

Board votes for one mailhouse

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



It will be one mailhouse, not two, for Seven Lakes West.

During their Tuesday, October 11 Work Session the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors voted to construct one mailhouse in West Side Park.

In a five-to-three vote the Board sided with the recommendation of the Long Range

Planning Committee [LRP] and the bulk of the feedback from the community.

However, three Directors — Adam Wimberly, John Goodman and Jim Ferguson — opposed the decision, apparently swayed by arguments contained in a letter authored by mailhouse committee member Roger Brooke, who detailed the pros and cons of one mailhouse versus two and made strong arguments that the latter choice was the better of the two.

(See "Westside," p. 14)

Council reaffirms Equestrian zoning

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Though the fix may be temporary, the Foxfire Village Council reapproved on Tuesday night, October 11, an ordinance amendment originally drafted and approved in 2005 that increased the minimum lot size for equestrian district

zoning from six to ten acres.

Responding to criticism from a local builder and a real estate professional that ten acres was more restrictive than neighboring areas, and not in keeping with today's economy, the majority of Council members seemed to agree that a six acre minimum on equestrian lots may, in fact, be the preferable size.

However, Tuesday's Public

(See "Foxfire," p. 12)

Pusser's Pumpkin Patch



Pumpkin Impresario (and award-winning nature photographer) Todd Pusser joins his mother Dayle and father Larry to bring the annual Halloween pumpkin show to the Pusser home on Flowers Road in Eagle Springs Saturday and Sunday, October 29 & 30. See page 2 for more details.

Election reforms debated

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Multiple lot ownership, complicated by lots owners registered under multiple names, introduced some confusion into vote counting procedures for last Spring's Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] elections.

During their Monday, October 10 Work Session, the SLLA Board of Directors reviewed a set of election recommendations developed by Election Committee veterans Ray Pardue and Brenda Masimo.

The proposed revisions included clarifications on the definition of a member, an

affiliate member, and a resident, as well as how a quorum is determined for the annual meeting. Some would require changes to the By-laws.

In addition, Pardue proposed standard operating procedures that spell out the function, composition, and responsibilities of the Vote Counting Committee [currently known as the Election Committee], as well as how office staff will maintain ballot boxes during the voting period.

Pardue cautioned the Board that the proposed draft language for "affiliate members" was a major change from its historical application, which included the residents of

Seven Lakes West, when the two Associations had closer financial ties and shared both amenities and administrative staff.

Multiple lot owners

Another fine point that generated a lengthy discussion, but ended without a resolution was a concern over multiple lots owned by a business. Unlike the West Side, which has a one-lot-one-vote policy, the SLLA allows only one vote per owner. That is, the owner of a single lot has one vote; and, likewise, the owner of ten lots still has only one vote.

Director Bob Racine explained that, technically,

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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Bookies II brings author to Seven Lakes

Join the Bookies II Book Club on Thursday, December 1 to meet guest author Pat MacEnulty as she presents her book, *Wait Until Tomorrow, a Daughter's Memoir*.

Like many daughters of elderly parents, MacEnulty found herself in a maze of health care negotiations and discoveries when her mother could no longer care for herself.

MacEnulty's mother, who stood by her through her darkest years as a drug addict, was a small-town icon as a composer, pianist, organist, and musical director. When her mother is suddenly unable to be the accomplished, independent person she once was, MacEnulty's life revolves around two goals: to help her mother's masterpiece, "An American Requiem," find a new life and a new audience in her mother's lifetime; and to raise her teenage daughter,

who is at the age MacEnulty was when drugs and addiction changed her life forever.



Pat MacEnulty

Along the way, MacEnulty rediscovers her own strength, humor, and rebelliousness at the most unlikely moments.

MacEnulty writes: "Like all mothers, mine had a set of maxims that she thought were important to impart to me: if you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all (unless it's irresistibly funny); it's as easy to fall in love with a rich man as it is with a poor man (a nice idea in theory); if you want to commit suicide, wait until tomorrow (advice which has, it turns out, saved my life)."

This Special holiday luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM,

at Seven Lakes Country Club. Luncheon cost is \$13 all-inclusive.

Make your reservation early, as space is limited. The last date to reserve is Tuesday, November 15. Call Judy Trivett 673-2188, Ally

Vogel 673-7211 or Patricia McKeon 673-6733.

Macenulty teaches writing and literature at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte. She blogs on transformative writing at <http://transformativewriting.blogspot.com/>

Chili Cook Off Winners

The weather was perfect and the chili was hot at the Seven Lakes Business Guild Chili Cook Off, Saturday, October 8.

Cook Off Winners were:

- Best Decorated booth, Quality Care Pharmacy.

- People's Choice chili, Seven Lakes Kiwanis.
- Judges choice chili winners - Pastimes first place, BB&T Bank second place and Hickory Tavern third place.

Pusser Pumpkin Show

Get ready for the Pusser Pumpkins Show on Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30. There will be cartoon characters, animals, and people caricatures.

The display starts at sunset and ends at 10:00 pm each night.

There is no charge, but please bring a donation of canned goods or a monetary

donation to benefit the Cameron Boys home.

The Pusser home is located off Highway 211 between Eagle Springs and Jackson Springs. Turn on Flowers Road go past TH Blue's mulch business and travel about two miles. The pumpkin show will be on the right at 1100 Flowers Road. Please do not bring pets. Enjoy the show!

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Dec 2	Dec 9
Dec 15*	Dec 23

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Picerno: Pine Forest rezoning was best option

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The nearly 1,700 acres that make up the proposed Pine Forest resort development are better protected under the PUD-Hamlet zoning recently approved by the Moore County Board of Commissioners than they were under the previous mix of residential, agricultural, and business zoning.

That's the bottom line for Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno, who told *The Times* that the golf course resort and residential community envisioned by developer MHK, Inc. will have less density, more open space, and less commercial square footage than would have been allowed under the old zoning.

Reflecting back on the nearly two-year rezoning process, which included many hours of testimony in a quasi-judicial public hearing, Picerno said he felt some key facts had been lost among the details of the debate about Pine Forest. He asked for a meeting with *The Times* in order to highlight those points.

"We have actually moved the land into a better position than it was," the Chairman said, noting that he was speaking not for the Board as a whole, but strictly as one Commissioner among equals.

Though there is no way of knowing how the property might have been developed had the rezoning failed, the old zoning of the property would technically have permitted subdivision into 1,182 residential lots, Picerno told *The Times*, providing documentation of the point prepared by the Moore County Planning Department. That compares to a maximum density of 710 homes and/or hotel rooms in the Pine Forest plan.

In addition, the substantial acreage along NC Highway 211 that was zoned B-2 could have been developed to include more than one million square feet of commercial space, compared to the 240,000 square feet plus hotel included in MHK's design.

Picerno's point?

Many opponents of the the Pine Forest rezoning argued that the land should not be developed at all, either because of its environmental value, because the county is already well-supplied with golf course developments, or because of a desire to preserve the rural character of Area A.

"But that wasn't what was before us as a Board," Picerno told *The Times*.

"Once he [MHK] bought the land, that allowed the new development. He then had the opportunity to go in there and develop the land."

"That is capitalism. We

were not in a position to tell him he couldn't develop the land."

"That's why the environmental argument had less validity," Picerno continued, "because the current zoning would allow him to chop it up and make it a whole lot worse."

"I'm not an expert on land use planning. Instead, I rely on the experts we have hired. Years and years ago, they created this thing we call a PUD. The idea is that, instead of haphazard development, you could take what would otherwise be a mishmash and instead design something that would have visual appeal."

"This developer has a vision," Picerno said. "And that vision includes golf courses on that piece of property. I'm not going to dictate who can and who can't build a golf course in Moore County. If you're going to take your money and risk it, that's

capitalism."

"I envision another Pinewild. That's what I see. I don't see a twenty-story hotel. As you're driving down 211, you'll never know what's behind there. And who wouldn't want another Pinewild?"

Water & sewer agreements

Though the Board of Commissioners has approved the PUD-Hamlet zoning sought by Pine Forest developer MHK, Inc., the project can't move forward until the County and the developer work out agreements that will bring County water to Pine Forest, that will allow the community to be served by a private wastewater treatment plant, and that will also allow that plant to serve a second MHK development, the Dormie Club, located off NC Highway 73.

Those agreements are as important to Picerno as the rezoning itself -- if not more so.

"There greatest concern I have is if something happened to the sewer plant that produced an untreated spill," he told *The Times*. "We have to make sure the chance of that is minimized to almost one hundred percent."

"It's the number one issue, as far as I am concerned, going forward. It has to be beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt that it won't happen. If we can't come up with that assurance, I won't be voting to approve the agreement."

The small rivulets and creeks that make up the headwaters of Nick's Creek are spread throughout the acreage that makes up Pine Forest, and the Town of Carthage relies on Nick's Creek for its water supply.

That fact underlies Picerno's concern that the Pine Forest wastewater treatment plant be thoroughly vetted.

During the rezoning debate, (See "Pine Forest," p. 17)

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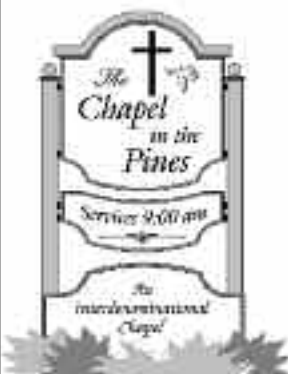
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TempControl comes home to Seven Lakes

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Exceptional service and satisfied customers are the driving forces behind the success of TempControl, a local HVAC business that recently relocated its main office to a new 4,000 square foot facility in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

On Saturday, October 15, between 11 am and 2 pm, TempControl will host an Open House for the community at their new offices at 277 McDougall Drive, directly across from Sandhills Mem-

ory Care. Drop by to pick up a free wall calendar, enjoy refreshments catered by The Italian Table, and enter the prize raffle drawings.

"This is our way of saying 'thank you' to our neighbors, and to let people know we're here," said owner Matt Bialer.

Established in 2007, TempControl is the primary service provider for both Seven Lakes and Beacon Ridge Country Clubs — and will also be providing the installation work for the new addition at The Chapel in the Pines. A licensed mechanical

and electrical contractor with a fleet of four service vehicles, the growing business is a recognizable presence throughout the community, offering a full range of HVAC services.

"We are one of the lowest priced companies for maintenance contracts and service calls, and we are cost-competitive with our installation work," Bialer said. "We're an honest heating and air company. We are very open and tell people exactly what is going on with their system."

He continued, "Our cus-

tomers have been very satisfied with our work and have been quick to recommend us to their friends. We're fortunate that our name has spread through the communities here by word of mouth."

