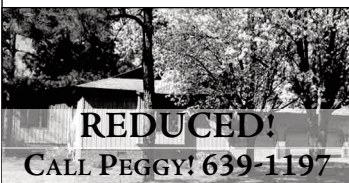
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1 PINE RIDGE CT • FOXFIRE



**CALL ANGIE! 315-6280**

3 BED, 2.5 BATH - \$210,000

1 BRASSIE CIRCLE • FOXFIRE



**CALL ANGIE! 315-6280**

3 BED, 3 BATH - \$270,000



## Editorial

## A perfectly innocent, simply terrible idea

Some ideas need to be quashed before they get started. A good example would be the notion that it's okay for a quorum of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors to hold an impromptu private meeting, without notice, to discuss landowners' business.

The idea started innocently enough. The SLLA Directors have created a workspace for themselves in the Landowners Office. A lengthy email on Sequoia Point problems from Lakes & Dams Director Don Fentzlaff to President Bob Darr a couple of weeks ago resulted in an invitation to discuss the issues face to face at the Directors' Office. Darr copied the whole Board on that emailed invitation, and four Directors showed up to chew things over.

At some point, either during or after the meeting, one or more of the Directors present realized they had a quorum of the Board discussing Association business in an unannounced closed meeting. Whoever realized that was a problem has good instincts.

After all, it was just such informal conversations among a subset of Directors last year that led to a closed door decision to shut down the SLLA's thirty-year-old in-house maintenance department in favor of contracting with an outside vendor — a decision that was kept even from some Board members until the very last minute.

Darr, Fentzlaff, Conrad Meyer, and Bob Racine all campaigned against such closed-door decision-making in their run for the Board, and it's likely that public revulsion at the "keep the public in the dark" approach is what got them elected.

Unfortunately, Darr's instinct that his impromptu morning meeting was a mistake, was apparently overtaken by the pleasure of having a free and easy discussion of issues with his fellow Directors. Because, during last Wednesday's SLLA Open Meeting, the SLLA President announced that the Directors' Office would become the regular site of such get-togethers.

"The promise is that those are not decision-making meetings," Darr said. "They will be discussions about things we are concerned about."

As the saying goes: "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."

It is understandable that, a couple of months into trying to pull together all the loose ends that make up the SLLA agenda, efficiency would look more attractive than transparency. But the SLLA is not a private company. It's a private government, with the right to levy taxes — excuse us, dues — and make rules that impact the property values and the daily lives of a couple thousand North and Southside residents.

That means efficiency must sometimes be sacrificed to doing things in exactly the right way. Having a quorum of Board members discussing Association business in an unannounced meeting in a private office — even if the door is standing wide open — is not exactly the right way.

It may be true, as Director Racine suggested Wednesday night, that the SLLA bylaws' language about quorums and meeting notices applies to called business meetings and not to "discussion groups" of Directors.

And it is certainly true, as Director Bud Shaver suggested, that the by-laws could be altered to make such "discussion groups" perfectly legal.

But, we all know that, should such a practice stand, eventually all the important discussions of Association business will take place in unannounced private meetings; and the public meetings will become mere shadow plays, in which decisions already made in private are publicly ratified.

Making sure that doesn't happen may be the most important single responsibility that rests on newly-elected President Bob Darr's shoulders.

So, if President Darr receives another email about Sequoia Point issues from Director Fentzlaff, by all means they should meet face-to-face to discuss it. Maybe they could even invite Security Director Andy Lowe, or Community Manager Alina Cochran.

What they should not do is expand the meeting to four directors, unless they are prepared to issue proper notice and make sure the public and their fellow directors know when and where that meeting is going to be held.

Is that a pain? Yes. It's a pain.

But, as you, we, Darr, and everyone else knows, it's also the right thing to do.

## Living it up . . . in the slow lane

"That's the slow side and that's the fast one," my youngest explained helpfully.

Gazing down several hundred feet of twists, curves and drops as thousands of gal-

Aaaahhhhhh!

Slow! Who said this was slow?

Cursing my daughter or at least wondering why I accepted a recommendation from a nine-year old, I slalom

up and down the curves of the waterslide like an Olympic bobsledder. Each turn forces me higher along the



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

lons of water swirled around my feet, I wasn't convinced: both options looked plenty fast.

