

Westside board okays railroad crossing deal

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors has unanimously approved an agreement between the Association and the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company [ACWR] for “perpetual access via the railroad crossing at Lakeway Drive and NC Route 211” with a payment of \$169,400 to be made before the contractual deadline of February 15.

During the Board’s Tuesday, February 14 Work Ses-

sion, Legal Director Jack Stevens read the proposal, saying, “There have been many dozens of hours of meetings, research, debates, consultations with counsel and others to ferret out the best decision for the Seven Lakes West Community.”

In the end the Board’s decision ensures that the crossing can be upgraded with more than \$500,000 in safety and signal equipment, while absolving the Association of responsibility for any future maintenance or insurance — aside from the one time payment of \$169,400.

On Monday, February 13, the Board announced that

BB&T will contribute \$75,000 towards the one time payment. During Tuesday’s meeting President Mick Herdrich, announced that Property Center owner Phil Harrell will also be contributing to the cost, though the amount of that contribution was not yet available.

Although Elaine Yow Girgis, who owns several tracts on the west side of the railroad, and James Kirkpatrick, who owns the Seven Lakes Plaza shopping center were approached by the Board, both have decided not to contribute.

When asked by new Events
(See “Westside,” p. 13)

Balancing SLLA needs with funds gets tricky

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Big questions related to planning and how the newly-formed Long Range Planning Committee will balance recommendations from the Reserve

Study with competing priorities from various committees, dominated discussion during the Monday, February 13 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

The proposed Fiscal Year

2012-2013 Budget includes funding set-asides for every capital project as recommended by the Reserve Study for the next year — as well as carryover projects still in progress from this year — but many of these projects are not yet approved.

“They [capital projects] are in the budget, but that does not mean we have to do all of them,” explained Community Manager Alina Cochran. “What we need is to have discussion of what we want to do.”

For example, the recommended Sequoia Dam toe drain project is a high priority project, and has been approved by the Lakes & Dams Committee. However, cost estimates have come in

(See “SLLA,” p. 24)

Lions donate new nets



Soccer coach Justin Selleck, with Seven Lakes Lions Club President John While and Lion Rick Rizzo and several West End Elementary fifth graders show off one of two new soccer nets the Lions donated to the school. Read more about Lions’ projects on page 5.

Equestrian lot decision debated

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



A four-acre difference of opinion has created an enormous rift between the Foxfire Village Council and members of the town’s Planning & Zoning Committee.

And, while no resolution was reached during the Tuesday, February 14 meeting, both sides did eventually agree that better communication and fact-sharing could have mitigated the storm.

The question that has vexed the Council for the last few months is: What is the best and most appropriate minimum lot size required to own and maintain a horse on property in the equestrian zoning district?

In 2005, the Foxfire Village Council drafted and approved an amendment increasing the minimum equestrian lot size from six acres to ten acres; however, the ordinance was never properly codified. When that oversight was discovered last Fall, the Council

(See “Foxfire,” p. 20)

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Towns unhappy with County's VIPER plans

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

During a special work session held by the Moore County Board of Commissioners, Southern Pines Fire Chief Hampton Williams said municipalities were led to believe that the County would be funding the purchase of radios to become compliant with the FCC-mandated narrowband system. The County has selected the State Highway Patrol's VIPER system for emergency communications throughout the county.

With almost thirty EMS, Police, and Fire and Rescue members in attendance at the Tuesday, February 7 meeting, Williams told the Board: "Now at the zero hour you turn around and say, 'You gotta have money to buy your radios.' That just doesn't work for us."

The towns and villages in the county all utilize the County's emergency communications infrastructure, and so have little choice but to move to the VIPER system as the County does.

Williams said the municipalities were told not to budget for radios over the last two years, because the County would cover those costs.

"That year [2010] went by, and I let money ride because this was up in the air," said Williams. "Last year, I didn't even put money in the budget for radios."

The debate about who should pay for the new VIPER-compatible radios began at a January Commissioners work session, during which staff was directed to inform municipalities that they would be responsible for a share of the cost of the VIPER upgrade.

Residents of towns and villages pay County property taxes, as well as municipal property taxes. Williams told the Commissioners that to ask municipalities to fund their portion of the VIPER project would be the third tax payment made by municipality residents.

"That's double taxation, and I personally don't see how you can ask us to do that," said Chief Williams. "We have already paid twice — now you are going to ask us to pay a third time."

County Manager Cary

McSwain asked municipalities to apply for grants to help offset the cost of the VIPER system. But the deadline for the grants program was January 31. Only six of the ten towns in Moore County had applied for the \$10,000 grant as of January 17.

Chief Williams explained that some of the municipalities are too large to be eligible for the grants — or the time has expired to apply.

"Although grants are nice — they are not the save-all for this project," said Chief Williams, "It's kind of late in the process to depend on that."

According to Williams, a year ago McSwain told the fire departments at an Emergency Services Advisory Committee [ESAC] meeting to refrain from setting any money aside in their budgets to pay for the radio upgrades.

The municipalities left that meeting with the understand-

ing that the County would be paying for the upgrades, Williams said, or else the fire departments would have been setting money aside to help pay for the new system.

McSwain said that direction from the county preceded the decision to select the VIPER system. With that decision still up in the air, the County advised ESAC to delay budgeting for new radios.

"Seems to be an understanding that the County was going to pay for this," said Commissioner Tim Lea, addressing Chief Williams, "even to the point that you were asked not to put this in your budget."

Upgrading to the VIPER system is expected to cost \$4.5 million and the transition must be completed by January 2013. This new system will result in interoperability across EMS, Fire and

(See "Viper," p. 28)

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Feb 24	Mar 2
Mar 9	Mar 16
Mar 23	Mar 30
Apr 6	Apr 13
Apr 20	Apr 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
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Oct 5	Oct 12
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Commissioners reshuffle land use panel

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter's goal was to whittle down the twenty-one-member Land Use Planning Steering Committee to a more manageable working group. But, after thirty minutes of debate during the Moore County Board of Commissioners' Tuesday, February 7 meeting, the panel had grown to twenty-eight members.

Commissioner Tim Lea proposed the following changes to the Committee: add six new members, remove one member, and give County employees and elected officials serving on the Committee non-voting status. The Commissioners rescinded their initial appointments to the panel, made in early January, and ultimately added seven new members, while removing one previous appointee.

Commissioner Lea also proposed eliminating all com-

mittee members who reside in a municipality, since towns and cities typically have their own land use plans; but the other Commissioners felt the Committee should represent all residents of Moore County, including those who live in towns and villages.

"I think it's wrong," said Caddell. "There do need to be a few of the towns represented."

Commissioner Jimmy Melton agreed with Caddell: "These people need to be pulled together to discuss their issues."

Given that sixty-one percent of County taxes are paid by residents of municipalities, Caddell urged the Commissioners to keep representation from the towns on the Committee.

In a suggestion that met with a warmer reception, Commissioner Lea proposed that the Board establish and present a mission statement to the Committee before it

begins working on the Land Use Plan.

"We've got the cart in front of the horse," said Lea, if a mission statement is not put in place before the Committee begins its work.

Commissioner Nick Picerno agreed that it would be useful to create a mission statement as a starting point for the Committee.

The seven members added to the Land Use Plan Steering Committee include: Archie Kelly, David Allred, Lewin Blue, Terry Bryant, John Blue, Sandy Stewart, and, from the League of Women Voters, Carolyn Mealing. Billy Carter was removed from the list.

Planning Director Debra Ensminger was also added to the committee, but she will serve as an information source and will not be able to vote on the plan. Three other non-voting members will include: Ron Maness from the Airport Authority,

Linda Gore from Cooperative Extension, and Public Works Director Randy Gould.

Other members without voting rights will include elected officials serving on the committee: Nancy Fiorillo, David McNeill, and Betsy Mofield, the mayors of Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Aberdeen.

Commissioner Lea, who chaired the Steering Committee for the County's first Land Use Plan, said the eighteen months devoted to updating the Land Use Plan will be "a pretty intense process for those involved. It's the most impacting process we [the Commissioners] will ever go through or be a part of."

The Steering Committee's first meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Citizen Recognition Award

Also during their Tuesday, February 7 meeting, the Commissioners awarded a Citizen Recognition Award (See "Commissioners," p. 28)

Tim Lea won't run for third term


County Commissioner Tim Lea has announced that he won't run for a third term, and the availability of his District IV seat has already attracted one Republican Candidate: Whispering Pines Village Councilman Randy Saunders.

The filing period for candidates seeking office in the 2012 primary and general elections opened on Monday, February 13 and will close at Noon on Wednesday, February 29.

Commissioner Nick Picerno, of McLendon Hills, has filed to seek a second term in his District II seat.

Incumbent Board of Education members Lorna Clack, Bruce Cunningham, Kathy Farren and Laura Lang have also filed for re-election.

Contested races will be decided in a primary election on Tuesday, May 8; the general election will be held on Tuesday, November 6.





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Valentines gather for Chapel in the Pines Party



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Sweethearts and friends filled the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse on Tuesday, February 14 for The Chapel in the Pines Outreach Ministry's Annual Valentine's Party.

Lively entertainment was provided by the New Horizons Band.



Dora Lancaster



Lois Moore, Brenda Massimo, Lee Connelly

Teach us to pray

The Reverend Don Welch will lead a four-week in depth study of "The Lord's Prayer" at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines during the period of Lent.

The sessions will be held at the chapel beginning on Thursday, March 1 and end on Thursday, March 22. Each session will last one hour and will begin at 4 p.m.

The group will examine each phrase of the "Our

Farther" prayer, searching for the theological depth of its meaning and exploring ways that the entire prayer can not only help each person pray, but also live out the words in his or her life.

There is no charge for this course and prior registration is not required. People of all faith traditions are invited to participate. Contact Don Welch (910-673-6701) at dwelch1@nc.rr.com for more information



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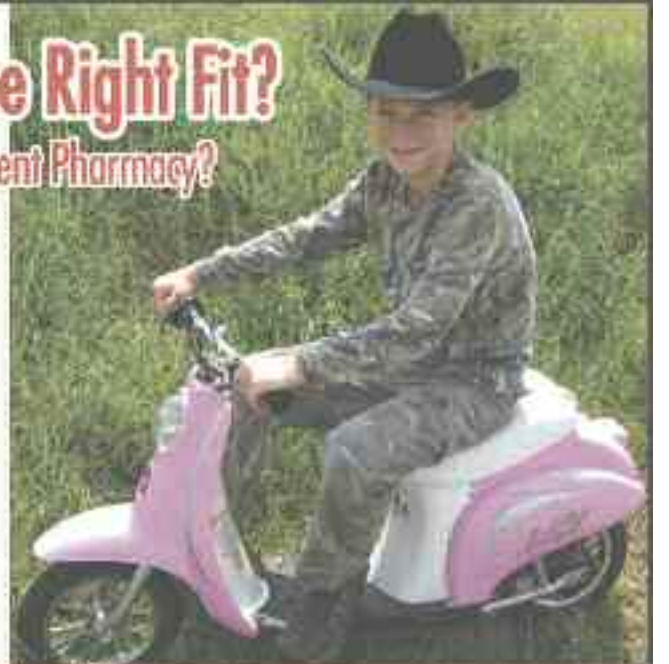
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Seven Lakes Lions are all about service

By Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Whenever a Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller, and communities get better.