With the bulk of their customer base in the greater Seven Lakes area, Bialer said the new TempControl office and warehouse location in Seven Lakes will allow for better and more convenient service to customers, as well as providing the opportunity for future expansion of the business.

"This is a really good location for us," Bialer said. "We're very happy to be here and

plan to stay a long, long time."

Active in the local community, Matt Bialer and his wife, Sharon, and their three young sons settled in Seven Lakes in 2003 and are proud members of Seven Lakes Country Club.

Sharon volunteers with the West End Elementary PTA, and Matt coaches the West End/Pinehurst Optimists youth football team.

For more information on TempControl services, visit www.yourtempcontrol.com.

Contact Matt Bialer by phone at 673-0900 or 295-8367, or via email at tempcontrol@nc.rr.com.



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Commissioners review goals for the year

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



In January, Moore County's Board of Commissioners compiled a list of short and long term goals. Ten months later, during the Board's Tuesday, October 4 meeting, Assistant County Manager Ken Larking reviewed the status of each of those goals.

Short Term Goals

Water. At the top of the Commissioners' list of short term goals was finding a second source of water for the Seven Lakes area. The preferred option for meeting this goal is working with the Town of Robbins to utilize the town's existing but unused reservoir as the centerpiece of a plan to bring water from Robbins to Southern Moore County.

Over the last ten months the Town of Robbins and the County have gone back and forth with a proposal and counter-proposal on this issue. At the beginning of Tuesday night's meeting, Chairman Nick Picerno announced that the Board had decided, in closed session, to send two Commissioners, along with Public Utilities Director Randy Gould and County Manager Cary McSwain, to meet with Robbins' representatives to try to move the negotiations forward.

Taxes. The Commissioners did not increase property taxes for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, satisfying another short term goal. However, they were unable to realize their goal of lowering the Advanced Life Support tax by one-half cent due to a federal requirement to update emergency communications systems and uncertainty about changes in the healthcare system.

Planning for and evaluation of the County's approach to public safety falls under the mission of the Commissioner-appointed Emergency Service Advisory Committee [ESAC], which is currently

focusing efforts on reducing response times — particularly in remote areas of the County.

Land Use Planning. Another of the Board's short-term goals was to "endorse and support the planning and community development department timeline with regard to the Long Range Plan." The County's current Land Use Plan dates to 1999, and was developed through a countywide public input process, in which Commissioners Jimmy Melton and Tim Lea were both key players.

After Melton and Lea briefed their fellow Commissioners on that process, the Planning Department was asked to bring to the October 18 meeting additional information on the make-up of the 1999 Land Use Plan Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee that developed the Area A Small Area Plan. The goal is to put together a steer-

ing committee for the new land use plan by December 31, 2011.

Other Short Term Goals

- Completing the Vass Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is underway, with the Board awarding a construction contract for the project, which is expected to be complete by October 2012.

- Put the Addor Water Pollution Control plant expansion project out to bid. This goal has been accomplished with the ground breaking for the project held on September 22. The project should be complete in 18 months.

- Reinstate longevity pay. The Board agreed to reinstate longevity pay as of July 1, 2011, and are awaiting a plan from the Human Resources Department for adjusting the performance-based rating system.

- Refine purchasing procedures. The Board and County Attorney adopted a

new purchasing procedures policy last year that has helped ensure the use of a competitive bidding process on most projects.

Long Term Goals

One of the long term goals for the Commissioners has been to develop a definitive water strategy — and, possibly, a reservoir for Moore County.

Public Works Director Gould presented the county's projected water needs in 2030 — as well as a variety of options for securing additional water supplies — to the Board at an August Work Session.

Getting information out to the public is another of the Commissioners' long term goals. Larking told the Board that some departments —

including Public Safety Department, Animal Control, the Board of Elections, and Keep Moore County Beautiful — are using the social networking service Facebook, in addition to the county website.

The Parks and Recreation Department also has a separate website to provide information to the public.

Commissioner Tim Lea said he would like to take this a step further and videotape the Commissioners' meetings, so that a face can be put with a voice. Audio recordings of the meetings are already posted to the county website. Chairman Nick Picerno suggested that the Board discuss the video option — and its cost — at a future meeting.

Picerno said he would like
(See "Commissioners," p. 26)

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Public, MCS staff want teacher-superintendent

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Finding a replacement for retiring Superintendent

Dr. Susan Purser by year's end is a top priority for the Moore County Board of Education, which recently fielded online surveys to gather input from both the community and Moore County Schools [MCS] staffers.

Survey results were presented during the Board's Monday, October 10 meeting, by Allison Schafer of the North Carolina School Board Association [NCSBA], which has been hired to help with the superintendent search.

More than three hundred Moore County residents and nearly eight hundred MCS staff members responded. School Board members also met with the staff from every Moore County School and conducted four town hall meetings to obtain feedback from the community.

The most important qualification for a new superintendent? According to both educators and community members, the number one qualification is experience as a teacher.

School Board Chair Laura Lang said it was "exciting

that being a teacher was so important."

Other qualifications that rounded out the top five included:

- Experience in finance, budgets and acquiring outside funding;
- Experience as a principal;
- Experience as a superintendent, with a proven record of success; and
- Experience in instruction and curriculum development.

"The top five characteristics were absolutely consistent" among the staff and county residents when it came to this question, Schafer said. Lang said she appreciated that people understood the budget challenges MCS faces — especially the fact that teachers have gone without a raise for four years.

Schaffer pointed out that residents and school staff provided consistent answers to most survey questions.

School Board members were also asked what they believe are the most important qualifications the next superintendent should exhibit. Schafer will compile those answers and bring them back to the Board at a later date.

The deadline to apply for the Superintendent position is October 17.

Board tries to loose extra school days

In a 5-2 vote, the Moore County School Board decided to begin the application process that would remove five additional school days from the 2011-2012 school year calendar.

During this year's state budget process the NC General Assembly approved a bill that added an additional five instructional days to Moore County schools, by converting what were scheduled to be teacher work days to instructional days.

The option of applying for a one time waiver for the current school year was presented to North Carolina schools after Moore County Schools had adopted its calendar for the year.

During Monday night's meeting three students from Pinecrest urged the Board to submit the application for a waiver for the current year, saying it will help to ease the stress of extra school days not only for students but for teachers as well.

NCAE President Debbie Kelly said the extra days — which are often half days — are a "half effort of teaching and half effort of trying to provided professional development."

However, Board members Ed Dennison and Laura Lang said they have yet to hear any complaint from parents about the change and were reluctant to change the calendar at this point in the year. Both voted against applying for a waiver.

Board member Bruce Cunningham made the motion to apply for the waiver. Dr. Purser will begin the application process.

Other Business

Other business during the School Board's Monday October 11 meeting included:

- Board Member Dale Frye presented Growing to Greatness Awards to Moore County teachers and staff. Frye also presented the National Merit Semifinalist and National Merit Scholarship Commended Students.

- Board Chair Lang announced that the Public Education Foundation will host an "Are You Smarter Than a Moore County 5th Grader" on November 16 at the Owen's Auditorium.



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General shares lessons of 39-year career

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

"There is more to leadership than just getting people to play to their strengths. There also has to be a willingness to change — and a leader must also have perseverance," Lt. General [Ret] Robert Van Antwerp, Jr. told a packed room of Seven Lakes Kiwanis members and guests on Tuesday, October 4.

A mechanical engineer with an MBA and a graduate of West Point, Van Antwerp described the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a "profession within a profession." He spent the final four years of a thirty-nine year career as Chief of Engineers, responsible for more than \$40 billion in projects that spanned the globe. He described his stint as Chief as an incredible privilege.

Summarizing projects at home and abroad where the Corps have had a positive impact, Van Antwerp said work in Iraq and Afghanistan included 900 water projects, as well as construction of 1,100 schools, 50 hospitals, and 135 health clinics. In addition, a much-needed "ring road" for transporting goods was built in Afghanistan.

"It was no surprise there was no economy there, because people couldn't get anything to the market," Van Antwerp said. "Afghanistan is a huge challenge. We are putting more money into that country than they have had for a long time." He described the Army's "Afghan First" policy, which involves hiring local Afghanis, whenever possible, in order to provide a long term economic benefit.

Describing civil works as a "love that I have," Van Antwerp said the Corps is also involved with 926 ports and harbors around the world. He explained that an important challenge is developing deep water ports for new, larger-capacity ships.

"If we are not ready, as a country, to accept these ships, then they'll go somewhere else," he said. "So we are trying to get deep water

ports here at home — but it isn't easy. We've mostly dusted off the easy stuff, so now we're down to having to blast rock to get down even one more inch."

The U.S. Army Corps is also responsible for 631

dams, most located east of the Mississippi River, plus 300 reservoirs that supply much of the nation's water supply.

Van Antwerp touched on two major stateside projects that have been in the news:

Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] and the \$15 billion restoration of the levy system protecting New Orleans.

"[Hurricane] Katrina had been a black spot on our history," Van Antwerp said, "but what has been done is incredibly magnificent."

Of his long service in the Army, he said he loves to be involved in leadership and mentoring. Offering a demonstration on how leadership can limit the ultimate result, Van Antwerp asked the crowd to raise their hands as high as they could. Surveying the roomful of seated people with hands held high, he asked why no one had stood for

the task, since that would have dramatically increased the end result.

Faced with a slightly more cautious audience for his second leadership demonstration, Van Antwerp still successfully proved that people naturally follow visual cues over verbal commands. Asking the audience to touch their chins, while touching his own cheek, the General observed that most in the group in fact touched their own cheeks.

He noted that understanding this aspect of human behavior trait can be used in teaching children.

"Kids will follow your example," (See "Van Antwerp," p. 21)



Kiwanian Frank Hayes with Lt. General [Ret] Robert Van Antwerp, Jr.

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Board says no to Carthage ETJ expansion

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



A request by the Town of Carthage to expand its Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] ran into a solid wall of opposition at the October 6 meeting of the Moore County Planning Board. Though the final decision rests with the Board of Commissioners, ETJ expansions are first reviewed by the Planning Board, and that body voted unanimously against recommending approval of the Town's proposed expansion, which covers an additional 5,741 acres, encompassing 371 parcels.

"We are just filling in the gaps," Carthage Town Manager Carol Sparks told the Planning Board. "We will not tax the residents in the ETJ, and zoning will remain the same. The primary purpose is to allow the town to protect its one mile corridor."

The Town's written request to the Board of Commissioners explained that a number of satellite annexations over the years has eroded the one-mile ETJ allowed under state law. The expansion was designed to reestablish the full one-mile ETJ.