However, unwilling to concede defeat [You know, wimp out in front of the kid.] I heeded her advice and select the more sedate offering.

My second mistake was attempting a graceful entrance onto the waterslide.

Cautiously stepping into the launch zone with a death grip on my mat, I bent delicately at the knee and just narrowly avoided a headfirst spill into the void.

I'm guessing the copious layer of sunscreen on each and every body part — including my knees — was to blame. Abandoning grace in favor of continuing to breathe oxygen, I regained my balance and simply plopped down in a most undignified manner and... nothing happened.

Chagrined, and with the lifeguard miming appropriate posturing, I quickly realized that I had to recline and displace my adult bodyweight across a much broader surface to propel myself forward.

Tipping back I drift off the top lip and pick up speed, fast!

walls until I'm convinced I'm just about to pop over the side when I hit the final straight-away.

One hundred yards ahead I can see salvation in the deep blue pool at the bottom of the slide.

The problem is I can't get there.

In my terror through the turns, the mat had slid sideways ensuring a posterior-first landing. Horrified at the prospect of flying backwards off this contraption and, most probably, losing an important piece of swimwear in the process, I had abruptly sat up.

Now inert, I discovered that I had two nicely-cushioned brake pads readily available the entire ride.

Leaning back to release the emergency brake, I assume a Pilates-like pose and pray no one heard me screaming.

Splash down.

"Mom, mom! Did you see me? Mom, come on. Let's do it again."

With a patient smile and only a slight wobble in my footing, I drag my mat back up the hill for another adventure.

I think I'll try the fast side this time.



# Does anyone sing the old hymns anymore?

**Question:** I recently began going to church with my grandchildren. I found it difficult to worship because instead of singing the hymns I have known all my life, they stand for over twenty minutes and sing "praise music". There is a band rather than a piano or organ and the music is not only loud, the words seem to be repeating themselves over and over. It has been thirty years since I was a regular "church-goer." Has everything changed? Does any church sing the old hymns and gospel songs anymore?

**Response:** I have great sympathy for your situation. You are to be admired for attending church with your

grandchildren and supporting their spiritual quests even though the contemporary music and style of worship does not meet your needs. Many churches have adopted contemporary worship in order to meet the music tastes and informal lifestyles of today's youth and young adults. There are Christian rock groups and even Christian rappers. Since many public schools have abandoned their music offerings over the past decades, many young adults in our time have never been exposed to classical music and since many churches have adopted praise music for their worship, the old hymns and gospel songs hold little appeal.

There are many churches, however, that look at worship in a different way. These churches believe that there is much to be learned from the great church hymns that Christians have sung for generations.

Hymnals not only contain the words and music of the hymns sung in churches of all denominations, they reflect the changing theologies of Christianity as the church has attempted to reach people in every age.

When Charles Wesley was writing hymns in the 18th and 19th centuries, he often set them to tunes being sung in the local pubs and ale houses. When criticized for this, he replied: "There's no reason for the devil to have all the good tunes." What was considered trash in Wesley's time is now treasured by millions of Christians. Perhaps that will be true for contemporary Christian music, although I have difficulty imagining that possibility.

Years ago, I was the President and Dean of a Graduate School for Sacred Music. Students came to study with an outstanding faculty and prepared themselves to be organists and choir directors in Christina churches through-

out the United States. These men and women were not only educated to provide music for Christian worship, they also were urged to pro-

temporary worship services filling this cultural and educational gap. I regret this trend, but I refuse to criticize the way anyone chooses to worship God, even if that form of worship does not meet my spiritual needs.

Thank God, there are still churches that lift up to God the very best in choral and instrumental music. If you look hard enough you can find a church that sings the old hymns and gospel songs. I happen to be the minister of one.