This dedication to service and community spirit is evident in two recent donations generously offered by the Seven Lakes Lions Club.

First, a gift of two soccer nets to West End Elementary is a significant improvement not only to the school, but also to the various youth leagues and informal players who frequent the field.

Local soccer coach Justin Selleck told *The Times* he had it in his heart to find a soccer net – or two, and eventually hopes to work with more volunteers and donations that will improve the turf surface as well.

"There were no nets and there really needed to be. I mentioned it to my aunt, who is a Lions Club member, and she talked to them and they agreed to donate the nets," explained Selleck.

"There are always kids down here playing on the field and it is also open to the community. These nets are a great gift!" he exclaimed.

West End 5th grader Andrew Bounthanom agreed.

"I am very excited about the new nets. Me and my brother play here and now we won't have to spend so much time chasing the ball [out of bounds]."

Seven Lakes Lions President John While said it was a pleasure to help the school.

"We're glad we could do this for the kids. One of our main purposes – as Lions – is to help out the community."

Turning attention to the Club's other recent donation, While explained that sixteen handmade wood luggage racks were constructed by local Lions and donated to FirstHealth for use in their

Hospice guest house.

The guest house is offered to families of patients as a low-cost alternative for extended stays. The racks were constructed using different types of wood and custom-matched to the room's interiors, with all the work completed by volunteers.

The Seven Lakes Lions Club is also a proud sponsor of the local preliminary to the Peace Poster Contest. An annual event for twenty-five years, this contest brings together more than 350,000 middle-school students. This year's theme is 'Imagine Peace,' and the winning

posters will be shared globally through media and exhibits around the world.



With over 46,000 clubs and well over a million members strong, Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization. All interested persons are invited to join.

The Seven Lakes Lions

Club meet the first and third Thursday of each month at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. An optional catered dinner is served at 6 pm [cost is \$8 per person], and the business meeting follows from 7 pm to 8 pm. For more information, contact Rick Rizzo at 400-5222 or John While at 673-8390.



Seven Lakes Lion Roger Elliott puts the finish coat on luggage racks the Lions donated to FirstHealth.

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7 Lakes GOP to meet

Seven Lakes Republicans will hold their pre-convention Precinct Meeting on Thursday, February 23 at the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and everyone is welcome.

County Chairman, Bob

Levy or the County Secretary will speak about the upcoming elections.

Those interested in attending the County convention on Saturday, March 31 who cannot be at the Precinct meeting, please contact either Webb Arceneaux, Frank Hayes or Pud Kent.

	
	
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SLLA Budget: Income down, expenses up

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Offering a summary of the proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget, Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Treasurer Conrad Meyer addressed a handful of residents during a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, January 31.

The proposed budget was prepared by Community Manager Alina Cochran, and carefully reviewed by Finance Committee members Ed Sanchez, Jim Allen, and George Temple. The SLLA Board of Directors will also review the proposed budget before a motion for approval is called during the February 29 Open Meeting.

Looking for public input and comment, Meyer said the Finance Committee is open to good ideas and welcomed any feedback.

Anticipated Income

At \$1,343,316 the total anticipated income for FY 2013 is slightly lower than last year's income of \$1,374,593.

Assessments — including annual dues, assessment penalties, and renter's fees — make up the bulk of income at \$1,282,716, which is also slightly lower than last year's assessment income of \$1,291,893.

The Board is moving to replace renter's dues with a lower administrative fee charged to renter. As a result, anticipated renter's administrative fees for FY 2013 are \$9,600, versus this year's take of \$34,440 in renter's dues.

Another notable decrease in the budget is anticipated interest from the operating and reserve accounts, with an overall reduction from \$15,500 in FY2012 to \$6,900 in FY2013.

"In last year's budget, we were overly optimistic of how much interest would accumulate," explained Meyer.

The proposed budget also anticipates decreases guest fees, facility rental fees, and plan review fees, lowering anticipated income from

\$67,200 in FY2012 to \$53,700 for FY2013.

For a second consecutive year, the SLLA Summer Day Camp was not profitable, due to decreased attendance, with total expenses running \$4,300, versus anticipated income of \$2,000. As recommended by the Recreation Committee, the program will not be continued.

Anticipated Expenses

Total anticipated operating expenses show a slight increase from last year,

upping the total to \$1,140,725 in FY2013, with \$202,591 set aside to invest in reserves.

Administrative costs will increase from \$567,128 to \$586,571, a change that reflects a two percent merit increase in salaries for employees with over a year employment history with SLLA, as well as a slight increase in group insurance rates, taxes and administrative costs, and contributions to IRA and 401K plans. In

(See "SLLA budget," p. 17)

SLLA Candidate's Night

The three candidates for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors will take questions from the membership in a Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 pm in the North Clubhouse.

Seven Lakes Times Editor Greg Hankins will moderate the event.

Candidates will offer opening remarks about their background and talents — and how those relate to key opportunities and challenges facing the SLLA in the next two years.

Audience members will be able to submit written questions to be posed to the candidates by the moderator.



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Why projected reserves won't fix SLLA roads

By Manila G. (Bud) Shaver
Director, Seven Lakes
Landowners Association



At the close of the Wednesday, January 25 the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting, President Bob Darr expressed concern regarding the Association's ability to meet future financial requirements as outlined in the Reserve Study and S&ME's Pavement Evaluation Report. Therefore with President Darr's approval, I wish to clarify the factors behind his concern.

From 1999 to 2005, annual dues for SLLA homeowners averaged \$2.02 per day, while the Association's Reserve Fund averaged \$211,000 per year. In short, there was no thought given to the future until the 2006-2007 Board of Directors increased the 2007 Landowner annual dues to \$850, with the stipulation that the \$50 increase was to be dedicated solely to either road paving or state mandated dam repair. The 2007-2008 Board of Directors also increased the 2008 Landowner annual dues by \$50, to \$900, with that same stipulation. Fiscal Year 2012

homeowner's annual dues are now \$900/year (\$2.46/Day) with \$800/year (\$2.19/Day) for Operating Expenses/Amenities and \$100/year (\$0.27/Day) for the Restricted Reserve Fund.

Recognizing a need for a long-range asset maintenance plan the 2009-2010 Board initiated a request for a Reserve Study — a budget planning tool that identifies the current status of the Association's Reserve Fund and recommends a stable and equitable Reserve Funding Plan to offset anticipated future common area expenditures for the next thirty years. Table 1 is a synopsis of the Reserve Study paving and crack-sealing recommendations for the years 2012 to 2017.

Engineering Assessment

Because of the large paving and cracking sealing expenditures projected by the Reserve Study and a desire to begin paving roads as soon as possible, the current 2011-2012 Board initiated a contract with the engineering firm S&ME to evaluate and provide recommended pavement improvements of the Associations roads.

Table 1 - SLLA Reserve Study Recommendations – Crack Sealing & Paving

Description	Projected Cost per Year					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crack Sealing & Patching	\$32,582	\$33,478	\$34,399	\$35,345	\$35,317	\$37,315
Paving Main Roads		\$402,560		\$425,005		\$448,702
Paving Secondary Roads			\$467,836		\$493,921	
Total Annual \$ Cost	\$32,582	\$436,038	\$502,235	\$460,350	\$529,238	\$486,017
% of Total Reserve Expenditure/Year	18.0%	64.7%	69.9%	77.9%	70.4%	68.4%

Table 2 - S&ME Assessment of SLLA Road Serviceability

PSI Type Road	Lineal Feet	Square Yards	%Total SqYds	Material \$/SqYd	Labor \$/SqYd	Equipmnt \$/SqYd	Total \$/SqYd
2.5 PSI Roads	24,996	51,496	15.4%	\$0.101	\$0.249	\$0.657	\$1.007
3.0 PSI Roads	77,433	180,879	54.1%	\$0.089	\$0.212	\$0.706	\$1.007
3.5 PSI Roads	42,235	99,980	29.9%	\$0.088	\$0.205	\$0.714	\$1.007
4.0 PSI Roads	945	2,100	0.6%				
Total Roads	145,609	334,455	100.0%				

The serviceability of a pavement is defined as its ability to serve the type of traffic (automobiles and trucks) which use the facility. The primary measure is a serviceability index (PSI) which ranges from 0 (impossible road) to 5 (perfect road). A

typically accepted initial serviceability index of 4.2 is used for newly paved asphalt roads. A typically accepted terminal (when pavement requires replacement) serviceability index of 2.0 is used for residential roads.

Table 2 is a summary of

the condition of all the Association's roads and S&ME's projected repair costs.

Only 15.4% of the Association's roads are in need of immediate repair, with the remaining roads, although ugly in appearance, having

(See "SLLA Roads," p. 15)

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County's UDO will rezone some properties

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Initiated over a year ago, the creating of Moore County's Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] has proven to be an exercise in patience as the Planning Board and Planning Department staff have spent the last twelve months reviewing and updating this comprehensive document, page-by-page.

The revised UDO combines the current zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, and flood damage prevention ordinance into a single, user-friendly document.

As part of the proposed revision, approximately 239 properties will be rezoned — most of which were simple housekeeping type changes. However, property owners were notified in writing of the rezoning.

During the Thursday, February 9 meeting of the Planning Board, a handful of property owners were present

— though most opted to speak privately with planning staff following the meeting, rather than formally address the Board.

"What we're trying to do with the ordinance is to make it simpler, more user friendly, and as fair as possible for all property owners in the county," explained Planning Chairman Robert Hayter. "There is no intent to make a problem for anyone; it is just the opposite."

However, with limited attendance at the February meeting and little public input offered, the Board accepted

Planning Director Debra Esminger's recommendation to send a second round of notification letters to affected property owners and table further discussion until the March meeting.

"I want to ensure that everyone is getting the message," she said.

Following a final review of the revised UDO in March, a public hearing will be scheduled, with anticipated adoption at the April meeting.

A complete copy of the UDO is available at the Planning Department website at

<http://www.co.moore.nc.us/index.php/udo-draft-review>

reported Enslinger.

She estimated that one hundred residents participated. Their comments and proposed revisions will be compiled and distributed to the consensus working group for their review.

Working Lands Protection

Three public meetings to collect feedback on the proposed Working Lands Protection Plan were held during the last week of January,

Free Zumba Class

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Friday from 8:30 – 9:30 am, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will be teaching. This is a Free class.

Questions? Call the church at 673-4656. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

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Aaron Spence makes debut at Board meeting

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Newly-installed Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron

Spence reported, during his first meeting with the School Board on Monday, February 13, that he has been busy during his first week attending meetings with various school and county organizations.

"I think this is a wonderful place to live," said Dr. Spence, "and an even better place to work."

Spence gave a rundown of current events taking place in the schools including:

- The celebration of Black History Month, which many schools are incorporating this theme into their curriculum.
- The week of February 13-17 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Week; Spence "encouraged" parents, teachers, and students to thank their bus drivers.
- Spence also reported that he will be assessing class sizes in MCS schools, to determine whether it will be necessary to hire additional teachers to avoid having to seek a class size waiver from the state.

Federal Impact Survey

"We expect more money for 2012" from the federal government, Finance Director Mike Griffin told the Board, based on data collected in a Federal Impact Survey of military families who have children enrolled in Moore County Schools.