Sparks explained that inclusion in the ETJ would have little effect on the rural properties included, and that the request was mainly to protect the town and its own zoning, particularly taking note of the proposed 24/27

bypass of Carthage.

Describing the proposed roadway as more of an expressway than bypass, Sparks said Carthage would have a bigger say in where it was located with an expanded ETJ.

However, a small but vocal crowd of rural property owners that would be affected by the proposed action successfully argued that Carthage's proposal offered little, if any, benefit to their properties.

"I am against it. I don't see any benefit or how it will help me," said Steve Ingold. "I know the current town board and have a certain amount of trust in them, but we don't know who will come after them. The next generation might dictate different rules that I'd have to follow."

Tim Priest, who farms 600 acres in the affected area, gave voice to a point raised by most who addressed the Board: "We are not convinced there are any benefits, and we don't have any voice in this thing."

Discussion among Planning Board members echoed that concern.

"I have not heard a compelling reason why the Town of Carthage wants to do this and I see no benefit to these people at all," said Member Bernie Capstick.

It was not clear, given the cool reception at the Planning Board, Carthage would pursue the expansion with the Board of Commissioners.

Working Lands Protection

Looking to protect forests and farmland in Moore County, the Planning Board unanimously recommended the proposed Working Lands Protection Plan for adoption.

According to NCSU Economics Professor Mike Walden, agriculture is North Carolina's largest industry, contributing \$74 billion to the state's economy. Locally, agriculture is a \$373 million industry, providing 13 percent of Moore County jobs.

The Working Lands Plan summarizes both challenges and opportunities faced by local farmers, and was developed to encourage long range policies rather than as a regulatory document.

"I am quite pleased with all that has been accomplished," said Planning Board Member Rodney Pickler, who served on Consensus Working Group appointed to draft and review the plan. "There has been a lot of work and

a lot of people involved in this."

Vice Chair Martha Blake, who also assisted with the Consensus Group, recognized Planner Jeremy Rust's significant contribution to the plan.

"I credit him with all the good work that went into this," Blake said. "From what I understand and what I see, this is a great thing. We have to start protecting our farms."

"The plan's objectives are clearly sustainable agriculture — and I mean that from an economic standpoint," said Chair Robert Hayter. "Moore County, except for a few areas, is truly a rural county, and this document makes that clear moving forward."

Planning staff applauded

The Planning Staff has seen its numbers shrink from a high of seventeen down to the current roster of nine, and the Planning Board took a few minutes during the

October 6 meeting to thank the staff for their hard work.

"I have learned that you guys are as good as it comes," said Chairman Hayter. "You are doing the job professionally every time and I am honored to work with you."

Acting Director Debra Esminger specifically thanked staff members Tim Garner and Robert Farrell for going above and beyond, serving in multiple capacities — as planners, administrative assistants, and permitting technicians, when needed.

"We are a team and we work together as a team," she said. "We get it done."

Reflecting on her close working experience with the Planning Department over the past three decades, Vice Chair Blake said the staff is the best she has ever worked with.

"Any question I have, they give me an answer. They deserve our respect — and a raise," she said.

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Directors send boating rules back for rewrite

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Identifying the need for and basic objectives of a new policy are the easy part; nailing down the precise language to accomplish that goal often proves to be more difficult.

Tangling with terms, and short-staffed, with two Directors absent from the table on Wednesday, September 28, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors

hashed over three proposed boating rules before sending two amendments back to the Lakes & Dams Committee for fine tuning.

The Board was in agreement with the basic premise of proposed rule 8.4.4.2, which would loosen the existing regulation that all powerboats must travel in a counter-clockwise direction. Instead, the Lakes & Dams Committee proposed that powerboats only be required to travel in such a manner

when operating within the designated skiing area. Powerboats motoring slowly along the shoreline would be allowed to freely travel in either direction.

But the rule went back to committee because it specifically addressed only Lake Sequoia and not Lake Echo, which, while smaller in size, also permits powerboats and skiers.

A proposed amendment to 8.3.3 also quickly derailed
(See "SLLA," p. 20)

Gallery Opens Oct. 20

Highlighting local artists and their works, The Gallery at Seven Lakes offers a convenient and airy venue for the community to experience a rich variety of artistic expression – from traditional art to pottery, photography and quilting shows.

"Art is a positive thing in our society. We want to reach out to everyone – young and old. We believe that exposing people to different art forms and cultures adds value to the community," said Gallery volunteer, Paula Hill.

The Gallery at Seven Lakes kicks off the Fall season with a Grand Opening of inspiring new art works on Thursday, October 20, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with an evening wine and cheese reception. All are invited to enjoy the

show and meet the artists.

Rather than a specific theme, the new show opening on October 20 will focus on the artists themselves, including local favorites Helen Pardue and Magda Sonderfan. Three Penick Village guest artists Kelly Hoffman, Linda Harvey, and Barbara Stoughton are also prominently featured in the new exhibit.

Other upcoming shows at The Gallery this season will include local photography, pottery and quilting pieces, as well as a Spring art show featuring works contributed by local children.

"We have such a great community here. Yes, it started out as a retirement community, but now it is so much more. We're seeing more and

more families and we want to make sure we include everyone," said Hill.

Many of the featured artists are also part of the Art Group that meets on Mondays at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The group offers a supportive and creative environment for artists and new members are always welcome.

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is located in the business village, at 1145 Seven Lakes Drive in the St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church building. Regular open show hours are held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. For information, please contact Carol Burgess at 673-3838.

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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Hearing was called to clarify an already established ordinance that was never properly filed into the Village record. So, the Council decided to correct the omission first, before sending the issue of equestrian lot size back to the Foxfire Planning & Zoning Committee for further review.

Mayor George Erickson offered a brief history of the original action, recalling that concerns were raised as outlying equestrian communities began to be developed. Reading from meeting minutes detailing the 2005 recommendation and decision, Councilman Mick McCue said the increase to ten acres was based primarily on an interest in aesthetics related to clustered buildings and setbacks.

"We are in the business of developing Foxfire, and we've heard from the two biggest developers in the area that they could sell more at six acres," McCue said. "I think the reasoning in 2005 was very flimsy for the increase. Six versus ten acres doesn't mean much for aesthetics, and we need to develop property. We have a second chance here to bite at the apple, and I suggest we look at six."

He noted that the recent Planning & Zoning review of minimum equestrian lot sizes involved a completely sepa-

rate concern based on restricting the number of irrigation wells.

"We were looking at tying the water to lot size, but the new [North Carolina] law has divorced those issues," McCue said.

Finance Director Leslie Frusco concurred.

"I agree with Mick in hundred percent," she said, "but I don't think that this is something we can do tonight. We'll need to follow Planning & Zoning procedures and hold another Public Hearing before we could change this ordinance back. But I agree that, if the county only requires six acres and Southern Pines requires six, then, if we want to develop this area, we can't have an ordinance that is prohibitive. It makes no sense to the future of Foxfire; and the reasoning they had, I can't find as valid."

Grandfathering properties?

In a related discussion of the equestrian lot size amendment, local Realtor Greg Regan, engaged the Council in a lengthy discussion of how Foxfire ordinances affect annexed properties.

A resident of Grande Pines, Regan noted that six acre parcels in the development had been marketed and sold as horse property.

"A number of people bought property with the understanding that if they wanted

a horse, they could do that. But as a result of not finding water, we petitioned the Village and were annexed in," said Regan. "Nothing was said when we came in about six or ten acres."

Erickson responded that all property owners must comply with Village ordinances, including those in annexed areas. On the question of grandfathering, he recalled that one exception had been granted to an annexed piece of land along Richmond Road that had existing horses on a lot just under ten acres in size; however, once the property is sold, the standard ordinance minimum will apply.

Regan cautioned the Council that such policies would devalue properties.

"If a resident buys a piece of horse property, he would expect to be able to sell his parcel as a horse property," he admonished.

Western Connector

With all potential routes of the proposed Western Connector bypass of Pinehurst back on the table for discussion at the county level, Councilman McCue

expressed concern that Foxfire Village — both the Council and residents — must stay involved in the process.

"It could be a long way off, even under the best of circumstances; but this is the time to get involved in the planning," he said.

McCue said he has been in touch with local NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] representatives and encouraged active participation in the upcoming charette workshops, when public input on possible routes will be collected.

"Ultimately, we can't say no to NCDOT," McCue said. "So if we don't want to play in the planning, in the end

they may say that Hoffman Road looks good and they'll widen it. It might never happen, but we need to be sure and stand up and say where we want it or, more importantly, where we don't want it!"

He continued, "We want to make sure our vision, the Foxfire vision, is included. We have a vested interest in this too."

Finance

Thirty-five percent of current property taxes have been collected, reported Frusco, and information on delinquent taxes and assessments has been forwarded to the

(See "Foxfire," p. 13)



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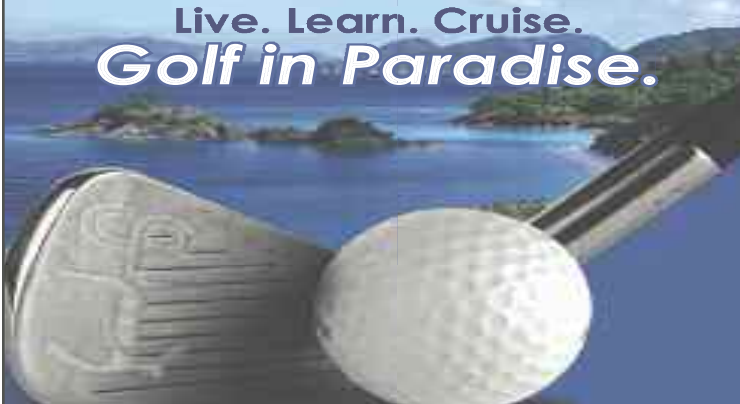
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Foxfire

(Continued from page 12)

Village Attorney.

The General Fund, as of September 30, stood at \$819,559, including \$11,512 in Powell Bill funds, \$20,988 in Stonehill Pines account, and \$75,052 in capital reserves. In addition, the first of two Powell Bill payments was recently received. At \$19,000, Frusco said that was slightly higher than anticipated in the budget.

The Water Fund was reported at \$285,438 and an additional \$135,561 is held in restricted escrow for a new well.

Annual bank loan payments in July included \$26,966 for the Village Green Park and \$41,144 for water improvements. In April 2012, payment is due on the Woodland Circle Extension project loan with an interest-only payment of \$75,810 from the General Fund and \$5,357 from the Water Fund.