*Don Welch is the minister of The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. He welcomes your comments and questions at [dwelchl@nc.rr.com](mailto:dwelchl@nc.rr.com)*



Ask the  
'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

vide music education and training to the children and youth in the neighborhoods served by their churches, thus, filling the gap created by the diminishing music education which was once provided by the public schools. I do not see the con-

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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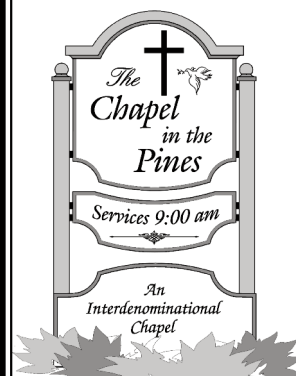
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# Let's treat our neighbors like neighbors

Dear Editor:

It was with a great deal of concern that I read the comments of John Goodman and Charlie Flinchum regarding "reciprocal access between SLWLA and SLLA turf..." (June 24 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times*).

I was astonished to see such statements made by members of our Board of

Directors, statements that can only cause hard feelings and ill will among our neighbors on the North and South sides.

According to Mr. Goodman, "sixty percent are rentals there (on the North and South sides)." While the editor pointed out the error of this statement, I feel compelled to ask why Mr. Goodman referenced

renters in the first place. My husband and I rented a home here on the West side before deciding to buy. I'm sure we aren't the only former or current renters right here. I resent the implication that renters are trouble!

Mr. Goodman further states, "... there are no restrictions to them coming into our community. Nothing

elitist or snobby - we are looking to secure our residents." The use of the pronoun "them" to refer to our neighbors on the North and South sides is offensive and certainly smacks of the very elitism Mr. Goodman denies.

As a remedy to this invasion of "our community," Mr. Goodman suggests that the simplest solution might be to end the reciprocity. This solution assumes that the West side has the only amenities in this community as a whole, and that West sides would never want to visit the North or South sides. Many of us are members of the Fitness Center on the North side, and I am sure others enjoy the stables.

This is a very disagreeable attitude!

Mr. Flinchum added his support to this idea by saying, "It is time to put our foot

down." (Our one foot? Our collective foot? Our feet? Leave my foot out of it!) He continues, "Let them use their own amenities. Let their Board get their problems in order, so they can stop bringing them over here." I would be very interested to know what problems "they" are "bringing over here."

Here again is an us vs. them mentality.

I am interested in the security and safety of this community. However, I feel that these comments made by our board members are not constructive.

Instead of creating ill will and hard feelings among our communities, our leaders should focus on solving problems through mutual understanding, respect, and civility.

Pamela A. Martin  
Seven Lakes West

## A mini-lesson in Yiddish

Dear Editor:

The language sounds Germanic, but with a lot more gusto. Often the sound of words describing people's behavior lets you know whether it is generally considered acceptable.

For example, a Yenta is a

busybody. That's not so bad, and it doesn't even sound bad. However, a Yachna (guttural ch) sounds disgusting and is. Don't be a Yachna. It's a malevolent gossip and rumor-monger. Yuk.

A Mensch is a kind and thoughtful person, someone

who would go out of his/her way to help you and make the world a better place to live in. Sounds nice, right? On the other hand, a Schmuck is as bad as it sounds.

This is the totally selfish, lazy, pig of a person you hope to never have contact with. Like the Schmuck who left his old, very heavy TV in the west side sailboat yard for someone else to deal with.

Hey, Schmuck - get a life!

Try being a Mensch for a change!

Bruce Macdonald  
Seven Lakes West

## Vacation Bible School at Pinehurst's Chapel

Vacation Bible School at The Village Chapel in Pinehurst. VBS will be held Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 15 each day at 9 am to noon.

The theme for the week will be Beach Bash Life-changing fun in the Sun.

The Village is a Bible-based interdenominational

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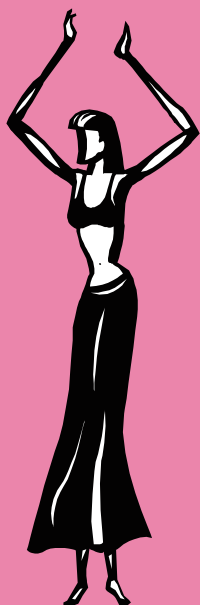
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# Is this the kind of energy we need?

Dear Editor:

My name is Sally Larson, I am part owner of Fireshadow Pottery in Eagle Springs, Moore County.

I'm not originally from here, but I've lived in Moore County for over 20 years and am proud to call North Carolina my home. This is such a beautiful state rich in its natural resources.

I want to express my concerns about the Natural Gas industry coming here to North Carolina and more specifically

here in Moore County.