Due to the large number of participants who completed the survey, Moore County received \$95,000 in 2011.

MCS has been sending this survey to military families for the past six years and has, as a result, received over \$500,000 in federal money, used to fund technology in the schools.

Board member Laura Lang said, "Continuing that education effort [with military families] will keep dollars coming in."

Griffin said the survey does three things: shows appreciation to the military families and their service; rewards MCS for handling the information-gathering process; and provide an opportunity to share the results with the County.

Griffin provided the Board with a Quarterly Financial Update and requested an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget resolution, which the Board approved.

Other Business

In other business conduct-

ed during the Board's Monday, February 13 meeting:

- School Board Vice-Chair Enola Lineberger reported on the results of a survey on extending the year round program in other schools throughout the County. Lineberger said the survey produced "excellent results," and there seems to be an interest in implementing the program in other parts of the County.
- School Board member Bruce Cunningham gave the Board an update on the tree clearing taking place at Pinecrest High School. The selective cutting and thinning of trees will take place on 30 acres and will include an educational component. Students will plant various

trees and keep track of their growth.

- School Board Chair Kathy Farren reported that three School Board members — Laura Lang, Kathy Farren, and Ed Dennison — received awards from the NC School Board Association.
- The Board approved Policy 6210, which deals with the transfer of student assignments for year round schools. More information on this policy can be found on the MCS website.
- Dr. Brian Phillips gave the Program Highlight, presenting information on the Sandhills Leadership Academy.
- Farren also presented five Growing to Greatness Awards.

Taste of the Town

The Women of Seven Lakes will host their annual "Taste of the Town" on Monday, March 26, in the Crawford Center, at West End Presbyterian Church, from 5 to 7 pm.

Several area restaurants, including some community favorites and some new restaurants will feature their culinary specialties this year. Wine, beer, and coffee are included in the ticket price.

A raffle will be held with

many gift certificates from the area restaurants throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available by calling Ginger Finney at 673-1330 and also at Sandhills Winery on Seven Lakes Drive.

The Women anticipate another sellout crowd, so please be sure and purchase your tickets early.

All proceeds will benefit West End Methodist Food Pantry and Friend to Friend.

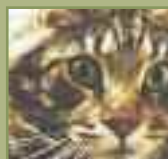
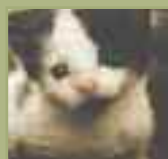


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In memory of . . .

Robert Walter Jaeger, a 28 year resident of Seven Lakes, died at his home on Monday, February 13, following a valiant battle with brain cancer. He achieved his final goal - to enjoy his 84th birthday - celebrated joyously by himself and his loving family.

A service celebrating Mr. Jaeger's life will be held at the Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes on Friday, February 17, at 11 am.

Born to Arthur F. and Edna S. Jaeger of Brooklyn, NY. He attended Oberlin College.

Following graduation, a number of music-related jobs, and two years of service in the U.S. Army, he returned to New York State where he and his wife, Shirley raised their family and enjoyed long, successful careers in music education.

In 1985, they moved to Seven Lakes where Bob embarked on a fulfilling "retirement." Between innumerable rounds of golf he operated a wooden toy business, built furniture, and was very active in the life of the chapel: singing in the choir, eventually becoming co-director, and serving as chapel board president.

Survivors include his wife Shirley Jaeger of Seven Lakes, brother Alan Jaeger of Stamford, CT, son Donald Jaeger of Charlotte; daughter Sandra Eckel of Clayton, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made in Mr. Jaeger's remembrance at either FirstHealth Hospice or The Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Margaret Kester Berry, 91, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, February 7, at King's Grant Assisted Living Martinsville, VA.

She was born in Kansas City, MO, daughter of Leighton Kester and Lucy Siegrist Kester.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Leighton

"Bud" Kester, Jr.

Mrs. Berry was of the Presbyterian faith.

Surviving are her husband, Paul Deshon Berry of the home; daughter, JoAnn Gosnell of Charleston, WV; sons, Dr. Tom Berry of Martinsville and Mike Berry of Woodlands, TX; her brother, Don Kester of Hawaii; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Thursday, February 9, at King's Grant Victory Chapel. The Chaplain Paul Johnson officiated.

Norris Funeral Services of Martinsville, VA assisted with arrangements.

Kathryn "Katie" Mullen, 88, of Sun City Carolina Lakes, Indian Land, SC, formerly of rural Farmer City and Bloomington, Illinois died February 5, at the home of her daughter in West End, after a long battle with cardiovascular disease.

A Mass of Christian Burial and celebration of life, with

family, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Mullen was the daughter of Albert and Laura Keating Carlson.

She was a graduate of Holy Trinity High School and St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Bloomington, IL. She was active in the American Red Cross, Girl Scouts of America and other charitable organizations.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Mullen, her parents; sister Margie Barwig Carlson; brother Jim Carlson and daughter Mary K. Schmelter.

Surviving are three daughters, Barbara (Norman) Poppe, Le Roy, IL; Peggy (James) Ballew, of West End; Gerri Hillis, of Charlotte; ten grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren and two step-great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family request Masses at St. Ann's Catholic Church 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Mental Illness Support Group

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County holds its monthly meetings at the Community Room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building in Pinehurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. For information call (910) 295-1053 or www.nami-moorecounty.org



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Memorials may also be made to the Library for the Blind, 1841 Capitol Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27635 or FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, PO Box 5889, 251 Campground Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory in Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

James Stephen Sennett, 89, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, February 4, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A Memorial Service was held Wednesday, February 22, at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. The Reverend Don Welch officiated.

Mr. Sennett was born in St. Mary's, PA, son of Clifford J. and Catherine F. Sennett. Following graduation from Penn State University, he was employed as Sales Man-

ager for Stackpole, Inc.

During World War II, he served in the Army Aircorp with the 319th Bombardier Squadron and was involved in combat duty in the Mediterranean Theatre.

He was preceded in death by sisters Rita and Mary Catherine.

He is survived by his wife Verna, daughter Kathleen, son John, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association 4217 Parkplace Ct, Glen Allen, VA 23060, The American Diabetes Association, PO Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312 or The Kidney Trust, 1350 Bayshore Hwy., Ste 777, Burlingame, CA 94010.

Boles Funeral Home assisted the family.

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Steve Bouser at Kiwanis

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Steve Bouser, a fifteen year employee of "The Pilot" who serves as their editor, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, January 10. His subject dealt with how to define exactly what is news. Bouser, who also teaches part-time at UNC-Chapel Hill, has definite opinions on this.

"Roughly there are eight major influences that make up news," he said. A) Mag-

nitude. The murders of eight people at a Moore County nursing home was cited as applicable in this category. B) Prominence. How well-known are the people involved in the incident?

C) Timeliness and D) Proximity are also factors, E) Impact, F) Conflict, and G) Emotional Impact play a role. Last, but not least, is H) Oddity, or as Steve calls it, "the unusual."

Citing the recent story of the Rhesus monkey that

slipped its leash, dashed out in the cold, clad only in a diaper, and was missing for several nights as an example of "oddity."

Bouser commented that "all's well that ends well" since the 10 pound animal was found safe and sound and was returned to its owner.

The Kiwanis charter is, "Serving the Community and its Children," they meet Tuesdays at the Seven Lakes Country Club at 11:30 am.



Kiwanian Frank Hayes and Pilot Editor Steve Bouser

Vietnam Vets hear from FirstHealth Hospice

Barbara Bane
PR, VVA Chapter 966

Gerald Nelson and Becky Russell of FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care presented information about the "We Honor Veterans" campaign to members of the Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966, on January 9, at the Westside Park Community Center, Seven Lakes.

Nelson, a chaplain and retired Army veteran with twenty-six years in chaplain



Gerald Nelson

services, explained that one in four deaths today is a veteran. The Veterans Administration and the National Hospice and Palliative Care have partnered to develop a program to meet the unique needs of those who have served their county. FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care enrolled in the program and has achieved level one of a four tier pro-

gram. Veteran patients are now identified at admission into hospice. In the past year, over seventy veteran patients have been presented certificates in recognition of their service. Orientation on issues and needs specific to veterans is being implemented into the training process for staff and volunteers.

"I am really excited about the next level when we begin

to recruit and train veteran volunteers for the Veteran to Veteran program," said Nelson. "Volunteers who share a military background can provide companionship and emotional support that is unique to those who have served in the military."

Russell, a LCSW and grief counselor, gave an overview of the services offered by

(See "Vets," p. 12)



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Westside work session

(Continued from front page)

Director Rosemary Weber why each business doesn't pay their fair share, ARC Director John Hoffman said: "It is their dilemma to deal with as they see fit. This more or less comes down the parties that have the most to lose contributing the lion's share, and some who decided they have nothing to lose, contributing nothing — or maybe mistakenly believing they had nothing to lose."

"We are going to continue to pursue any and all avenues to cajole them into contributing in some way," said Hoffmann.

"There are a lot of things

that aren't fair about this," explained Stevens. "It is a business decision."

During member comments Gerhard Hergenbahn said of the Agreement: "I feel it is a great progress and we should all be happy about it."

Westsider Dale Erickson also thanked the Board for their work on this matter.

The Board was first approached by ACWR with a request for payment in October. Access over the railroad tracks at Lakeway Drive has been governed in the past by private crossing agreements between the railroad company and various Seven Lakes West developers, who typically paid fees for access across the tracks.

New Access Policy

Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy presented and the Board approved a new access policy that will be effective May 1.

The policy states that only

Seven Lakes West members, their guests, service companies, construction companies, and emergency vehicles have access to the community.

Members will continue to pay a one-time fee of \$20 for barcodes that will grant access into the community. Only three barcodes per household are issued, unless an additional barcode is needed and approved by the Community Manager Joan Frost. All barcodes will be affixed onto member vehicles by the CAS staff.

Seven Lakes West members may obtain barcodes for friends or families who frequently visit the community \$20.

Infrastructure John Goodman asked, and the Board approved, limiting sponsorship barcodes to two per household, unless an exception is granted by the Community Manager and Safety and Security Director.

Frost told *The Times* that

any resident who sponsors a visitor barcode becomes fully responsible for that guest any time they are in the community.

During Tuesday's meeting McCarthy reported that Seven Lakes North and South are also doing away with their decals and moving to a barcode system. [While the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board has considered doing away with windshield stickers, discussion in the Board's Monday, February 13 Work Session suggested the SLLA will continue to use the stickers during Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

See story on page 1.]

The new policy will end the reciprocal access policy that has allowed Westside gate guards to wave through vehicles bearing SLLA stickers. However, SLLA members can obtain a SLWLA barcode through sponsorship by an SLWLA member.

Explaining the rationale behind the new policy, McCarthy said that, last Summer, two guards were placed at Johnson Point to monitor access to the area, but it was soon realized that the access problem was at the front gate.

(See "Westside," p. 13)

Vets

(Continued from page 11)

FirstHealth Hospice to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families. "When someone enters the hospice program," said Russell, "nurses, social workers, nurse's aides, volunteers, and grief counselors are all available based on the needs of the patient and families." She explained that the new hospice campus at 251 Campground Road is the site for administration and includes the Grief Resource and Bereavement Center, a chapel, and Hospice House which provides inpatient symptom management for patients who otherwise would have to go to the hospital.