Reviewing pool records from this past Summer season, Frusco said revenue was slightly up and expenditures were slightly down, with some cost savings realized through use of an outside service for regular maintenance. Unanticipated expenses included several repairs required by Moore County prior to the pool opening, including new

fencing, work in the pump house and restrooms, and resurfacing and repainting the pool itself.

Woodland Circle property

The Nature Conservancy considered and ultimately declined any interest in purchasing the Village-owned 160 acre property on Woodland Circle, reported Councilman McCue.

"They said it does not fit into their acquisition plans. I have also spoken to the Sandhills Area Land Trust and they will be looking into it next," he said.

In addition, the property was declined by the Carolina Horse Park, but the facility has agreed to recommend the property to potential buyers.

Halloween Party

The Foxfire Property Owners Association will host the annual Halloween Party at the Village Green Park on Sunday, October 30 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Come 'Trunk or Treat' and enjoy a bounce house and other fun and games. The event is rain or shine.

Candy donations may be delivered to the office and volunteers are needed.

Streets

NCDOT will support the Council's recommendation if a resolution is passed to upgrade the yield sign at Tie Road to a Stop sign, reported Councilman John Eltschlager; however, he argued that such a change may not be warranted.

"DOT said at this time they don't have a traffic study or anything that would dictate either sign," he said.

"My first thought is that, if people are not yielding, then they won't stop either," McCue said. "We can't legislate against poor driving. The appropriate traffic device for this location is a yield sign. If you drive properly, that is the appropriate sign."

Elt Schlager anticipated that

a representative from NCDOT will soon be meeting with Foxfire Police Chief Mike Campbell to review concerns at several key intersections. Rumble paint striping is one proposed option; however, the safety strips are difficult to remove once in place, and large vehicles and trucks often generate noise when crossing its bumpy surface.

Continuing the streets report, Eltschlager said the deadline has been eliminated on new Federal street sign requirements, specifically due to replacement cost impacts.

"As new signs or replacement signs are installed, they will adhere to the new requirements for size, height and reflectivity," he said.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, October 11, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Heard from McCue that results from the recent community survey have been published and will be included in the draft Long Range Plan currently under development.

- Accepted the resignation of Eileen Umland from the Planning & Zoning Board. Erickson noted this was the third resignation in just the last month. "We have started to discuss these boards and how many members are appropriate," he said. "We are having difficulty filling the seats, and these are fairly large boards for the size of our community."

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Westside Work Session

(Continued from front page)

The dissenting directors argued that the community should have more information about the advantages of the two mailhouse option, before the Board made its final decision.

During Tuesday's meeting, Brooke argued that a single mailhouse at West Side Park will mean increased traffic, more congestion, and additional road maintenance.

It "doesn't make any sense to me," said Brooke, who disputed the idea that building a second mailhouse by the East Gate was somehow unfair, because it would serve only about thirty percent of the community.

Westsider Dale Erikson also spoke during member comments adding that, "never in my wildest dreams did I think we would be talking about a single mailhouse" — especially in the WSP area.

However, President Mick Herdrich said feedback from the community has been "overwhelmingly" in favor of building one mailhouse. Both John Hoffmann and Jane Sessler said they would support the recommendation of the LRP, which has worked

for hours on this project.

LRP Director Don Friert said that West Side Park is a thirty-seven-acre area and nothing has been decided about where the mailhouse will be constructed and what roads will be used. This will all be determined once a land analysis has been conducted.

Friert told *The Times* such an analysis could take anywhere from three to six months. He added that wants to get started now, so that there is no question that the 2015 deadline to move the existing mailhouse is met.

Friert told the Board he would rather use the additional \$40,000 — the estimated additional cost for a second mailhouse — to improve the roads in the community — something that was at the top of community concerns in a recent survey conducted by the Board.

Legal Director Jack Stevens suggested the possibility of building a second mailhouse at a later date, but Community Manager Joan Frost said this may turn into a more costly option.

Using Physical Addresses

Frost told *The Times* that West End Postmaster, Harold Jones told her that using physical addresses for mail delivery in the community is possible — but it may prove to be more costly. It could cost more money because every lot in the community — whether currently built on or not — would have to have a box installed in the new post office for that address.

The Board has made no decision about the addressing scheme for the new mailhouse, waiting for official word from the US Postal Service on whether that is an option.

Mailhouse Feedback

Long Range Planning Director Friert related to the Board input so far on the mailhouse decision, including feedback from the website,

town hall meeting, regular board meetings, and emails.

There have been 33 written responses on the issue, of which:

- 18 are in favor of a single mailhouse,
- 5 are in favor of two mailhouses, and
- 2 suggested keeping the current mailhouse where it is.

The other comments
(See "Westside," p. 15)

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Westside Work Session

(Continued from page 14)

touched on cost, traffic, larger mail boxes, and asking that the community be kept informed as the mailhouse process moves forward.

The question of whether or not to change the mail delivery system to physical addresses instead of box numbers is still generating responses. So far, thirteen responses have been received on the topic; seven are for the change and six are against it.

Board Members Wanted

The SLWLA is seeking candidates for the Board of Directors 2012 election, Nominating Committee Chair Jane Sessler announced during Tuesday's Work Session. Three new Board members are elected every year to take the place of the three current members whose three-year term is up. Directors may serve two consecutive three-year terms, after which they must sit out a year before running again.

The deadline for becoming a candidate is Monday, November 7. Anyone interested should contact Jane Sessler at janes@7lakeswest.com or Ron Shepard at rfshppard@embarqmail.com. The nominating committee will announce the candidates in December.

Manager's Report

Community Manager Joan Frost reported that a new sign has been installed at the exit side of the mailhouse to advise drivers that they should not make a right hand turn — against traffic — onto the exit lane in order to enter the Parkwood neighborhood. Sheriff's deputies will be monitoring the area and will issue tickets to violators.

Frost also reported that:

- The grounds maintenance contract is being reviewed for either contract renewal or soliciting new bids.
- At least three contractors are bidding on the replacement of surface boards at the Johnson Point boat slips.
- In the last two weeks,

twenty-seven compliance letters have been sent out.

Frost said the pool cover needs to be replaced or repaired. If it cannot be repaired to County standards

for a reasonable price, then replacement will be considered. A number of pool umbrellas and cushions will be repaired at a cost of \$1,000, and the installation

of additional drywall in the pool house storage area is under consideration.

Frost thanked Betsy Mikula for donating new flags.

Architectural Review

ARC Director John Hoffmann reported that nine construction projects or major additions are underway in the community. There are

(See "Westside," p. 16)



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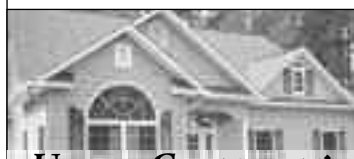
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3BR/2.5 BA, GREAT LOCATION - \$169,900

OPEN HOUSE! SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH 1 - 4PM

120 FOREST SQ CIR • 7LW



315 FT. GOLF FRONT - \$339,000

119 SMATHERS DR • 7LW

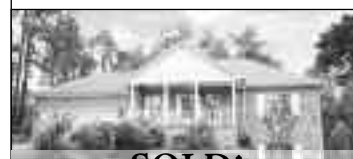


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3BR+BONUS, NEAR MARINA - \$262,900

Attend both homes and be entered into a drawing for an iPad2!

104 REMBERT CT • 7LW



SOLD!

3 BD/2.5 BA, ALL BRICK, CUL-DE-SAC - \$183,000

251 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



UNDER CONTRACT!

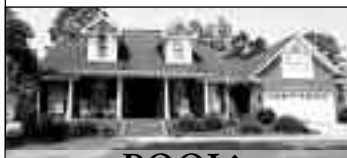
ALL BRICK, 2 BR + DEN \$200,000

105 LEEWOOD CT • 7LW



4BR, 4.5 BA - \$325,000

148 MORRIS DRIVE • 7LW



POOL!

3BR+2 BONUS RMS - \$342,000

120 FAWNWOOD DR • 7LW



CUSTOM W/ALL THE UPGRADES - \$339,900

108 SMATHERS • 7LW



CLOSE TO MARINA! MANY UPGRADES! \$300,000

105 DOUGLAS DR • 7LW



3BR+BONUS, DBL LOT \$275,000

110 DORSET DR • 7LS



STORAGE GALORE! - \$182,500

104 BIRCHWOOD CT • 7LN



3 BED PLUS DEN! PRICED TO SELL! \$135,000

120 SHERWOOD RD • 7LS



3/2 TOWNHOME - \$153,000

119 ANDREWS DR • LAKE AUMAN



CUSTOM WATERFRONT IN MINT CONDITION! \$879,000

230 FINCH GATE • 7LW



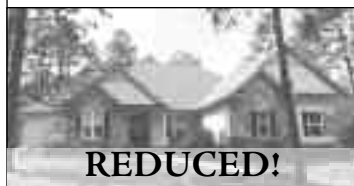
GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! - \$339,900

165 WEDGEWOOD • 7LW



BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED - \$207,000

113 LONGLEAF • 7LW



REDUCED!

4BR + BONUS - \$300,000

286 MORGAN TRAIL • 7LW



4 BED, 3 BATH ON 7 ACRES! \$400,000

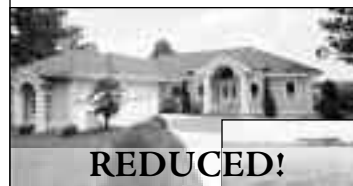
110 BLACKSTONE CT • 7LW



SOLD!

GREAT LAYOUT, BARGAIN PRICE! - \$187,500

123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW



REDUCED!

AMAZING WATERFRONT - \$779,000

Westside Work Session

(Continued from page 15)

also forty smaller projects, with twenty having been completed since the last Work Session.

Hoffmann has placed a brief article on the community website encouraging individuals to be sure to bring their projects to ARC for approval before beginning work. Every project brought to ARC in the last thirty days has been approved within one to four days, he noted.

Proposed changes to the ARC standards will receive their next reading during the Board's Tuesday, October 25 meeting, at which point final approval could be voted on by the Board.

Westside Communications

Secretary Sessler said that the "website has been really successful," and, in keeping with that success, she is planning to take all the member comments from the website and compile them into a hard copy notebook. "Nobody's opinion is being lost," Sessler said, reiterating that all member comments will be kept on the website for two months, and those associated with a specific issue will remain on the website until that issue is resolved by the Board.

Sessler reported the website is up to 620 members, and new features are in the works, including videos. The communications team continues to publish the newsletter every month, she added.

Sessler said the Area Reps are investigating starting a new group to welcome new residents to Seven Lakes West. The Area Reps "main function for many many years was communication," Sessler explained, but now "the website is taking care of that."