If Natural Gas is such a "clean" industry then why do we need to change our clean air and clean water laws for them? It doesn't make sense.

The fact that we are being asked to change those laws is an admission that they plan and expect to pollute our water and air.

We don't give that kind of leeway to auto emissions, nuclear power plants, our clean air laws don't even let

someone smoke a cigarette in a public place anymore. Changing these laws for this industry just doesn't make sense.

I own 31 acres with a spring fed stream running through it. We are very lucky that it never dries up even in our worst droughts and think of it as our "emergency back-up plan" if our well ever runs dry.

I don't want an irresponsible industry coming here planning to pollute my water.

Water has become an important issue here in Moore County from concerns over Nicks Creek to finding more water for our growing population. We need to make sure we protect that water for the people here in our neighborhoods.

Thursday June 30th, Gov. Bev Perdue announced that she vetoed Senate Bills 709 and 781, both on the grounds that they removed constitutional authority from agencies and from her own office.

There is the possibility that the General Assembly will attempt to over-ride the Governor's veto, so I urge everyone to call Representative

Jamie Boles (919-733-5903) and Senator Harris Blake (919-733-4809) and ask them to vote against any attempted over-ride of Senate Bill 709.

We need to commit to being good stewards to this beautiful community and state and put the health of our people, animals and crops ahead of the natural gas companies.

We need to put the onus on this industry to do a better job; we shouldn't have to change our laws to accommodate them.

Sally Larson  
Fireshadow Pottery  
Eagle Springs

## Thanks, SLVFD!



Seven Lakes Firefighters Jack Coll & Seth Dawkins

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association would like to express its appreciation to Chief Calvin Loy and the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department for painting the fire hydrants in North and South. Special thanks to Captain Chris King, Lieutenant Steve Melone, Firefighter Tyler Cheek and Firefighter Steve Cox, for cleaning, painting and marking the hydrants.

Thank you,  
Alina Cochran, CMCA®,  
AMS®  
Community Manager  
Seven Lakes LOA

## Tutors Needed

The Moore County Literacy Council is in need of tutors for their site at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Seven Lakes. Tutors provide one-on-one tutoring for adults who are learning to read, read better and/or speak English. Sessions are held in Seven Lakes on Tuesday evenings between 5 to 7 pm.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call Pam or Marian at 692-5954.

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# Samarkand offered hope to troubled youth

Dear Editor:

Samarkand Youth Development Center, now slated for closure, was idyllic for putting youth on the right track. With support from Moore County's Horticultural Director, my husband and I

began our Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) service in 2003 by planting spring flowers and a vegetable garden with those in the hard-core Mainstream and lesser offenders' Heart programs. At that time, Samarkand

housed girls from ages 14 through 18, who were proud of the cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, watermelon, and herbs that they sowed, harvested, and cooked.

Samarkand, which has 60+ campus acres of diverse

Sandhills habitat – forest, open area, ponds – is surrounded by 300+ acres of mature pines. It was a perfect setting for a 16-house bluebird trail. Both Mainstream and Heart members learned about bluebirds, made bird houses at our farm, and installed them on campus. Each group monitored 8 according to guidelines by NC Bluebird Society with aid from dedicated teachers and MGVS. A purple martin house was also donated.

We planned a multidisciplinary program with staff, having speakers on campus and educational trips to Weymouth Woods and the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens at SCC. In February, 2004, the campus became the first correctional center nationwide

to be certified as a Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. An official celebration was planned but ultimately aborted, as Samarkand officials wished to keep a low profile.

Other Christian organizations also prepared programs at Samarkand. All felt that uplifting experiences would stimulate the girls, giving them dreams and insights lacking at home. Buildings were renovated. With work, youth could again fully utilize the facility. Certainly Samarkand is a better solution than incarceration with hardened criminals or life on the streets. Samarkand offered hope for a better life. It should not be discarded.

Ruth Stolling  
West End

## Thanks for sailing lessons

Dear Editor:

During the week June 13, I had the opportunity to participate in the annual Seven Lakes Sailing Class. For the modest cost of \$25 (a fee to join the sailing Club).

I obtained hours of hands on sailing and safety instruction. The classroom instruction was very informative but the 'on the water' lessons from the skilled instructors was 'overboard' as was the generous usage of their personal sailboats.