"Another great but lesser known benefit is that grief and bereavement counseling is available to anyone in the community completely free of charge," said Russell.

Chapter President Mike Pusillo announced that a representative of the FirstHealth Health and Fitness Center will be speaking at the next regular meeting on February 6 at 7 pm and that January is the beginning of the membership drive. He urged members to invite Vietnam veterans to contact him at (910) 400-3056 or Membership Chairman Laud Pitt at (910) 673-5521 for membership information.

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Communion - 9:30 am


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Tuesday Mornings


Intercessory Prayer

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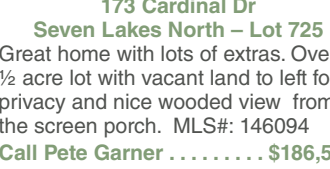
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— We Sell All of Moore County —

Westside work session

(Continued from page 12)

Based on that realization, the Safety and Security Committee has been working on a new access policy for the community for over eight months.

New Security Company

In addition to the new access policy, the Westside may have a new security company and security software as early as May 1.

During Tuesday's work session, the Board approved a request by McCarthy to hire US Securities to replace SFI as the Association's security vendor.

US Securities, system is "state of the art," said McCarthy, in that it eliminates the need for gate guards to write out hangtags for visitors. Instead, the information can be printed after a request is made to the guardhouse by a resident.

The new security contract will allow for a roving patrol to monitor the community four days a week, for four hours a day. Outside Counsel Stephen Later will be asked to review the two-year contract with US Securities before it is finalized.

Manager Frost said the current budget for security totals \$128,900, and she doesn't foresee any change to this number based on the new security contract.

Lake and Dam Committee

The dock repairs at Johnson Point are coming to completion and "it looks really great," reported Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly. Two residents have asked for a refund of the boat slip fee for the three months that the docks were under construction, he added.

However, the Board decided in Tuesday's meeting that refunds will not be granted. Frost explained that the community provided free storage at no cost to the residents with boats at the docks — and many neighbors opened up their own personal docks for temporarily displaced boat slip renters.

The Board tabled a recommendation by Wimberly to

replace the damaged gate at the Longleaf boat storage area with a new \$10,000 electronic gate that is four feet wider than the current gate.

The current gate has been repaired many times and is often left open. The wider electronic gate could alleviate both of these issues, Frost explained.

Landowners who use the storage facility are charged \$75 a year, which brings in an annual revenue of \$21,000, said Treasurer Don Friert.

Wimberly said there are two options available for the storage facility: either put in an electronic gate or take the gates off completely and leave the area open.

"We have to determine if convenience is our biggest priority or security is our biggest priority," he said. "We cannot walk the line and say we are going to make it perfectly safe and perfectly convenient."

New Director Weber suggested keeping the gates open all day and then having the guard close them at night — similar to what is done at Johnson Point.

Wimberly will return with more information about the gate at a future meeting.

Wimberly is working on a solution to a drainage problem in the Johnson Point area. Currently water cannot pass through a catch basin due to tree roots, and that is causing flooding and pavement buckling. After two bids were received Wimberly decided to look further into the land that surrounds the area in question to see if a land easement can be obtained.

In other Lake and Dam Business, the Board:

- Voted unanimously to obtain a permit to continue the the adding of resident Canada Goose eggs, which controls the bird population. This is something that is encouraged by the state, said President Herdrich.
- Approved repair of the original swim platform by Cagle Landscaping at a cost of \$2,000.
- Unanimously approved Charlie Flinchum as a new member of the Lake and Dam Committee.

Manager's Report

Boat registration has began, reported Community Man-

ager Frost, and, so far, there has been "a good response." All boat and storage decals need to be paid for by May 1 or a late fee will be issued. If a payment is not made by this time, then the individual may lose their slip, said Wimberly.

A request was made for the SLWLA to pay \$1,000 to replace a sign at Morgan Wood that was recently stolen; the Board moved the request to the Long Range Planning Committee for review. With a large number

of named communities within Seven Lakes West, the question is whether the Association should take on the expense of maintaining signage for each of those neighborhoods.

In the past, SLWLA has not held any responsibility for the maintenance or replacement of signage for neighborhoods within Seven Lakes West, Frost said.

Frost reported that she is awaiting an additional bid for spreading gravel in the

(See "Westside," p. 14)



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Westside work session

(Continued from page 13)

yard waste area. It has been nine years since the area was graveled, she explained, and the area becomes very muddy.

The Board renewed a contract with Carolina Waste for debris removal at a cost of \$1,300 a month and approved a contract for Fourth of July fireworks with East Coast Pyrotechnics at a price of \$11,650.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director John Goodman gained approval from the Board to place two guardrails along Longleaf Drive at the smaller pond dams, rather than along the lower Lakeway Mall pond dam. Goodman has secured a bid for \$12,500 per dam.

"I think it will greatly enhance safety," said Goodman, who explained the higher expense would provide wider walking paths.

Guardrails were purchased for the recently-completed lower Lakeway Mall pond dam project. Since those guardrails will not be installed Goodman suggested using them at the other two ponds to save money and to create safety at an area he said is much more dangerous.

The bid also includes the clearing of tree stumps and widening the downhill side of the other two pond dams to allow safe pedestrian traffic said Goodman.

Treasure Don Friert said money has been set aside in next year's budget for this project.

Goodman will seek an additional bid for patching and curb removal on the Lake Auman Dam road. So far, one bid has been received, from Jamie Cagle for \$23,000.

Amenities Committee

The Board approved the first reading of a rules and regulations change requested by Secretary Jane Sessler on behalf of the Amenities Committee

The mostly minor changes affect "ease of use" of Johnson Point, applying for marina slips, and the boat and trailer

storage area, among other amenities use issues.

Instead of reading the changes during the Work Session, the Board has decided to "publish" them on the Association's website and in the newsletter; post them in the mailhouse; and make copies available in the CAS office for thirty days.

The Board's legal council Attorney Stephen Later will consult the by-laws to determine if "published" changes to the by-laws can be placed on the website and in various printed versions rather than being read at two Board meetings.

Architectural Review

The Board unanimously approved a new Architectural Review Committee Variance Policy and Request form as presented by Director John Hoffmann.

The Board also appointed Judy Pendleton to ARC.

Lakefront landowners who want to extend or modify their dock must obtain a Moore County permit, reported Hoffmann.

Currently, four new homes, four major additions, six new projects, twenty-three existing projects, and four completed projects are underway in the community, he said.

Events

The SLWLA Events Committee has a new director, Rosemary Weber, who was appointed by unanimous vote of the Board to serve out the unexpired term of Director Jim Ferguson, who stepped

down after serving for less than a year.

Weber reminded the Board of the Wine, Chocolate and Cheese event scheduled for Friday, February, 17 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the West Side Park Community Center [WSPCC] Great room. Tickets are \$10.

Anyone interested in serving on the Events Committee should contact Weber. Meetings for the Committee are held the first Tuesday of every month.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, February 14 meeting included:

- Treasurer Don Friert reported cash disbursements for the month of January at \$148,000. Regular expenses for the month were \$46,000. There are \$1.2 million in short and long term investments.
- Sessler reported that various enhancements for the community website are available and any suggestions are welcome.
- The Nominating Committee is working on a "Volunteer Festivities" event for March 16 that will honor volunteers in Seven Lakes West, Sessler said. To date, there have been "a lot" of nominations for the Joe Fellingham Award, she added.
- The annual agreement for the HVAC system for the Community Center has been received, reported Frost.
- During member comments,

Joel Martin asked if Lake Auman will be tested for mercury during the next

water quality test. Wimberly said the test will cover the entire ecology of the lake.



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SLLA Roads

(Continued from page 7)

a remaining structural life of 7 to 12 years. Hence, the only roads needing immediate repair, per S&ME's recommendations, are the 2.5 PSI roads at a projected expense of \$51,857.

Year 2012 Repairs

S&ME recommended that severe fatigue and tree root upheaval areas should be repaired first. To do so will require an expenditure of \$365,928, as shown in Table 3 below.

During year 2012 it has been recommended to crack-seal the 2.5 PSI paved roads at a projected expenditure of \$51,857 (It will take 25 days to accomplish).

The impact of repairs recommended for 2012 on reserves is shown in Table 4 below.

Year 2013 Repairs

The Paving/State Mandated Dam Repair Reserve Fund will increase by \$128,000 in 2013, which, when added to the \$216,594 left in the

Reserve Fund from year 2012, will total \$344,594 available for expenditure. It has been recommended that the Northgate Entrance be repaired at a cost of \$9,614 and Dogwood Lane be repaired at a cost of \$92,928 for a total expenditure of \$102,542 as noted below. It has also been recommended to crack-seal the 3.0 PSI roads at a projected expenditure of \$182,145 (It will take 75 days to complete).

The impact of repairs recommended for 2013 on

reserves is shown in Table 5 below.

Reserves insufficient

The Treasurer and Finance Committee have recommended a minimum Restricted Reserve Fund Balance of \$200,000. As such, the Association will not have enough Restricted Reserve Funds available to repair, as recommended by S&ME, the 2.5 PSI Roads.

Based on the current annual input to the Paving/State Mandated Dam Repair

Reserve Fund, sufficient funds for these repairs will not be available until FY2020.

The Reserve Study projected that, if the Association continued to fund its reserves at its 2011 budget amount of \$128,000, its reserve fund would incur a potential shortage by year 2013. That ominous prediction has proven to be true.

Hopefully, this article will provide an understanding of President Darr's concern and the Board's dilemma regarding the future.

Table 3 - Recommended 2012 Road Repairs

	— Northside —		— Southside —		— Totals —	
	Sq Yds	Cost/SqYd	Sq Yds	Cost/SqYd	Sq Yds	Cost/SqYd
Fatigue	4,940	\$196,890	2,576	\$100,863	7,516	\$297,753
Tree Roots	845	\$38,025	670	\$30,150	1,515	\$68,175
Totals	5,785	\$234,915	3,246	\$131,013	9,031	\$365,928

Table 4 - Cost of 2012 Recommended Repairs

2012 Paving Reserve Fund	\$634,379
Fatigue & Tree Root Repairs	\$365,928
Crack Sealing Cost	<u>\$51,857</u>
Total 2012 Expenditures	\$417,785
2012 Year End Reserve Fund	\$216,594

Hope, Peace, Reconciliation & Love

The messages of Marc Chagall in his art and literature will be presented by author and Chagall lecturer, Vivian Jacobson.

This lecture is an in depth examination of Chagall's writings translated from the Yiddish, Russian and French.

Chagall was just as prolific in his writings of prose and poetry as he was in his artwork which is known and loved around the world. The readings will be integrated with a power point presentation,

which the visuals of the artwork that inspired his writings on hope, peace, reconciliation and love.

The presentation will be given on Sunday, February 26 at 5 pm, at Sandhills Jewish Congregation – Beth Shalom, at the corner of Hoffman and Jackson Springs Roads, Foxfire Village. Doors open at 4:30 pm, and the community is invited to come early and join everyone for refreshments. Before and after the lecture, Vivian

Jacobson will have a book signing of her book, "Sharing Chagall: A Memoir."

The lecture is free of charge and open to the public.