Infrastructure Committee

Dr. Dan Marks' design for repairs to the lower pond dam have been reviewed, reported Infrastructure Director, John Goodman. The road over the dam will be widened to allow for pedestrian access, and guardrails will be installed in the area. The plans also deal with erosion

on the dam and corrosion of the pipes. Initial pricing for the repairs will be available within the week, Goodman said.

Pavement patching at the second pond dam by Beacon Ridge is underway, as is other patching in the community. Goodman said this should be completed in approximately two weeks -- well before Winter.

Most of the erosion control — especially at Morganwood, which had substantial erosion at the edges of the road — is almost complete, Goodman reported, as is the correction of drainage issues in the community.

President Mick Herdrich said repaving of the road over Lake Auman Dam will be addressed after a recommendation is received by a committee that is working on this project. The committee is also looking into creating an alternate road around the dam.

Lake Auman

Lake and Dam Director Wimberly told the Board that it is time to do a new study of vegetation, fish, and water quality in Lake Auman. The last study was conducted six years ago, and funding is available in the current budget to pay for the work.

Wimberly said lakes users

have been "pretty content," with the expanded ski zone. An additional buoy may be added coming out of Johnson Point into the ski zone area.

Wimberly will look into the cost of getting the community's swim platform repaired rather than replaced. To replace the platform would cost \$3,200 to \$5,000.

Safety and Security Report

Reporting for Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy, who was absent from Tuesday's meeting, Community Manager Frost said the Safety and Security Committee has met with several security companies — including the current contractor — to evaluate both the cost and security options.

Items under consideration are:

- Better service from security staff.
- Better ways to record ingress and egress, to keep better records and ensure safer use of the roads in the community.
- Better cameras for use at the front gate, back gate, Johnson Point and the boat storage area.
- Better lighting at Johnson Point and the boat storage area.
- Remote locks for emergency gates and gates on both ends of the Lake Auman

dam road.

An inter-association security coordination group met on Friday, October 7 with John Stone, President of CAS, to discuss security and insurance. Communities with representatives in attendance included: National, Pinewild, CCNC, Seven Lakes North and South, Carolina Lakes, McClendon Hills, and Seven Lakes West.

Former Safety and Security Director John Hoffmann was thanked for organizing the cooperative group, which meets every other month.

Finance Report

Treasurer Friert reported cash disbursements of

\$78,500 for the month of September, with two items that were not part of the normal operating expenditures: \$10,000 to Dr. Dan Marks for engineering services and \$2,900 for the installation of two gates at Johnson Point.

The 2012-2013 budget process is underway. An initial draft of next year's budget will be ready for review in November.

Events

An Oktoberfest celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 from 6 to 9 pm in the great room at the West Side Park Community Center.

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Pine Forest

(Continued from page 3)

however, another concern was raised about Nick's Creek: that developer MHK could withdraw water from the stream to irrigate the development's golf courses.

It only takes a little poking around on the Pine Forest property to discover that concern was overblown, Picerno told *The Times*.

"There's not enough water in Nick's Creek up that far to water one green on one golf hole," Picerno said, noting that he had recently walked the property. "It's a little bitty stream. There really isn't any major source of water for them to tap into."

Carthage is able to use Nick's Creek as a water source, because they built a reservoir that can capture and hold the runoff from significant storms, Picerno explained. "But with no dam on Nick's Creek, there is no water source."

Another concern raised by

Pine Forest opponents was that runoff from residential streets and golf courses would pollute Carthage's water supply. But Picerno said the ground adjacent to the creek is "swampy, with lots of undergrowth to filter the water."

"Enlarged buffers are one of the conditions" the Commissioners placed on the rezoning, he added. "I think we have done a lot to address that concern."

As for where the county will find the water to serve the residents who will eventually live in Pine Forest, Picerno said that agreement remains to worked out with the developer, who has already offered to provide up to \$3 million in funding toward the project.

"I hope that plays into our overall water strategy," Picerno told *The Times*, adding that he expects negotiations on the water and wastewater agreement will be underway

by the end of the year.

It's why you plan

"I truly respect the other arguments," Picerno said. "The water argument, the environmental argument. But when you took it all in and threw it through the grinder, I felt that the developer is taking his property and putting more definition on what's going to happen there."

"This guy bought the land; it was on the market. I don't know how you can go in there legally and say you can't do that."

"When I saw the plan for Pine Forest, I thought, 'It's just another Pinewild. It's another McLendon Hills.' And who wouldn't want another Pinewild or McLendon Hills? They are building homes that bring value to our community."

Picerno explained that a development like Pinewild attracts retirees who build a strong tax base but create

low demand for county services. "That helps keep the tax rate low," he said.

"The alternative is not to plan," Picerno told *The Times*, returning to the point that the PUD zoning was created to foster well-designed development.

"Why would we spend the money, and do all this planning, and not use the plans?"

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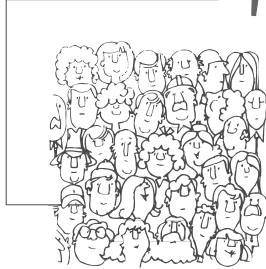
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- **Flu Shots Available** – 9 am to 3 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center offering flu and pneumonia shots, administered by Maxim HealthCare. Medicare Part B will cover the cost of the shot. Call 215-0900 to make an appointment. Bring your Medicare or other insurance cards. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **A Big Tribute Show Honoring Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline** – 7:30 pm, Alvin Smith: Paying Tribute to Elvis Presley and Deb Kiger: Paying Tribute to Patsy Cline. Tickets \$18 each, general admission. To purchase, visit sunrisetheater.org or call 910-692-8501.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

- **Chapel in the Pines Rummage Sale** – 8 am to noon. Annual Rummage Sale at the Old Gym in West End. Doors open at 8 am. Contributions will be accepted on Thursday, October 13, from 12 noon to 4pm and Friday, October 14, from 8:30 am to 12 noon.
- **WEE Scarecrow Run 5K** – 8 am, McLendon Hills community. Sponsored by the WEE PTA, racers may participate in 5K or one mile fun run. Cost \$15/\$25.
- **Farmers' Market – at Sandhills Winery** - 9 am - Noon, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **TempControl Open House** – 11 am to 2 pm, 277 McDougall Drive. Drop by for raffle prizes and refreshments catered by The Italian Table.
- **Sunrise Theatre Presents**

the Metropolitan Opera – Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* – *New Production*, 1 pm to 5:15 pm, One intermission. Individual tickets \$25. Anna Netrebko opens the Met season with her portrayal of the ill-fated queen driven insane by her unfaithful king. She sings one of opera's greatest mad scenes in a production that also stars Ekaterina Gubanova as her rival,



Jane Seymour, and

Ildar Abdrazakov as Henry VIII. Marco Armiliato conducts. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Horse Farm Tour** – 11 am to 4 pm, A self guided excursion of beautiful horse farms of the Sandhills. Tour's hosts and farms include Paul and Maureen Grippa, Blackrock Stables; Linda McVicker, of Marilee Farm; Brigadier General William R. Holmes (retired) and Camilla Vance, of The Old Goat Farm; Bruce and Donna Holcomb, of Spotted Pines Farm; John and Deborah Wilson, of Sunninghill Farm; and Will and Christine Smith, of Wishing Well Farm. Some of the farms will also feature equine demonstrations. Proceeds

will benefit Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding Center. For tickets contact the NCSU Equine Health Center, 6045 US 1 North, 910-246-3202, e-mail prancinghorsecenter@yahoo.com or www.prancinghorsecenter.com Children under 12 free. No pets.

- **Fall Wildflowers** – 3 pm, Visitor Center. Join the Park Ranger for a walk to discover some of the colorful Fall wildflowers in bloom. Hike will be approx. 1.5 miles. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, - weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov
- **Museum of the Cape Fear** – at 3 pm, in the Pate Room of Headquarters Library, 300 Maiden Lane in downtown Fayetteville, for "Day Work Discussions." This program brings together women of all colors in the 21st century to explore, share, probe, and learn about the world of domestic servants and their employers in the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era South. How is this aspect of life remembered and portrayed? What lessons can we learn? What were the moments of courage, endurance, and love? "Day Work Discussions," led by Barbara Armstrong White, local tale spinner. One part presentation and one part work-

shop Admission is Free. For more information, call Heidi Bleazey at (910) 486-1330. www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Dehilia Low* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **Sunday Night Kids** – 6 – 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church children grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade are invited to a time of learning more about God through music, bible lessons, and activities just for everyone.
- **Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm, Youth, Grades 6-12, meet at West End United Methodist Church to discuss the bible and how it applies to their daily lives. Join the Youth Group. Mandy Allen, Youth Director, can be contacted with any questions about this program.


TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **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.
- **League of Women Voters**

to Discuss Education – the National League Consensus questions on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. Meeting at the Table on the Green Restaurant, Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Rd., Southern Pines. Check-in time is 11:30 am; meeting at 11:45 am. Cost \$12; check payable to LWVMC is preferred method of payment. Prior reservation is required. Charlotte Gallagher at 910-944-9611.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Financial Forum** - The Basics of Mutual Funds – 3 to 4 pm, Financial Advisors Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon of Raymond James & Associates will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to discuss Mutual Fund Basics. Gain a better understanding of what Mutual Funds are, how they work, what are the common myths, how do Mutual Funds provide income, how to choose them, what are the pros and cons, should you try to time the market? Reservations 215-0900. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040




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- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *The Legend of Pale Male* (Documentary) 7:30 pm. *The Legend of Pale Male* is the true account of one of the most surprising and remarkable love stories in the history of New York City about a young man from Belgium and a wild Redtail Hawk., Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

- **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.
- **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
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 5:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Mick and Wini* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- * **Art Show Wine & Cheese Reception** – 7 pm to 9 pm, The Gallery at Seven Lakes, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church building, Seven Lakes Drive. Meet the artists and enjoy a wine and cheese reception to kick off the new Gallery show. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rufus Barringer Civil War Roundtable** – 7 pm. Meeting at Southern Pines Civic Club, at Ashe and Pennsylvania Aves., Southern Pines. Guest speaker, Retired U.S. Army Colonel, Frederic L. Borch, regimental Historian and Archivist for the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Colonel Borch will present "The Murder of Abraham Lincoln: The Plot to Assassinate the President and the Trial of Conspirators by Military Commission"

John Wilkes Booth did not act alone when he shot Lincoln. What were the goals of the conspiracy? Why were the seven men and one woman prosecuted at a military trial and not in a civilian court? Colonel Borch will answer these and many more questions during this evening. New members are needed, and visitors are always welcome. Refreshments are served. Information 910-235-0946 or 910-695-9058.