I realize that all of these sailors would take any opportunity to "trim the sails" but

to take basically a week of their time to share their sailing knowledge was extremely generous.

Even after 1 ½ years of full time living in Seven Lakes, I'm still amazed how many residents volunteer their time to make this such a wonderful place. It was, nonetheless, impressive to see how well planned the week was involving four experienced sailors. Hopefully, after a little more practice I will feel confident to get my feet wet, so to speak.

My gratitude goes out to instructors Bill Mamel, Paul

Kirst, Ray Taylor and Bruce Keyser. Another thanks to Paul and Kathy Kirst for the use of their home for the classes, neighbors that lent their docks so that boats would be easily obtainable and to all of the safety boat patrols to watch over us.

So, I would suggest if you have not participated, think about as it is a wonderful opportunity to meet some fellow neighbors and these dedicated instructors.

See you on the lake!

Cathy L. Menendian  
Seven Lakes West

## Aeromodelers

(Continued from page 3)

quieter than a lawnmower — and much quieter than the cars, trucks, and motorcycles that whizz by at 55 miles per hour on NC Highway 73.

Traffic appears to be the primary concern on which the Blackwells' original complaint hangs. Among the things the County's Zoning Ordinance describes as the "specific intent" of the RA-5 district is to "Discourage any use which would generate traffic on minor streets other than normal traffic to serve the residences and farms on those streets."

Sherman said a morning's flying session would typically bring ten or a dozen vehicles to the West End property. Arriving at the site just prior to 9:00 am one morning, he said, he counted 60 vehicles passing by in ten minutes.

The club confines its flying — and is obligated to do so under its zoning permit — to a 14 acre portion of the

20 acres it leases, plus most of the adjacent hay field — 69 acres in all. The property is screened by a 20 foot border of pines, Sherman said.

He explained that club members personally contacted all resident owners of adjacent properties before leasing the land and met with no objection to their

use of the area.

The Board of Adjustment's next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, July 27, at 4:00 pm in the Board of Commissioners meeting room in the Historic Courthouse in Carthage.

The meeting is open to the public, though those giving testimony must be sworn in.

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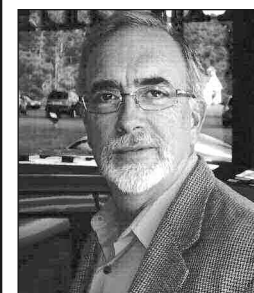


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## Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)

of box numbers. Legal Director Jack Stevens agreed with Martin, but added that this may cause a problem, since some Seven Lakes West street addresses could be confused with others within the 27376 zip code. [County regulations require unique street names — e.g., there can only be one Barnes Pt. in Moore County, but there can also be Barnes St., Barnes Ln., Barnes Pl., or Barnes Blvd. — Ed.]

The next step is for the Board to establish and confirm a project leader and a committee to complete the mailhouse project over the next two years. The LRP Committee has recommended that someone be appointed to this position no later than the July 12 work session. President Mick Herdrich asked that the names of volunteers or nominees for the committee be submitted to the Board.

### Archiving Association Documents

The digital archiving of Association documents is not an "urgent" priority Legal Director Stevens told the Board on Tuesday night, but it is something for the Board to consider and possibly budget in the next fiscal year. Currently, the documents are being archived by a small group from the Legal Committee. The committee scans the documents, converts them into a PDF file, and stores them on the community computer, a DVD, or a flash drive.

The initial purpose of archiving documents was to preserve files that are in a state of deterioration, as well as to make them available when background information is needed. Stevens told the Board that he believes this could possibly be done in a more time effective and cost efficient way — and offered four options for archiving association documents:

- Storing documents in an offsite storage facility,
- Selectively digitizing documents,
- Storing paper records in a secure onsite location, or

- Having an outside vendor digitize documents and place them on devices that could be available to the Board or Committee members — or possibly stored on the internet with a secure access code.

Currently, the Association's documents are stored at the Community Center in a locked room that also contains supplies used by the Lake Auman Sports Club. According to Stevens, there are also various individual libraries throughout the community that have documents that should be archived by the Association.

ARC Director John Hoffmann said, "Our records have saved us many a time and the lack thereof has hurt us many a time." A committee will be formed to further investigate the process and possibilities for archiving community documents.