Table 5 - Cost of 2013 Recommended Repairs

2012 Paving Reserve Fund	\$381,529
Repair North Entrance & Dogwood	\$102,542
Crack Sealing Cost	<u>\$182,145</u>
Total 2012 Expenditures	\$284,687
2012 Year End Reserve Fund	\$96,482



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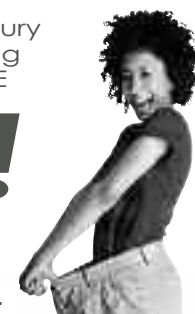
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SLLA Budget

(Continued from page 6)

addition, the salary increase covers the cost of one additional half-time employee for the maintenance department.

Security service expenses are reduced by nearly \$6,000 with The Budd Group contract; plus, another \$3,000 in savings is anticipated because of the recent decision to no longer issue daily hang-tags for guests. Instead, guests must check-in at the gates and license plate information will be recorded as usual.

Maintenance expenses are anticipated to increase \$26,000 from last year, due in part to the additional staff member, but also because of a \$10,000 increase in the cost to remove material from the Yard Debris Site

"We have been looking at alternatives to saving money [at the Debris Site], but nothing has panned out," Meyer explained. "This is a popular amenity, so we don't want to close it; but it would really help if people followed the rules."

Dam Maintenance expenses are expected to jump significantly, from \$3000 to \$10,000. Recreation expenses

are also slightly up and reflect an increase in pool equipment and horse feed costs.

Administrative expenses include a decrease in the annual audit fee and an increase in the management contract from \$159,996 to \$164,304 in FY2013.

Anticipated collection fees jumped from \$0 to \$6,000; Meyer said the anticipated increase in income from collections will cover the additional cost.

Anticipated Reserves

The FY2013 includes a transfer of \$131,000 into restricted reserves for road paving and state-mandated dam repairs. An additional \$71,591 will be set aside in unrestricted reserves.

The amount available for unrestricted reserves is determined by whatever is left over once all income is collected and all expenses are paid. The proposed budget anticipates that will amount to \$202,591 — nearly \$90,000 less than last year's reserve contribution and a third lower than the Reserve Study's recommendation of \$300,000 to be set aside in the coming year.

If approved as proposed, the budget for the coming year will include a total unrestricted balance of \$498,606, of which \$235,635 is set aside as emergency fundin- gleaving a total of \$262,971 in available unrestricted reserves.

Projects recommended by the Reserve Study for FY2013 — but not yet approved by the Board — include \$98,640 to install a toe drain at Lake Sequoia; \$22,605 in stables renovation; \$124,579 for bulkhead work at Sequoia Island; \$77,915 in pool deck repairs; \$14,569 in pool mechanical equipment. Altogether those recommended projects total \$338,308, which exceeds the available unrestricted reserve by \$75,000.

"These five items are not approved and not necessarily what we will do as a community will do," explained Meyer. "This is simply to demonstrate some of the recommendations that are included in the Reserve Study."

The restricted reserve account would total \$636,559 in FY 2013. The Reserve Study recommends \$436,038

in road repairs in 2013, which would leave a balance of \$200,521.

Dues increase likely in future years

"This year kind of hurt a little bit because of the reduction in income, but operating expenses continue to march upward," said Meyer. "Our dues have been relatively flat, with our last dues increase, not roads-related, going back at least five or six years."

"We are doing everything we can to sharpen our pencil and do things less expen-

sively, but we cannot overcome that expenses are rising," he said. "We may be looking seriously at a dues increase."

Historically, Meyer said, the Association has opted to ratchet up dues in a stair-step fashion. That is, waiting until funding becomes tight and then going up, as opposed to setting an incremental percentage increase each year.

"It is pretty clear that we will need to do something in the next year or two," Meyer concluded.

WEE PTA Golf Tourney

Join West End Elementary on Saturday, March 17 at Seven Lakes Country Club for their PTA Golf Tournament and fundraiser. Lunch will be available beginning at noon with a 1:30 shotgun start. Format is Captains Choice. The cost is \$75 per person, and includes cart, greens fee, and lunch. Register as individual or as team of four (\$300). Closing date for sign up is Friday, March 9. For more information please contact Lori Copper 639-7273 or Cristy Hunt 783-7995 to register. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the students by purchasing classroom materials or facility improvements.



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- **Casual Friday** – at SLCC 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$10 (all inclusive). Food, games & socializing.
- **Wine, Chocolate and Cheese Tasting** – 7 pm to 9 pm at the Seven Lakes West Community Center. Music Provided by Ryan Book. Tickets are \$10 available at SL West Community Center. (This event for Seven Lakes West Residents only.)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **Camellia Blossom Show** – 12 noon to 4 pm, Sandhills Camellia Society 8th annual judged Camellia Show. Public invited. At the Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. Camellia plants for sale starting at 10:30 am. For pre-orders, call Barb Cohen 910-255-0010. All pre-orders must be prepaid. It's Free And Beautiful To See. Two lectures in the afternoon.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *The Gibson Brothers* in concert tonight. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

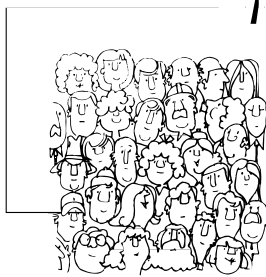
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome..
- **Sandhills Winery** – 6:00 pm, Sandhills Winery's 3rd Anniversary. *Italian Wine Classes #1 - Intro To Italy* Sign Up Now! 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **Sandhills Quilters' Guild** – 9:30 am, monthly meeting at First Baptist Church,

Southern Pines. All are welcome, whether you are an experienced quilter or just beginning, there is always something more to learn. Come



join the

group.

- **Your Inner Ear and Balance** – 10 am, at the Senior Enrichment Center, a program on Vestibular Rehab (Inner Ear and Balance). Ian Pierce, PT, with FirstHealth Centers for Rehabilitation. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **League of Women Voters Moore County** – 11:45 am, luncheon meeting. Guests will be NC state representative, W. David Guice, Director NC Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Community Corrections; Tracy Little, Adult Corrections Deputy Secretary and Eddie Caldwell, Executive Vice President of the NC Sheriff's Association. Held at Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. Reservations are required, Charlotte Gallagher, 944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Tempe Theatre presents**

Rodney Dillard and the Dillard Band – 7 pm, Rodney Dillard has had a long and varied career resulting

in 2 Grammy Nominations, and a well known acting stint on the Andy Griffith Show. Tickets \$25. Temple Theatre, 120

Carthage Street, Sanford. Box Office 919-774-4155 www.templeshows.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10 am - 3 pm, SL North Clubhouse. February is make a blanket for EMS month. We have new fleece and supplies to make blankets. If you have any questions, call Pat Weber 673-1457 or email at weberconsult@nc.rr.com. Support the EMS, help us make blankets for children in need in Moore County.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church will have a special service for Ash Wednesday.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 7 pm, Ash Wednesday Service Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes
- **Bible Study on Lectionary Readings** – Rev. Dr. Won

Namkoong of West End United Methodist Church will lead a Bible Study on Lectionary Readings every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal \$5.
- **Women of Seven Lakes Winter Luncheon & Game Day** – 11:30 am, at Seven Lakes Country Club. Check-in at 11:30 am, Lunch served at 12 noon. \$13 per person. Contact Lee Connelly at 673-2521 or lrconne@aol.com. Non-game players welcome for lunch.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Hands and Wrists Problems, Prevention, and Treatment** – 4 - 5:15 pm, Karen Backall, PT, with Appalachian Physical Ther-

apy will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to talk about the various causes of hand and wrist problems and what you can do to relieve pain and prevent them. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery *Zinfandel Wine Tasting*, 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Reid Heart Center** – 5:30 pm, Join Art Edgerton, M.D., heart surgeon at Reid Heart Center, for an education series that will run through May. Reid Heart Center Lobby, 120 Page Road North. Call 715-1478 or (800) 213-3284 register for the event.
- **Republican Precinct meeting** – 7 pm, pre-convention meeting at Seven Lakes Fire Department Building. Everyone welcome. County Chairman, Bob Levy or the County Secretary will speak to everyone. If anyone would like to go to the County convention on Saturday, March 31 and cannot be

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at the Precinct meeting, contact: Webb Arceneaux, Frank Hayes or Pud Kent.

- **Red, White, Blue & Black: The Service of Black Americans during the Civil War** – 7 pm, Professor Charles Anderson, of Texas Central University's Ft. Bragg campus, will present his annual program, Red, White, Blue & Black at the Museum of the Cape Fear. Admission is free. For more information, call 910-486-1330 or www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Know Your Numbers** - 8-11 am, Free Blood Pressure Screenings at Reid Heart Center. High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease. Do you know your numbers? Join in at Reid Heart Center to discover your numbers. Reid Heart Center, 120 Page Road North. Call 715-1489 or 800-213-3284.
- **Hospice Presentation** – "Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief" – Registration 8:45 am; Presentation 9:15 am to noon. Free. Light breakfast items provided. FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care Administration Building, 251 Campground Road, Building 251B. Call (910) 715-6000 for information

and to register.

- **Sunrise Theater** – 1 pm, presents The Met: Live in HD. Opera: *Verdi's Ernani*. Tickets, \$22 each. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Tickets 910-692-3611 or www.sunrisetheater.com.
- **Casual Friday** – at SLCC 5-9 pm. \$10 (all inclusive). Pepper Steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, & vegetable. Pre-ordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable available for \$16.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838.
- **Hope, Peace, Reconciliation And Love** – 5 pm, The messages of Marc Chagall in his art and literature will be presented by author and Chagall lecturer, Vivian Jacobson. Presentation at Sandhills Jewish Congregation – Beth Shalom, at the corner of Hoffman and Jackson Springs Roads, Foxfire Village. Doors open at 4:30 pm, Jacobson will have a book signing of her book, "Sharing Chagall: A Memoir." Free open to public.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Lousie Mosrie*

in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome.
- **Sandhills Winery** – 1-4 pm, *Constant Contact - Power Of Email Marketing*. Reservations Required for this event. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting at 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Species Inventories in NC State Parks: Join Ed Corey, Inventory and Monitoring Biologist for North Carolina State Parks, to learn about his work throughout the state. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 [\[hillsnature.org\]\(http://hillsnature.org\)](http://www.sand-

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- **Arts Council of Moore County** – 8 pm, presents Van Cliburn-winning pianist Alexander Kobrin as part of the 2011-12 Classical Concert Series, at the Sunrise Theater. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines Tickets (per person): \$25. Info. 910-692-ARTS (2787) www.mooreart.org.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Business Guild** – 5:30 to 6:30 pm, general meeting at Lake House Bar & Grill, 200 Grant St., Seven Lakes. Please plan to attend, meet fellow Guild members, network, enjoy some light refreshments. Contact Cheryl Darwell 673-7245.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Know Your Numbers** - 2 - 4:30 pm, Free Blood Pressure Screenings at Reid Heart Center. High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease. Do you know your numbers? Reid Heart Center to discover your numbers. Lobby of Reid Heart Center, 120 Page Road North. Call 715-1489 or 800-213-3284.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes
- **Lenten Supper & Devotional at West End United Methodist Church** - 6 pm, the community is invited to join the church for a special meal, followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. Nursery will be available during the service. No charge for the supper, donations accepted. Contact Don Allen at 295-0460 or the church office at 673-1371 for more information.