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm. "Getting Immigration Right" will be the topic of speakers David Coates and Peter Siavelis. Coates is the Worrell Chair in Anglo-American Studies at Wake Forrest University and Siavelis is Associate Professor and Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at Wake Forrest. In the Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College campus, Pinehurst. Program is open to the public. Lectures are free, no tickets are required. For information call 910-245-3132.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

- **WEUMC Annual Youth Yard and Bake Sale** – 8 am to 1 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. There will be items for everyone as well as drinks, popcorn, and baked items. All proceeds will support Youth and Children's Ministries. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Old Growth Hike** – 3 pm, Visitor Center. Meet the oldest known longleaf pine in the world. See this 463 year old tree and also one of the largest longleaf pines in North Carolina on a one mile hike through the Weymouth Woods Boyd Tract. Learn more about the NC state tree. Bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. Car pool from the Visitor Center about 4 miles to the Boyd Tract. Weymouth Woods,

Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

- **Sunday Night Kids** – 6 – 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church children grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade are invited to a time of learning more about God through music, bible lessons, and activities.
- **Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm, Youth, Grades 6-12, meet at West End United Methodist Church to discuss the bible and how it applies to their daily lives. Join the Youth Group. Mandy Allen, Youth Director, can be contacted with any questions.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Joe Craven* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal

Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- **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.
- **Celebrating Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!** – 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Annual Open House at Seven Lakes Fire Department Station. Come see videos, smoke house, smoke detector installation and maintenance, hands on activities for the children, informing the community on some Do's and Don'ts of fire safety during Fire Prevention Week, and educational, family-oriented activities. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, general meeting, West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, general meeting, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

- **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.
- **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
- **Save Our Sandhills Speaker To Discuss "Light Pollution"** – 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Guest speaker Jim Dougherty, Executive Director of the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) will speak on the topic light pollution.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 11)

during the approval process. As recommended, the rule would continue to restrict swimming in the boat launch and marina areas, but also within the designated ski area.

"The new rule only applies to Lake Sequoia because it has the heavier recreation area," explained SLLA Vice President Don Fentzlaff, who presided over the meeting. "There are swimmers who are going across the lake, and that is the reason this came up. We want to encourage people to swim in safer areas, such as the coves."

SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer said he understood the safety concern but felt the rule, as written, was too restrictive.

"This also prohibits anyone from swimming off a pontoon boat or any craft out in the ski area," he argued.

Director Andy Lowe also opposed the rule, stating that many swim off their boats in the ski area during quieter mid-week periods.

Director Bud Shaver suggested that more consideration should be given to the previous Board's informal proposal to relocate the Sequoia Point swimming beach to the western side of the park, away from the marina and boat launch.

Noting that any new boating rules would not take effect until March 1, 2012, Fentzlaff called for a motion to table the amendments for further discussion at the committee level.

The third proposed rule, which strictly prohibits damaging, dunking, or otherwise disturbing lake buoys, was unanimously approved.

"Our buoys took a tremendous beating this Summer and last," Fentzlaff said. "They have big cuts in them, some have had the printed sleeve torn off, and some have been half-submerged when swimmers fill them with water."

The rule also prohibits boats from tying up to the buoys, or using them as skiing markers.

Little Juniper Lake

Turning from lakes to dams, the Board unanimously approved spending up to \$15,000 to repair an area of seepage that has been identified along the left downstream side of Little Juniper Dam.

Fentzlaff recommended approval of the S&ME contract for design, engineering, and permitting, anticipated to cost \$9,700; the repair work itself is expected to cost less than \$5,000.

"These dams are thirty years old, so there are bound to be a few problems," said Shaver. "Don's [Fentzlaff] committee is doing a good job in taking care of things."

Turning another concern at Little J, Fentzlaff explained that a submerged valve had been partially open and feeding water from Lake Windemere on the Seven Lakes Country Club to the shallow Northside lake for at least five years. Connected to the golf course irrigation system, the open valve required their sprinkler system to pump non-stop year round. While the leak was a known problem, it was difficult to pinpoint because of the seventy-five foot difference between the two bodies of water.

"I would like to offer a huge thanks to Ed Dunn and Jerry Johnson for their work in finding out where the water was coming from and shut-

ting it off," said Fentzlaff. "I really commend these guys. Keep up the good work."

Fentzlaff said he hopes that the water quality in Little J will improve due to a decrease in chemicals thought to be coming into the lake along with water from Lake Windemere.

He reported that the Lakes & Dams Committee will be keeping a close eye on Little J, monitoring the lake level as compared to other lakes in the community.

"There is no spring or at least it is a very weak spring that feeds Little J. And because it is small and shallow, evaporation has a tremendous effect," Fentzlaff explained.

Echo Dam

Dam engineer S&ME conducted stability tests and have that confirmed Echo Dam is stable and there is no threat of sloughing.

"A repair is needed, but it is not state-mandated so there is no hurry," Fentzlaff explained. "We will do the repair once additional information is received from S&ME."

Summarizing factors that led to concerns about the dam, he said turbidity was noted in water at the foot of the dam in May. Early inspections indicated the problem was minor and mostly cosmetic. Based on water testing,

that report was updated again in August, suggesting a more serious concern. However, the recent stability test alleviated the worry.

Finance

The month of September was on target for expenses, reported Community Manager Alina Cochran, though there was a noticeable negative variance in the salary line due to three pay periods in the same month. In addition, bad debt and unanticipated repairs for lightning damage at the gates increased the overall year-to-date variance to approximately \$29,000.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer highlighted several items of

concern that the Finance Committee is working on, including: improving the 2011-2012 registration and billing process, resolving a few outstanding issues related to the recent improved lot audit, drafting a new proposed travel policy, and improving the standard financial statement report.

Meyer said the annual audit report being completed by Dixon Hughes is long overdue; and, thus far, the firm has not been able to provide an anticipated completion date.

"The audit impacts the timing on other tasks we must complete, such as an asset inventory and final transfers

(See "SLLA," p. 21)

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— We Sell All of Moore County —

SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 20)

for the last fiscal year," he explained.

Meyer also reported a matured \$200,000 CD had been reinvested last month and that funds from a matured \$160,000 CD had been moved into the operating account.

Grounds & Maintenance

Reporting for Director Bruce Keyser, Jr., who was unable to attend, Director Shaver noted that nine boat trailers without SLLA registration stickers have been identified at the Sequoia Point storage lot. One trailer in the lot has a boat sticker instead of a trailer sticker. In addition, thirteen power boats at the marina area have expired stickers, eleven boats have expired NC Wildlife registration stickers, and another two boats are not registered with the State. Request notices for compliance have been sent to all boat and trailer owners.

Keyser's report also noted that community grounds are looking better than ever and that fertilization work is underway by Davenport Landscaping.

Community Standards

The list of reported viola-

Van Antwerp

(Continued from page 8)

ple," Van Antwerp explained. "You can talk until their ears are blue and you're worn out, but it is your kindness, your love, and your example that they will follow."

He continued, "In the Army, we say that leadership is about influence and service."

Now retired from active service, Van Antwerp recently accepted a position with The Flippen Group as Chief of Infrastructure and Executive Development. With family ties to the community, Van Antwerp and his wife, Paula, whom he sweetly described as "the love of my life," are longtime visitors to the area and settled last year in Seven Lakes North.

tions is down from twenty-nine pages in August to just twelve pages in September, reported Director Racine.

"The Community Standards Committee is doing an excellent job of observing and reporting violations," he said. "The office is following up in a timely fashion and we appreciate everyone's cooperation. And we could always use more help on the committee."

Security

A new camera at the Yard Debris Site can be adjusted to provide better resolution and results, reported Director Andy Lowe. The old camera has been reinstalled at another location to check license plates of entering vehicles.

"Anyone caught leaving

non-yard debris items will be detected and notified," warned Lowe. "Disposal of these items is costing the Association money."

In a related discussion of items stored at the Yard Debris and maintenance area, Meyer asked whether boat owners could be charged a compensation fee to the Association for removal or towing costs.

Lowe responded that owners, if known, have been asked to remove the boats, sell the boats, or to give the boats to the Association for removal -- but costs have not been discussed.

"I just want to make sure that we don't become a bone yard for old boats and trailers; and when people want to get rid of them, they don't aban-

don them," Meyer said. "Owners should be responsible for any costs associated with getting rid of these boats."

Lowe said there are three trailers frames at the Debris Site that will be sold as scarp metal. Regarding the boats, he said there is a lengthy documentation necessary and estimated that he is at step three of six steps in the disposal process.

Director Shaver complimented Lowe for his detailed research work and moving the project forward.

Other Business

In other business on Wednesday, September 28, the SLLA Board:

- Appointed Director Bob Racine to chair the 2011-2012 Nominating Committee. In this capacity, Racine will also preside over the Organizational Meeting following the annual election until a new president is seated. Racine asked for volunteers to serve on the search committee.

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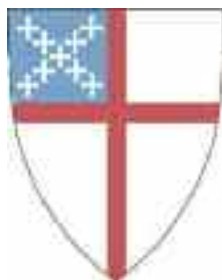
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Look on the bright side

I am an optimist.

Not that this is a natural state. I consider it more of a choice.

I think, therefore I am; thus I'm upbeat because I want to be positive. The alternative is reality which, we all know, often bites.

So with my usual pasted-on sunny disposition in place, I splurged last week on the *238 Heartwarming Soups* recipe magazine at the grocery checkout line. I simply could not resist the alluring cover shot of steaming gumbo, and daydreamed of boiling pots of warm goodness on cold Winter days.

Deep down, I knew what I

should have purchased was the glossy offering across the aisle that promised *12 Ways to get Your Sh*& Together*.

Considering the chronic state of my desk, laundry pile, checkbook, and general to-do list, I'm sure those twelve tips would be much more useful than yet another cookbook to clutter my "one day I'll make it" shelf.

But let's be fair: we all know that I prefer to navigate my world with rosy glasses firmly in place. It's a world where my hair is coifed, my clothes are stylish, and the soup is always on.

Oh . . . and where I can play the piano, too.

Unfortunately, I fell out of my standard wishful thinking reverie on that account last week. You see, I was feeling smug at some random moment of donut-driven



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

insanity during a church coffee hour and casually mentioned that I could play.

Play? Yes. Play well? No. With three years of music

lessons under my belt — albeit a much skinnier belt thirty years ago — I can still bang out a few tunes. Call it "Chopsticks with Flare."

So, to my dismay, the choir director took me at my word and tasked me with backing up her three-part harmony conducting.

I tried, I really did.