### Lake Auman

So far, seven boats have been reported by the Lake Auman Boat Patrol for not having a registration sticker attached to their boat, reported President Herdrich. Out of the seven boats reported, five were registered, but had failed to attach their registration stickers to the boat, resulting in a warning. If the boat owners do not comply, the next citation will result

in a fine, said Herdrich. Owners of the two unregistered boats were fined.

An audit will be conducted next week at the trailer yard, Herdrich said. Both trailers and boats need to be registered with stickers on them.

Seven Lakes West resident Charlie Flinchum praised the lake patrol for doing "a wonderful job." He also volunteered to help put the diving float back into the water.

The Board has yet to determine when or what type of float will be placed in the water, but Community Manager Joan Frost reported that a plastic float used on Lake Pinehurst proved susceptible to deterioration from ultraviolet rays. The Board seemed inclined to use the existing float for this year, but made no firm decision on the matter. Herdrich said he hoped to have the issue resolved by the July 12 work session.

### Safety and Security

The guards at the Johnson Point gate seemed to be effective in deterring non-residents from boating on Lake Auman over the previous weekend, Community Manager Joan Frost reported. The Board approved a motion by Security Director Jack McCarthy to extend the lake patrol to weekday afternoons.

During the member comment period, former SLWLA

President Ron Shepard said that, two years ago, the Board put \$15,000 aside to be used for a badge system for entrance into Johnson Point, the pool, and other amenities. He asked the Board to revisit the idea in the future, saying it could possibly eliminate the need for more than one guard at Johnson Point.

A bear spotted in the community has caused some alarm for residents who heard about it, reported President Herdrich. Secretary Jane Sessler, who was also called during the incident, said the best thing to do in this type of an emergency is to first

call 9-1-1 and then the front gate house.

Decals for Westsiders to enter into the South and North side are on sale for \$5.00 at the West Side Park Community Center, reported Director Hoffmann, who said over one hundred have been sold already.

### Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Committee [ARC] is continuing to update their standards, Director Hoffmann reported, and would like to present updates to the Board in the next 30 days for review

(See "Westside," p. 28)

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## Westside

(Continued from page 27)  
and possible approval.

One area under review by ARC is the fees that are associated with certain construction activities. Currently, the Association charges a fee to homeowners for the wear and tear that certain heavy equipment — such as a dump truck — may cause to the roads in the community, Hoffmann explained. This fee is different than a deposit, which can be returned to the homeowner if no damage is caused.

Currently, there are twenty-two projects ongoing in the community, seven homes under construction, and two additions, Hoffmann reported.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director John Goodman said road-patching should be completed within two weeks.

There are three more culverts to repair in the community, Goodman said, two of which will divide the community in half. But the last one, on Callis, should have minimal impact on travel in the community.

Any backup or standing water behind the culverts is normal at this time, explained Goodman, who told the Board that the culvert pipes are bedded in three to four feet of gravel, which will take one to two years to find its “natural level.”

## Mental Health Support Group

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County (NAMI-MC) holds its monthly meetings in the Community Room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, at the corner of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings are free and open to the public. For information, call (910) 295-1053.



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## FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**SEVEN LAKES OFFICE FOR SALE OR LEASE** – South Park Office Building. Great location. 1481 sf +/-, sale price of \$125,000 or will lease main level approximately 1000 sf, one bath & kitchenette for \$850 or 2nd level included for \$1200 per month. 910-673-0004. *tfn*

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**WE NEED RENTAL PROPERTIES** – Homes and condos needed. Property Management available. Rent collection, inspections, advertising, tenant placement & maintenance provided. Visit [www.sandhillsrentals.com](http://www.sandhillsrentals.com) for more information or call Marcus Larose at 910-693-3300!

**SEVEN LAKES** – 2BR/2BA duplex w/sunroom & scrn porch. \$750/month. Call John 690-6491.

**OFFICE FOR RENT – SPACIOUS** – Located in South Park Office Complex \$500 per Month. No Utility Expense. Call John at 673-1818.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**CONDOS FOR RENT**– \$495 to \$1095. Foxfire Realty Services 910-585-0363. *tfn*

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*2tp 6/24*

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*2tp 6/24*

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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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.

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