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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

called a new Public Hearing in October to collect input and reaffirm the prior decision.

During the October 2011 hearing, a local developer and a real estate professional advocated for a reversal of policy, prompting the Council to re-adopt the ten-acre minimum ordinance, for the sake of formality, but also asking the Planning & Zoning [P&Z] Committee to reevaluate the question.

Since then, the simple matter of this four-acre difference between options drove a wedge between the Council and P&Z, as differing viewpoints were aired during meetings and in recent publications of *The Times*.

"This is not as simple as six or ten acres: this is a very complicated issue,"

explained P&Z member Steve Martin. "Every time we tried to move down a specific path, we bumped into issues. We have tried to accommodate people, but we always come back to ten acres [as preferable]."

Essentially, the concern is a twofold: What is best for the horse, and what is best for general aesthetics.

During public comment at the February 14 meeting, Grande Pines developer Pete Mace and Reynwood resident John Quella, both of whom own horse properties in those communities, squared off against Martin and George Worst with strong opinions on pasture management, economic factors, and aesthetics.

"We did not reach this decision without a lot of discussion and research," concluded

Martin, referring to the the P&Z Committee's unanimous recommendation to maintain a ten acre minimum.

However, Councilman Mick McCue took issue with the fact that the recommendation was presented with very little supporting information.

"I want to talk process," he said. "The committee's recommendation did not state all the good information that was presented tonight by Steve and George."

Instead, McCue argued, the P&Z recommendation was little more than a few conclusive sentences without any supporting details or discussion.

"How is the Council supposed to act? I will not be a rubber stamp!" he warned, later noting that the question was raised when a citizen asked the Council to consider the amendment.

"We owe it to everyone to discuss it fully," McCue said. "And reasonable minds can differ in the end. But that doesn't mean that I have not considered your recommendation."

Finance Director Leslie Frusco agreed: "It is our obligation as elected officials to

seek as much information and input as possible, before we make a decision. Rarely will we make a decision that makes everyone happy. But if the information presented here was in addition to the summary recommendation, it would have made a world of difference."

As discussion wound down, McCue, Frusco, and Mayor George Erickson all thanked P&Z Chair Steve Sparks and Steve Martin for attending the meeting and continuing to assist the Council with zoning concerns. In addition, Erickson asked Sparks to consider re-establishing the practice of the previous P&Z Chair, Craig Ramey, of attending regular Council meetings to offer a report of committee activities.

Village Finances

Ninety-four percent of budgeted Ad Valorem taxes have been collected, reported Finance Director Frusco.

The Council authorized tax liens to be advertised, with outstanding accounts totaling \$25,393 for 2011, \$2,817 from 2010, and \$2,175 from 2009.

The General Fund unre-

stricted account stood at \$932,865, with an additional \$75,000 held in restricted capital reserve, and \$10,000 in assessments prepaid for Woodland Circle. The Water Fund was reported at \$309,000 in unrestricted monies, plus \$741 in prepaid assessments for Woodland Circle. In addition, \$135,000 is held in a restricted escrow account for a new water well, if needed in future.

Annual bank loan payments in July totaled \$26,966 from the General Fund and \$41,144 from Water Fund.

An interest-only payment towards the Woodland Circle project due in April 2012 totals \$75,810 from the General Fund and \$5,357 from the Water Fund.

In related finance discussion, Frusco noted that budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2013 has commenced, and two citizen participation meetings have been scheduled on May 1 and May 3.

"These meetings are not a public hearing or a presentation of the budget," Frusco explained. "They are an opportunity for residents of Foxfire to come and speak

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

Sandhills Hawks Lacrosse

The Sandhills Hawks Lacrosse program is a new competitive team for kids aged ten to thirteen who would like to learn to play lacrosse.

With a mission to develop knowledge, skills, and discipline while fostering a drive for excellence through hard work, dedication and team work, coaches Steven Smith, Brad Thomson, and Kip Guyon are looking for-

ward to an exciting season.

No experience is necessary but participants are required to provide their own protective gear. Each player will receive a Hawk's team t-shirt and gym shorts.

Registration begins February 17th and the first team practice will be held on March 12th. To register, contact Coach Steve Smith at alliejoe2@aol.com or visit sandhillslax.weebly.com.



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 20)

and to ask questions on a variety of issues and projects the Council may be considering: How projects will affect tax rates and things being proposed — whether they should be included or not included.”

Frusco anticipated the preliminary budget will be available for public review on June 1, with a public hearing scheduled on June 12, followed by a Council work session to make any modifications, and eventual adoption on June 26.

Golf Course debris site

Councilman McCue reported that progress has been made toward reducing the enormous pile of yard debris collected at the maintenance area of Foxfire Golf & Resort.

He said the course has cleared a fire pit area and have been in contact with West End Fire Rescue to assist with safety and securing the necessary burn permits. The work is anticipated to be completed in a series of burns, rather than one major event.

Streets

As part of an ongoing effort to bring Village streets in compliance with new Federal standards, Councilman John Eltschlager reported requests for bids were sent to three sign installation firms. He

noted that other interested parties are also welcome to bid; information is available at the Foxfire Village administrative offices.

Disposal of surplus property

With a unanimous nod of support, the Council approved a new policy on the disposal of surplus property, with the caveat that Mayor Erickson and Town Clerk Lisa Kivett develop a set of procedures for identifying items before she authorizes their disposal.

As approved, surplus items must also meet three criteria: have a fair market value of less than \$10,000; no longer be necessary for conducting Foxfire business; and would best serve the interests of the Village by being disposed of.

Rep. Boles and Rep. Coble

Reporting on recent contact with elected representatives on some bigger picture issues of concern to Foxfire, Mayor Erickson said NC Representative Jamie Boles' office will keep the Village informed as discussion of fracking for natural gas is brought before the NC General Assembly.

In response to the Council's resolution opposed to larger and heavier trucks being permitted on US highways, US Congressman Howard Coble sent a letter noting his con-

cern that such vehicles would damage smaller roads.

Other business

In other business during the Tuesday, February 14 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council:

- Tommy McCaskill and David Meldrum were appointed by a vote of acclamation to serve on the Appearance Committee. Each will serve a three year term.
- Acceleration fees were waived on a delinquent Woodland Circle assessment account which was recently brought up to date. Payment, including additional interest, was received on January 30, 2012, and all future installments will fall due as if there had been no default.
- The five-year Long Range Plan was unanimously approved, as written, and officially adopted.

- The revised personnel policy was unanimously approved. McCue reported that changes in policy were discussed with Village employees and received favorable comments.
- With fewer students enrolled in the UNC Master of Public Administration program and none showing

interest in small municipal government, Councilwoman Frusco said, unfortunately, the Village was unable to attract a ten-week MPA intern. She noted that a local resident willing to offer housing to a graduate student could make a difference in securing the position next year.

New Perspectives on Death, Dying, & Grief

Join FirstHealth Hospice for: "Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief" on Friday, February 24. Registration 8:45 am; Presentation 9:15 am to noon. This presentation is free.

Companion book available for purchase.

The session will explore

the most current theoretical perspectives on dying, death, and grief, developed since the 1969 publication of Kübler-Ross' epochal work, *On Death and Dying*.

RSVP required by February 21.

Please call (910) 715-6000 for information and to register.

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OPINION

You call that dust mop a dog?

And the Pekingese wins it by a nose: Best in Show.

Wait a minute. Do those little canine puffballs even have a nose?

Seriously, who can tell underneath all that fur, when all I see are two enormous fish-bowl eyes and a blue-tinged tongue protruding from this shrunken-headed creature?

Don't get me wrong; I like dogs.

Correction, I love dogs. Labradors are at the top of my list — along with those other big hounding and herding breeds you see galloping around the show ring.

These are dogs, real dogs. Heck, even their handlers are better dressed: like people,

real people.

It's those other . . . ahem, breeds. You know, the petite pups that fit in celebutante's purses and have to eat eight times a day, like hummingbirds.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

My cats get the joke.

A teenaged neighbor once made the mistake of visiting my doorstep with a toy-sized pooch on the end of a leash. Let's just say my poorly-

named, stone-cold-killer cat, Milkshake, had to be carefully pried off the poor beast. The neighbor still occasionally visits — sans dog.

But I know I should try to be more tolerant of these little guys.

I expect it is a tall task to look dignified when you could easily be mistaken for a dust

bunny: especially one scruffy dust bunny, in particular, with a mile-long pedigree and a tongue-twisting formal name.

After all, this was no cup-

cake walk for Ch. Peacegarden Malachy. He had to beat out fellow Pekingese puffballs GCh. Hoong Tao's Donatella and GCh. Benaire's N Elphasun's Razzmatazz, in the penultimate round.

Though personally, I was partial to GCh. Mt. View's Ripsnortersilvercharm.

Now that was a name worth repeating. Quickly three times in a row, no cheating.

Ripsnort was a Pointer, though, so my bias toward big dogs is evident once again.

Maybe the solution to bitty breed dignity is simply to find smaller handlers.

A ten pound dog standing next to a full-grown adult looks cute but a bit silly. Now send that same ten

pound dog and average-sized handler running around the judging ring and Malachy, and his little friends, suddenly look more like crazed rodents being chased out of the kitchen.

Proportionately-sized handlers are the answer. I figure somebody with a calculator and some mathematical acuity — read, someone other than me — should be able to come up with a standard ratio.

Just make sure that formula allows a certain 5'2" redheaded reporter to run with the big dogs!

Why should I plan my own funeral?

Question: My wife and I are both in our eighties and in pretty good health. We agree on most things. But recently she has been urging me to plan my memorial service so that she will be spared that task when the time comes. She has already planned hers and filed it at our church without my seeing it. All of this is just too morbid

for me. If I have my way, there wouldn't be a service for either of us.

Response: I think that you are being rather obstinate and selfish. A memorial service or funeral is the last gift that a husband or wife can give to the other.

As a pastor, I am always appreciative if the surviving spouse is left with written

requests that enable him or her to honor the wishes of the one who has died. This should include the names of participants, including clergy, and any special requests for hymns or other music. Any favorite passages of scripture or other readings are also very helpful. The surviving family members will not be left to guess what they think the deceased would have liked.

I suggest that a couple sit down together and plan services for both, but they should keep in mind that funerals and memorial services are designed to comfort the living — not the dead. The wife should make suggestions as to what will be comforting and uplifting for her and he should suggest what he would like to hear if she should die before him.

Funeral services, by their very nature, are religious, but memorial services need not be. Some of the most memorable occasions for me have been gatherings at a club or a home where we sit

your estate plans. Inform each other about all accounts, debts, and financial arrangements. All of us should have living wills and financial directives that are understood by the entire family.

I can understand your desire to forego any services commemorating your deaths, but I think that such a request is extremely selfish. It is a gift to all the people you love, family and friends, when they have the opportunity to gather and celebrate your life. Don't deny them that.

I do not look at death as something morbid and uncomfortable to discuss, but as the next adventure in the abundant life that God has promised us. Preparing each other to celebrate this adventure is an ultimate act of love.