But like the inescapable force of gravity, reality quickly and surely brought me back to earth.

Despite a decent amount of practice and copious cheat notes that I had scribbled in the margins, the truth was that I could not play the piece. Not that day, and probably not ever.

After listening politely, the church maestro suggested that my talents would be better suited to a slower-paced holiday hymn with lots of chords.

Slow chords? Yes, I think, optimistically, that sounds about right — and it will be the perfect accompaniment to an afternoon spent simmering a pot of gumbo.

There's no travel guide for Heaven

Question: I know that I have been born again, forgiven, and promised eternal life. But there are people who do much more good than I do; and I find it hard to believe that I will be given the same treasures in heaven that they receive. All that I have been taught, tells me that we are equal in God's eyes, but shouldn't these people be rewarded differently from me?

Response: Over the years, I have been asked questions

similar to yours. Usually the questions are phrased in this way: "I have been saved; I try to live a good life; and I expect to go to heaven when I die. I read about death bed conversions when murderers or child-molesters turn to God just before they die. Will they receive the same heavenly rewards that I have been promised?"

There are thousands of ideas about the afterlife floating around. Some are found

in the Bible; and even these differ, depending on what book of the Bible you are reading. In Jesus' time, two religious groups — the Pharisees and the Sadducees — were at odds with each other over the question of what happens to

the body after death. Jesus did not take sides, nor did he in any of the Gospels describe what the afterlife will be like. Some Christians read into several of Jesus parables vague descriptions of heaven and hell, but we must remember that the parables were fictitious stories, not scientific fact.

Christians get most of their ideas about heaven from the writings of Paul and *The Revelation of John* (the last book in the New Testament). You mention that you were taught that all are equal in God's eyes. Paul believed that all of us are sinners in the sight of God and there is no dif-

ference among sinners. Sin is not something we do, but the state of separation from God in which all of us are



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

born and live until we are redeemed by the sacrificial death of Jesus and are promised life after death through a belief in his resurrection. All of this is the result of Grace, the unmerited love of God available to all people through Jesus the Christ.

All that I have written in the previous paragraph makes little sense to modern men and women living now in a post-Christian world. We get our ideas about heaven from hundreds of sources, like Milton's *Paradise Lost* or Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Others draw from the concept of the immortality of the soul ascribed to several of

the ancient Greek philosophers. Every year, there is a "best seller" describing heaven by some man, woman, or child who claims to have been there — usually through some near-death experience.

In short, I do not have the answer to your question. I haven't been to heaven, nor have I met anyone who has. Human justice seems to support the idea that, if the punishment should fit the crime, so should the reward fit the goodness of one's deeds. Yet, it is not justice that I seek from God, but mercy.

Whenever I begin to think that I know the ways of God, I am reminded of those wise words of Isaiah, the poet of the exile: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) If God chooses to reward everyone equally in heaven, who am I to question God?

I, like millions of people of faith who have gone before me, hold on to the hope of life after this life. I do not

(See "Rev," p. 24)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Gas prices, mailhouses, and Southern living

Dear Editor:

I would like to extend a big thank you to, first, Mr. Boyd for his comments about the current gas prices in our area. To answer your question sir, we have "special gas" in Seven Lakes.

That is why every time you drive around you will find we are ten to fifteen cents a gallon higher than any other area.

Now God forbid the news tells us someone thinks gas prices might go up in a month or so. Our friends

here in town will have added in another increase long before other stations do. Other folks in the area are in agreement the best way to take care of this problem is to stop buying gas or any other items from both stations.

We enjoy supporting the business community here but, wise up, do not try to rip us off. By the way, gas in Albermarle and Asheboro, depending on which station you go to, is \$3.19 - \$3.29 a gallon and still dropping.

We are at \$3.55?

Now the other thank you goes to Mr. Mahin. The reason you feel this is a police state here on the West Side is because we have no one who will listen to problems or concerns. Look at the front page of the *Seven Lakes Times* for September 30. Almost no one has provided input into the mailhouse.

Why?

Any and all decisions have already been made by the powers that be. You would be wasting your time trying

to convince any of the people who currently run this area as if they were in the White House that maybe, just maybe a few of us have a better way to do things. And yes I did put in my two cents via email about the mailhouse. A Butler-built building could be erected in a short period of time and finished to fit in with the surroundings a lot cheaper than the figures recently put out. It is a mailhouse people, not a spa. As a matter of fact, the gate house could be built the same

way (Butler style) and moved to the mailhouse location in a very short time frame.

Guess what Mr. Mahin? After you read this, the next paper you pick up will have all of the comments from our leaders explaining how far off I am on my comments. Just so you know, this is not my first pony ride, I have been involved over the years with building projects and cost of such.

One last point of interest: my wife and I moved here because we liked how comfortable it is in the south. For some reason, everyone feels they have to make things exactly the way it was in New York, New Jersey, Michigan or wherever else some of you have come from. You do not like it here, why try to change it?

Why not head back to where you came from and do us all a favor?

Bob Nelson
Seven Lakes West

Tom Snead
Seven Lakes West

More thoughts on the apocalypse

Dear Editor:

Don Welch has an interesting way with words in his *Seven Lakes Times* column, probably expecting a reaction from readers. He did wrinkle an eyebrow on me this last time.

I am one of those gullible Christians tricked by false preachers and controlling churches with regard to the progression of the world to some final day. So is Billy Graham. One of the churches I attended in Charlotte was founded by his family. Others are in the neighborhood church within a tee shot of Don's podium.

It is accepted that the governing doctrine of the Christian church is that a person is saved by grace thru faith. That faith is belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This doctrine holds together Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant faiths into the universal Christian church. There are many other beliefs, doctrines, and teachings.

With the exception of the doctrine of resurrection, many are simply unimportant next to the doctrine of salvation. The belief in how and when the world may end is one of those lesser teachings.

However, it may be that Reverend Welch believes in the resurrection of Christ and the hoped for resurrection of men. The resurrection

doctrine is one that is loved and cherished by most Christians and is celebrated frequently in Holy Communion.

It is clear, and without doubt, that resurrection of men requires an end time, or perhaps better stated a new beginning. The new beginning to be realized is the renewal of God's creation that will occur in the fullness

of God's time.

Welch is surely right on one thing. He is in agreement with Dr. Vance Havner, an old time NC evangelist, who once said that Jesus' parents lost him in the church; they were not the last to lose Jesus there.

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Thanks from Dr. Pete

Dear Seven Lakes Community and Friends:

Every year the Multiple Sclerosis Society Tour to Tanglewood event proves to be enlightening in some way. Sometimes it is a neat realization, sometimes it is personal accomplishment in the fund raising or the challenge of the bicycle ride and sometimes it is the satisfaction at having done something good for someone else! This year it is all those things and more . . . It is my Family!

In this years event, not

only did I ride again for the cause of Multiple Sclerosis, but our oldest daughter, Megan, rode with me and we both rode in honor of my wife and Megan's mom, Mary (whose has Multiple Sclerosis). Plus our youngest daughter, Kate was there. We did miss our daughter, Kelly, she is away at ECU. None of this is unusual at all and I hope that many people can have such an experience. This past weekend, I realized how lucky I am to have a wonderful fam-

ily. Another event participant even made that point to me. It is nice to have another observe and comment about my great family, but the best part is that I know and experience that.

It is for this personal benefit as well as the benefit to those with Multiple Sclerosis that I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your donations. Multiple Sclerosis is a tough disease, making life a challenge for many people. Your generosity helps make things better for those with the disease and their families.



Dr. Pete McKay

Dr. Pete McKay in the 2011 Tour to Tanglewood

Rev

(Continued from page 22)

try to describe it, nor do I pretend to know who may be there or who won't. I am content to leave all that in the hands of the God who by grace continues to forgive me and guide me by the Holy Spirit in this life.

Why should I expect that to change in the life to come?

Don Welch, the minister of The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines welcomes your comments and questions.

Write to him at dwelch1@nc.rr.com His sermons can be heard on the chapel website: sevenlakeschapelinthepines.com

Banbridge exit – simply not a good idea

Dear Seven Lakes West Board Members:

Besides the fact that changing the existing emergency gate to an exit gate at the end of Banbridge Drive in Seven Lakes West would prolong ones' drive to Southern Pines or Pinehurst, and waste more gas, as I have previously demonstrated, it would also wreak havoc on property val-

ues between Longleaf Drive and the existing emergency exit.

One of the chief reasons people chose to live on Banbridge Drive is that it's a cul de sac i.e., a low traffic road used only by the people who live on it.

Changing the character of the road, other than in case of emergency, would be a

criminal assault on the value of the Banbridge Drive homes which would likely result in a very unpleasant law suit with you as defendant.

Save the money for the mailhouse.

Bruce Macdonald
Seven Lakes West

Methodist Youth Bake Sale

The Youth at West End United Methodist Church will sponsor their annual Yard Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 22, from 8 am – 1 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. There will be items for everyone as well as drinks, popcorn, and baked items. All proceeds will support Youth and Children's Ministries. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.



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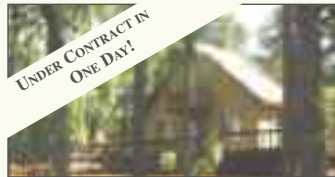
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OCTOBER ACTION

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)

to provide the public with as much information as possible. He suggested creating a quarterly newsletter, as well as posting the Board's goals and the status of each online.

Other Long Term Goals

- In August 2010 the Board approved a resolution supporting the Heart of North Carolina Mega Park.

- The Commissioners re-established the Moore County Transportation Committee [MCTC] in an effort to provide leadership in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan process.

- The Financial Services Department will prepare a recommendation for the transfer of fund balance in excess of fifteen percent of the total budget to the capital reserve fund, in keeping with a fiscal policy adopted in 2009.

- The Commissioners will continue to review capital projects costing more than \$100,000, as part of the Capital Improvement Plan [CIP], including projects of Moore County Schools and Sandhills Community College. The ten year CIP will be ready for the Board's review in two weeks, Larking reported.

The Board of Commissioners will have an all day retreat on Thursday, November 17 to discuss their goals and other business.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton said that the word "progressive" can be seen as a good thing when dealing with a person's own business; but, with what is happening in government today, it has turned into a "bad word."

The Board vote three to one, with Commissioner Lea opposed, to replace the word "progressively" with the word "conservatively" in the County's Mission Statement.

Operation Medicine Drop

Drug Free Moore County is conducting Operation Medicine Drop from October 24 to October 29 to collect expired or unused medicine from area residents. The Prescription Shoppe in Seven Lakes will be hosting this event on October 29 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information, contact Jerrell Seawell at the Moore County Sheriff's Office 910-947-2931.