Don Welch, the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

and reminisce about the life experiences we all shared with the deceased. Indeed, if the person had no interest or involvement in a church, it is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible for any minister to plan a meaningful service and homily.

There are things more important that you and your wife should discuss in addition to planning a service. Make sure you have an estate attorney review your will and

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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A big year for local Vietnam Vets Chapter

Dear Editor:

2011 was a banner year for Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966.

I want to share some of the highlights of the year and thank everyone who made it possible: individuals,

groups, and businesses in the community who supported our fundraising efforts and members of the chapter who gave selflessly of their time and resources.

During the year, VVA Chapter 966 conducted Memorial Day and POW/MIA cere-

monies at the Veterans Memorial in Carthage, laid wreaths on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, POW/MIA Remembrance Day, and Veterans Day.

We marched in the "Welcome Home" parade in Fayetteville, attended activities at

Union Pines High School in support of their Navy Junior ROTC program and "Hats Off to Veterans" at New Century Middle School.

Quarterly, the VVA supplied snacks and Bingo prizes for veterans at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville, sponsored

and help serve holiday dinner to sixty homeless veterans and their families, and supported the Warrior Transition Battalion by providing 53 food baskets for families in need.

The group also gave a \$100 check to the family of the first baby born on Veterans Day at Womack Army Hospital and presented them with a flag that flew over the nation's capital on Veterans Day. And the VVA also helped three different military families at Christmas time, assisting in catching up on rents and utilities, and providing food baskets to help them have a merrier holiday.

All Vietnam Era veterans are invited to contact me (910-400-3056) or membership chairman Laud Pitt (910-673-5521) for more information about Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966. Associate membership is open to anyone who wishes to support our organization.

Thanks to the community for your support as we continue our efforts to serve the needs of veterans and active military in 2012.

Lou Atkins
President & Founder
Sandhills Animal
Rescue League

Mike Pusillo, President
Vietnam Veterans of
America, Chapter 966
West End

Thanks from Animal Rescue League

Dear Editor:

Sandhills Animal Rescue League would like to thank all the pet lovers who supported the League in 2011, whether with cans of food, used linens or financial contributions.

We would also thank the businesses in the Seven Lakes area for their support throughout the years.

The League also would like to thank Gary Kunce and the staff of FCIG Insurance for the wonderful job of collecting food for all the animal rescue groups as well as the Human Food Bank in December.

Please continue to urge anyone you know or come in contact with to spay and neuter not only their own

pets, but stray or abandoned pets because this is the only way to curb the over population of cats and dogs, not only in our area, but all over the world.

The spay and neuter clinic in Vass serves Moore, Montgomery, Lee, Richmond, Randolph, Hoke, Scotland, Cumberland, and Harnett Counties. The number for

the clinic is 910-692-3499.

Sandhills Animals Rescue League has a wish list if anyone would like to contribute to their needs. The League not only needs monetary donations, but also used linens, canned dog or cat foods, scoopable cat litter, paper towels, laundry detergent, baby wipes, cat and dog beds, (used or new), raw hide chews, cat and dog toys, and jewelry to sell at different events.

Please call Lou Atkins at 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921 to pick up any of the items above or if anyone needs additional information.

A great Pancake Breakfast

Dear Editor:

Great community support made the annual Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast a winner for the charities and children's projects that are supported by the Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes. A special focus this year was to continue support for the Reading Diagnostic Assessment program up through third grade. This program is supported, but not funded, by the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Teachers Academy.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts supported the Kiwanis Club with excellent dining room service. Their parents and Scout Leaders should feel rewarded by the way the youth interacted with the people attending the breakfast. Thank you for a job well done.

And, most of all, we appreciate your support by attending the event. We enjoy seeing all of the conversation and interaction by the people of

this great community while they enjoy the pancakes and a cup of coffee. The TV raffle was also supported very well. The winner of the TV was Kathy Davis of Seven Lakes.

John Shaughnessy, John Clohessy and I, as cochairmen of the event thank our fellow members and former members for the work on this breakfast. It was a great day.

Gerry Buelow
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

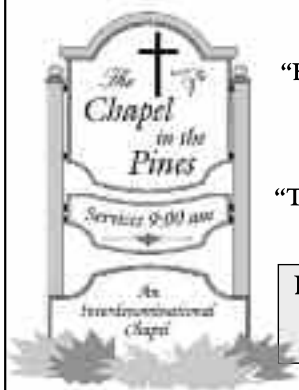
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Chapel Choir

Feb. 26th – Reverend Welch
"The Simple Message of Jesus" (Mark 1:9-15)
Glenda Clendenin

Rev. Don Welch Chapel Minister	Rev. Fran Stark Minister of Visitation & Outreach
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SLLA work session

(Continued from front page)

higher than anticipated by the Reserve Study, Cochran said.

"My concern is process," said SLLA President Bob Darr, suggesting some form of guidelines should be in place to determine how the new Long Range Planning Committee [LRP] interacts with other committees and how projects are reviewed.

"A committee comes in with recommended work, so where does that go?" asked Darr. "It goes to Long Range Planning [LRP] for discussion, but what happens if they determine we can't afford it? Does LRP make the decision?"

SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer said he sees the LRP as the central clearinghouse for capital projects.

"It is not the job of the Finance Committee to decide what jobs need to be done," Meyer said. "With input from other committees, information then funnels to LRP, and they will prioritize what they want to do. Whether it is security or maintenance or paving, every group will have their own list of priorities. We already know that once we combine the overall list of each group, we will have a big long list — and we don't have enough money to do it all."

Meyer explained that LRP must take on the difficult task of sorting through these priorities and creating a single list.

"There may have to be some give and take," he said. "It could be a timing thing — perhaps we might have to delay a project for a year. Or something else could be more urgent, and we'll have to do it right away. But every committee will have their number one project. So, of those five priority projects, which one will you do first? LRP will have to make that determination."

Finance Committee member Jim Allen agreed, but cautioned the Board that safety is always a priority.

"LRP should be a clearinghouse for all major capital expenditures, but decisions

cannot be based solely on dollars," Allen said, noting that a section of damaged bulkhead at Sequoia Island is a safety issue — not just an aesthetic one.

"Some projects can't be quantified by dollars; and some projects, if delayed,

could cost more later on," Allen concluded.

Sequoia Island bulkhead

With less than one-quarter of the bulkhead at Sequoia Island in need of immediate repair, the SLLA Board would typically approve the needed

work in a quick up-and-down motion. Instead, the project has become a litmus test of sorts, with the Board wrestling as much with the decision process as the decision itself.

All of the Directors seem to agree that something needs to be done, but questions continue to crop up about inflated cost estimates in the

Reserve Study, differences in the various bids on the job, whether the job could be done in-house or by volunteers, exactly how much bulkhead needs to be replaced now, and some concerned residents raising objections to any work at the island at all.

"We have a committee —
(See "SLLA," p. 26)

Sandhills Camellia Blossom Show

Join the Sandhills Camellia Society for their 8th annual accredited judged Camellia Show, on Saturday, February 18. The public is invited to view the magnificent judged blooms at the Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Novice gardeners are encouraged to bring their camellia blooms between 7:30 am to 9:30 am on the morning of February 18. Master gardener volunteers will be there to assist you. The public is not allowed during the judging; however, the public is invited at noon.

There will be gorgeous camellia plants for sale starting at 10:30 am.

Last year, there was so much interest shown pur-

chasing the dwarf camellia plants they sold-out quickly. This year, the Society has purchased more of the dwarfs for everyone to buy. The dwarf camellia bushes are excellent for landscaping in a small garden or a specific area since they grow no more than four feet high.

Anyone wishing to pre-order can call Barb Cohen at 910-255-0010. All pre-orders must be prepaid.

In the afternoon, there will be two lectures. One lecture will be about growing and maintaining dwarf camellias and the other lecture will be about propagating camellias.

There will be a silent auction as well as a sales table that will have marvelous things for everyone to use in the garden.



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Sunbelt Mechanical is a certified green professional and an accredited installer of Geo Thermal systems. Available tax credits on the Geo Thermal Systems are still 30% Fed., plus 35% NC state.

Call for details



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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 24)

Lakes & Dams — who have come forward and said they think we should replace the entire thing," said Darr.

Based on that recommendation, a request for proposal was sent out and bids have been received; however, those estimated costs [Editor's Note: actual figures were not disclosed] had many on the Board shaking their heads.

Security Director Andy Lowe argued that only twenty percent of the bulkhead should be replaced and explained that he personally repaired thirty feet of bulkhead on the island, twenty-one years ago, for less than \$2,000 in supplies and several months of volunteer effort.

"Eighty percent of the bulkhead is in good shape," Lowe said. "There is a section that should be repaired, but there is no reason to spend the money to replace it all when it can be repaired. We are tearing down good sections that will last another ten years."

Lakes & Dams Director Don Fentzlauff clarified that the scope of work includes increased bulkhead support from the existing 2 x 6 horizontal planking to 4 x 6 horizontal planking. He also explained that planks on the side opposite the damaged section of bulkhead are warped and should be repaired at the same time.

After discussion, the Board agreed to table any decisions while new bids are requested to repair only the most damaged portion of bulkhead.

LRP impact on road paving

As the Sequoia Island bulkhead discussion wound down, Treasurer Meyer noted that the conflict between priorities was a good example of how LRP will be able to assist with decision-making.

"We are just taking information from the Reserve Study [the island bulkhead project was prioritized for 2012-2013]," said Meyer. "We have never looked at our own priorities."

While the Reserve Study was accepted by the Board,

it is simply a set of recommendations; and, moving forward, each anticipated project will be discussed, prioritized, and approved individually.

"The LRP takes what is proposed and will come back to the Board with a priority list — and we will deal with that," said Darr. "There is nothing in the Reserve that mandates what we must do, but it is a good guideline."

However, the number one priority for Darr — and many other Board members — is the long-anticipated road repaving project.

Following a recent meeting with paving engineer S&ME, Darr recommended identifying a professional to oversee the paving project and also to develop specifications and solicit bids for several already identified problem areas — for example, Dogwood Lane.

Director Bob Racine asked whether the money that would be used on problem areas could be better spent elsewhere on paving.

"I don't see the tree roots as a major concern," Racine said. "If we spend a large chunk of money [restricted reserves] on Dogwood, that same money could be spent on a larger expanse of roads."

"This is the type of decision that LRP will have to determine," Darr responded. "We will get together with them to evaluate."

Renter Administration Fee

The long-held policy of assessing renter's dues was recently eliminated in favor of assessing a simple administrative fee. During discussion at the Monday, February 13 Work Session, the Board agreed that a \$100 fee was appropriate.

The renter administrative fee is an annual fee that will be effective May 1, 2012. The fee will not be pro-rated.

"This is an administrative fee," Racine explained. "Whether for one month or twelve, if we're calling it an administrative fee, then let us keep it administrative."

Finance Committee member Ed Sanchez agreed, noting it would take unnecessary staffing hours to keep track of a pro-rated or quarterly fee system.

A formal vote to approve the \$100 fee will be taken at the February 29 Open Meeting.

Vehicle Window Stickers

In part triggered by recent discussion over reciprocal gate access between SLLA and the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], Darr questioned the value of window stickers.

"It has been a way to identify people coming in the gates — whether they belong

here or are allowed to be here — a way to wave people through the gates," he explained.

The barcode system offers control and convenient access, Darr argued, but the issue remains that not all members have opted in and purchased the \$15 barcode sticker.

"We are pandering to those folks who have decided not to buy a barcode," said Darr. "But the barcode is an adjunct issue; the question is, should we keep the window stickers?"

Security Director Lowe successfully swayed the Board in favor of keeping the window stickers — at least for this year.

"We need to see how the gate issue is going to be resolved between the sides," Lowe said. "If Seven Lakes West decides to accept the

stickers and we have stopped issuing them, we'll have a problem."

Lake Water Testing

A generous donation of lake water testing equipment by Northsider Ron Erskine will allow the Association to monitor water quality on a regular and cost-effective basis. The donation includes an incubator and 28 test kits [valued at \$10 a piece].

Director Fentzlauff explained that the equipment is particularly useful in testing for e-coli, not just the broader coliform bacteria. Initial testing will be conducted by members of the Lakes & Dams Committee.

"If we get a high anomaly reading, we will take a second reading from the exact same place," said Fentzlauff. "If results are high again, we

(See "SLLA," p. 27)



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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 26)

will then send out for professional testing."

During routine testing conducted by Erskine over the last three years, reported Jim Allen, only one test reading was dangerously high: the result of an overloaded septic tank.

"The test adheres to EPA recommendations," Allen explained. "The whole reason he purchased the equipment was to test for e-coli."

Fentzlaff said he would like to develop a long range policy of intensive and scheduled water quality testing. In addition, he recommended a \$5 water test available through the NC Cooperative Extension office.

"We are concerned and interested in providing good clean water to our residents," said Darr. "This is a magnificent way to test and is a great tool for Ron to give us. This puts us in great shape to keep tabs on our waters."

Lot Combination Policy

Treasurer Meyer presented a draft policy on lot combinations that would formally codify a long-standing but undocumented SLLA practice.

Under the proposed policy, Meyer explained, any two contiguous lots may be combined into one parcel — and will be assessed dues as one parcel — but only after the lots have been professionally surveyed and registered with Moore County as a single tract.

One major issue is that, while many lot combinations were approved by the Board in years past, not all were properly recorded by the county.

"So the question is: What do we do with already combined lots that have been billed for one lot, but were not surveyed and registered in Carthage," Meyer said.

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. estimated that surveying work to combine lots will run approximately \$500, plus filing fees to Moore County.

Going around the table, the Board agreed that property owners of these unreg-

istered, combined lots will be given a grace period of 90 days.

"These properties will be billed for one lot; but if they do not combine them properly within 90 days, then they will receive a dues billing on their second lot," said Darr.

In a related policy discussion, Cochran recommended the Board seek legal guidance on how payment of back dues would be assessed if a property owner wanted to uncombine those lots at a later date. A long-standing practice, the payment of back dues is another undocumented policy.

"It is good to get from folklore to getting it written down," said Meyer.

Northsider Bill Yarish recommended that the Board should consider adding an administrative fee to the proposed policy, to cover office costs resulting from a lot combination.

Boat Dock fee

There are eighteen boat slips leased annually at Sequoia Point; and, according to the Bylaws, the current fee of \$400 is due April 1.

As part of an ongoing effort to streamline the annual billing process, Meyer recommended the Boat Dock fee due date should be synchronized to the new fiscal year on May 1.

Moving the due date will move the Boat Dock income that was budgeted for FY2012 into FY2013, Meyer explained. But, after the change, the fees will be collected at

the beginning, rather than the end, of each fiscal year.

NC Open Water Swim 2012

Lukewarm water in Lake Echo caused concern during the NC Open Water Swim last year. This annual competition held in Seven Lakes North each June draws hundreds of participants from across the state.

"The water temperature was right at the limit on the high end," said Darr.

In response, the sponsoring organization has requested the 2012 event be moved to Lake Sequoia, with hopes that a larger body of water would have a lower overall temperature.

However, multiple objections were quickly raised in the Board's discussion.

Recreation Director Bob Racine argued that the competition, which takes place over a two-day period, would be a major inconvenience to members wishing to use Sequoia Point facilities.

And Security Director Andy Lowe noted that Sequoia Dam does not have a readily-accessible bypass to divert traffic.

Safety concerns were raised by Cochran, who said it would be difficult to control boats entering the lake from private docks — potentially endangering swimmers.

As proposed by Racine, the Board will take a formal vote later in February to extend the invitation to conduct the NC Open Water Swim on Lake Echo, exclusively.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

Recognition Award to Cindy and Jim Hudson for the help they provide to Moore County Animal Control in finding good homes for displaced horses.

Though Animal Control lacks equine facilities, the department has rescued 140 horses and found homes for over 100 of them. The horses are placed on a seven-acre farm until they can be adopted.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton, who serves on the Citizen's Pet Responsibility Board, presented the award to the Hudsons, saying, "Moore County must be commended for what they do for animals. People who step up

... these are special God-sent people in this County."

Commissioner Nick Picerno congratulated Animal Control officer Frank Ringelberg for his work placing the equines. Picerno said he is exploring the option of setting up a County account that would accept donations to help with rescuing and finding homes for neglected or abandoned horses.

Planning Department

The Commissioners called a public hearing for Tuesday, March 6 on the closure of .82 miles of Airport Road.

In November 2011, the North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] informed the County that

they were abandoning any future maintenance of the road. In January, the Planning Board unanimously approved the closure of the road.

All adjacent landowners to the road have signed a petition in favor of closing the road.

The Commissioners approved a request by Planning Director Debra Ensinger to change two Planning Department job titles. Code Enforcement Supervisors will now be known as "Code Enforcement and Permitting Supervisors" and the Assistant Planning Director will be known as the "Planning Supervisor."

Public Works

At the request of Public Works Director Randy Gould, the Board approved 2007 Local Water Supply Plans for several individual water systems within the County, including Addor, The Carolina, East Moore Water District, Hyland Hills/Niagara, Pinehurst, Robbins, Seven Lakes, and Vass.

All public and privately owned water systems in the County are required to submit Water Supply Plans every five years. The County recently received approval of the 2007 plans from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Board approved a

\$50,000 change order to a \$1.6 million contract with Terry's Plumbing for the Little River regional lift station, which will connect sewers in Vass with the County's Addor wastewater treatment plant. The change was necessary to achieve separation between water and wastewater lines; the project's contingency fund will cover the additional costs.

Land Swap with Pinehurst

The Board approved a letter of intent to initiate a process in which the County and the Village of Pinehurst would swap equal parcels of land measuring 6500 square feet.

The letter of intent will (See "Commissioners," p. 29)

VIPER

(Continued from page 2)

Rescue, and Police radio communications throughout the County.

If each municipality purchases its own radios separately, Williams said, then operators will not have the training on each system, reducing interoperability.

"We feel like if you don't fund this — you don't do the proper handling of it — you are going to wind up with a hodgepodge of radios just like you have now," explained Chief Williams.

Chairman Larry Caddell, who served as a firefighter in Carthage for eighteen years, said, "That inoperability is big. You just don't know how big that is, until you

have a big fire."

In the end Chief Williams urged the Board to consider funding one hundred percent of the cost for radios.

"We're asking that you don't discriminate against over half the County's residents and make them pay for more than their fair share for life safety issues," said Williams. "We are all from Moore County, and we all depend on emergency services."

The municipalities are asking that the radios be purchased by the County initially, with all future maintenance of the radios to be handled by the municipalities.

With fire and police departments finalizing their Fiscal

Year 2012-2013 budgets in four weeks, Chief Williams asked the Board to make a decision one way or the other.

The Commissioners will again take up the issues surrounding funding for VIPER during a special work session on Tuesday, February 21.

"You couldn't make a decision now if you wanted to," said Commissioner Nick Picerno.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

enable the Village to apply for a NC Department of Commerce grant as part of an economic development package for the relocation of a business to Pinehurst. The County owns property, used for Public Utilities storage tanks, adjacent to an area where the Village intends to add sidewalks and parking.

Resolution Supporting Farm Service Agency

The Board approved a resolution opposing a proposed consolidation of Farm Service Agency offices that would combine the Moore County office with the one in Lee County. The Farm Service Agency is responsible for administering federal farm loan and commodity programs.

The US Department of Agriculture is consolidating offices due to budget pressures.

"We have twice the farmers and twice the land than Lee County," said Commissioner Tim Lea, adding that it would make more sense for residents of Lee and Montgomery Counties to come to Moore County.

Montgomery County farmers currently utilize the Farm Service Agency in Moore County.

Resolution Opposing United Nations Agenda 21

At the request of Commissioner Picerno, the Board approved a resolution opposing United Nations Agenda 21.

"What Agenda 21 stands for is 180 degrees from what Moore County stands for," said Commissioner Picerno.

Agenda 21 is a lengthy planning document that was produced in 1992 by the 178 member nations, including the United States, who participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The plan's stated purpose is to create among those members nations a "global partnership for sustainable development."

Recently, the twenty-year old document has attracted the attention of right-of-center political commentators, who believe it serves as a blueprint for undermining American values, private property rights, and capitalism. That point of view has been adopted by a number of Tea Party groups, including some in North Carolina. The Board of Commissioners of Gaston County, near Charlotte, approved an anti-Agenda 21 resolution in late January.

The entire Agenda 21 document is available on the United Nations' website.

According to the resolution approved by Moore County's Board of Commissioners, Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of "extreme" environmentalism, social engineering, and global political control, to be realized through socialist and communist redistribution of wealth.

The resolution alleges that "Agenda 21 is being covertly pushed into communities throughout the United States of America through the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives [ICLEI]," and "other Green or Alternative projects."

Commissioner Kennedy

encouraged citizens to visit the United Nations Agenda 21 website, saying "all the information you need to know is right there from the horse's mouth. I am glad the Board is taking a stance against this."

Kennedy asked that the resolution be forwarded to other counties in North Carolina.

According to the resolution, Agenda 21 "views the American way of life of private property ownership, single family homes, private car ownership and individual travel choices, and privately owned farms; all as destructive to the environment."

The Board will send the resolution to elected representatives in Raleigh and Washington.

Other Business

In other business during the February 9 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- During member comments, Charlie Carlton of Pinehurst, who serves as Chairman of the Moore County Aging Council, urged the Commissioners to continue video taping their meetings. "I think it's an outstanding mission," said Carlton. "Our Council unanimously supports it." Commissioner Lea last year proposed

video taping the Commissioners' meetings and making them available through the County website. The Board has yet to make a decision on the matter, pending a cost analysis.

- Also during member comments, Susan Carlton asked the Commissioners to consider assembling a task force to tackle poverty in Moore County. According to Carlton, Moore County is the sixth fastest growing County in North Carolina in terms of poverty.
- The Board approved the Quail Haven Pleasant Living Healthcare waiver, regarding the redemption of bonds and health care revenue bonds series 1987. The Board also approved the removal of Commissioner Nick Picerno or any other Commissioner from

serving on the facility's Board in the future.

- Moore County Information Technology Director Darlene Yudell gave the Commissioners a Financial Report to explain the County's IT Fund Balance.
- The Board approved an increase to the US Food Service Contract with the Moore County Detention Center from \$136,000 to \$192,000.

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

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