Drug Free Moore County's Darlind Davis thanked the Commissioners for their support of the program — and in particular with obtaining a new office location in Pinehurst. Commissioner Craig Kennedy serves on the Board of Drug Free Moore County and asked that anyone interested in donating office equipment contact Davis at 910-947-1902.

Citizen's Pet Responsibility

Angela Zumwalt of the Citizen's Pet Responsibility Committee during Tuesday's meeting provided the Commissioners with an update on the program and asked for additional funding from the County.

Zumwalt said the program's main objective is to focus on education about caring for pets. The pet program has been presented to all public school fourth grade classes in Moore County.

Zumwalt asked that the Board consider contributing \$8,000 for the program for next year for education purposes. Commissioner Melton, who serves on the Board of the Pet Responsibility Committee, said it has been "one of the most pleasurable things that I've done . . . I've never seen such a dedicated group of volunteers."

He credited the group with saving the County "thousands upon thousands" and promised that, despite a "tight budget" the Board would consider the Committee's funding request in the FY 2012-2013 budget.

Commissioner Lea also spoke in favor of funding for the group, which received a \$16,300 grant from the County in 2006. No funding decision was made during Tuesday's meeting.

Public Works

At the request of Public Works Director Gould, the Commissioners approved a \$51,000 change to the contract with TA Loving Company for the \$2.7 million Lake Pinehurst lift stations replacement projects.

The Board approved the award of a construction contract to Terry's Plumbing and Utilities for the Vass Phase 1 sewer project for \$1.6 million.

The Board approved two contract amendments for the Old Town and Lake Pinehurst sewer project. One change is to the engineering contract with Hydrostructures for \$900 and the second is for Atlantic Coast Contractors for \$19,500. Both changes will be paid from the contingency fund that was set aside for the project. Gould said he doesn't expect this to be the last request for additional funds for this project, due to the age of the sewer system

that is being upgraded.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Commissioner's Tuesday, October 4 meeting included:

- The Board approved a request by the Planning Department's Debra Ensinger to award a bid and a housing rehab contract for \$7300 to D&A Complete Construction under the Community Development Block Grant Contract.

- Moore County placed fifth in the nation for the National Association of Counties Digital Survey Award for information technology. Robert Ramirez, who presented the award said this may be the County's first IT award, "but I can assure you this will not be the last."

- The Board approved a inmate medical plan for the Moore County Detention Center, as required by the North Carolina General Assembly.



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Mission Statement Revised

Chairman Picerno requested that the word "progressively" be removed from a section of the Moore County mission statement and be replaced with the word "conservatively."

The mission statement read: "Governing progressively with innovative leadership and providing exemplary public service." Chairman Picerno said the word gave the impression that "government solves all problems."

Commissioner Lea disagreed with the change, saying this Board has been "very progressive in the last four years." Lea asked that both of the words be included in the mission statement.



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

each corporation is considered a legal entity. Citing examples of confusion caused in the past because some local companies own multiple lots under slightly differing names, Darr noted that the current policy can be very difficult to police.

Pardue said the language he proposed would limit any owner to a single vote, and suggested the problem may not be that some owners intentionally use multiple corporate names, but rather that the SLLA member database has, over the years, accumulated a variety of names for the same company.

"The problem is not with owners, the problem is with the database," Pardue argued. "If you rectify the database, then wording of the By-laws is not the problem."

Community Manager Alina Cochran said, in her opinion, a resident owner naturally has the right to vote, and, if a second lot is owned by that resident under a business name, a second vote should be allowed.

With the Board at a standstill after thirty minutes of back and forth discussion, Director Bud Shaver said he was pleased to see the concern brought forward and suggested tabling the proposal while Cochran develops alternative recommendations.

"She understands the problem, and she is the one who has to deal with it," said Shaver.

More election options

Another issue discussed but now resolved, was the makeup of the Vote Counting Committee. Historically, the committee is composed of five Association members appointed by the Board.

During Monday's Work Session and in earlier meetings, Director Shaver recommended that the Judicial Committee, which is also composed of appointed members, would provide an efficient and consistent group each year to count the ballots — and would also reduce any possibility of political bias.

Other election concerns included a discussion of an addition to the annual dues packet of a colored return envelope exclusively for ballots.

The Board successfully reached consensus on two additional changes which will be called for a motion during an upcoming Open Meeting. First, in the event of a tie for the last open seat on the Board, the newly-seated Board will cast secret ballots to break the tie. Second, the annual meeting quorum requirement will be satisfied when ballots are cast by least at ten percent of the members in good standing entitled to vote.

Road engineering contract

S&ME, the engineering firm responsible for SLLA dams, was among the firms that recently submitted proposals to perform paving and road engineering services for the Association. Based on discussion during Monday's Work Session, the Board appears ready to award the road contract to the firm when the matter is voted upon in the November Open

Meeting.

"S&ME was the first choice of contracts for three Directors and were included in the top three firms as listed by each member of the Board," Darr said. "Most of the input I received was that all of the [paving] presentations were about the same. With S&ME there was a comfort level as to what they could also do [in the future] over and above the original request."

Summarizing the work contract, Shaver said S&ME will provide comprehensive information detailing conditions at and recommendations for each road in the community.

"They will tell us what needs to be done, the length and square yards of asphalt, and whether it needs a surface treatment or total repaving," said Shaver.

Toe Drain at Sequoia Dam

S&ME will be submitting plans to the State of North Carolina for a long recommended repair to install a toe drain at Sequoia Dam.

While the work is included in the current year's budget,

Lakes & Dams Committee member George Temple asked whether the work should be delayed while costs are tallied for anticipated Echo Dam repairs.

Fentzlaff responded that repair work at Echo Dam had recently been downgraded in priority and recommended the budgeted repair at Sequoia should proceed.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer said Temple had raised a good question and suggested the Board revisit the topic before signing off final approval on the repair contract.

"Maybe we can afford both projects; but perhaps we should ask S&ME which one should have priority," Temple said. "If we had to pick and choose, which one would they recommend we repair first?"

Meyer also asked Cochran to pursue adding a workmanship warranty to any

project contracts.

Security services

Looking for "the best bang for our buck" in security services, SLLA President Darr said a new request for proposals is under development.

"We will allow our present security contractor, SFI, to bid, Darr said, "and they have indicated to us they are looking at it and will be coming back with a revised contract as it relates to cost. I also informed them that we are looking at competitive bids."

Shaver recommended adding a proposal requirement that any Boat Patrol officers must be licensed or certified operators.

In addition, Meyer asked that bids should also include the option of having the security contractor provide their own vehicle and fuel for Rovering Patrol.

(See "SLLA," p. 28)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)

"I would be curious to see how they determine those costs," explained Meyer. "I think it would be a good idea to have them quote it as an option."

Shaver quickly noted that one benefit to using an in-house vehicle and fuel was that it was easier to track security activities.

"If they use their own vehicle and gas, we don't know what they are doing," he cautioned.

Darr suggested that GPS devices could be installed in vehicles for as little as \$20 per month. George Temple recommended such devices should also be installed for Boat Patrol.

Dona Stephan questioned whether recent street name changes approved at the county level — which primarily correct misspellings and other minor revisions — would affect GPS systems. Director Lowe said existing systems should be updated to reflect those changes accurately.

ARB forms

At least half of all requests received by the Architectural Review Board [ARB] are returned to the homeowners due to insufficient information, reported SLLA Vice President Don Fentzlaff.

To expedite and streamline the process, he presented a requirement sheet to be distributed with applications that includes a list of specific supporting materials necessary for each type of project.

"Our biggest problem is people submitting their applications without enough information," said Fentzlaff. "All the information listed is based on existing ARB requirements. We are just trying to make it easier and more efficient for the homeowner to put together their submission packet."

Director Racine complimented the recommended changes and said it would eliminate confusion.

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. asked whether the office would vet the packet prior to ARB review. Fentzlaff replied that it was the homeowners responsibility to ensure all materials were included. If not, the request would be postponed until the ARB reconvened at a later date.

Creating more of a work session Work Session

The Board conducted business during Monday's Work Session seated in a new configuration aimed at encouraging roundtable discussion among member.

"The purpose of the work session is to discuss issues; but, I've found, they have evolved into just another Open Meeting," said SLLA President Bob Darr. This is the place for us to determine where we're at, where we're going, and if we need more work on an issue."

Taking responsibility for the lack of timely publication of meeting agendas, Darr tasked the Board with submitting all information and agenda items at least one

week prior to any future meetings or work sessions. That will allow staff to distribute a comprehensive packet for Board review and also post information for residents at least several days in advance.

"I believe this will take care of the problem of Directors not having sufficient time to review the packet," explained Darr, "and will also allow time for residents to be made aware of issues coming up for discussion."

SLLA Disaster Guide

Originally drafted in 2000 after a major snowfall, the SLLA Disaster Guide was a ten-page document provided to residents and newcomers with detailed information on storm preparedness and evacuation planning.

Northsider Joan Cook recalled that the plan was developed by former SLLA Director Sally Kindsvatter and other volunteers, and included provisions for block captains throughout the community.

Director Shaver recommended the Disaster Plan, which is no longer up-to-date, should be reviewed by Cochran and then brought back to the Board for further discussion and revision.

Southsider Donna Stephan suggested that emergency evacuation signs should be installed in the community, particularly during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Other business

In other business on Monday, October 10, the SLLA

Board:

- Heard a brief update on vandalism concerns, with Darr reporting that security cameras have been installed and are operational at several locations.
- Received a draft copy of a travel policy and one-page expense and mileage reimbursement form recommended by the Finance

Committee.

- Heard a concern from Donna Stephan that she was the only Seven Lakes South resident in attendance at the meeting. Darr noted that he was also disappointed in the lack of participation and said the Nominating Committee was actively looking to recruit Southside candidates.

Chapel Rummage Sale

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Annual Rummage Sale will be held at the Old Gym in West End on Saturday, October 15. The doors will open at 8 am. Contributions will be accepted on Thursday, October 13, from 12:00 noon to 4 pm and Friday, October 14, from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon.

If you have not volunteered and would like to help please call Butch Allen, 673-3312 or Don Truesdell, 673-1970.



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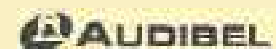
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Sandhills Animal Rescue League [SARL] is a no kill shelter, 501(c)3 organization operating since January 2002.

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.

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

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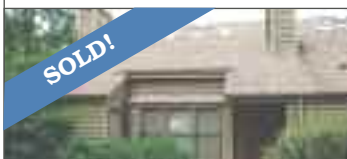
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