

Tax increase for Foxfire Village?

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Is a tax increase on the horizon for Foxfire Village?

With expenses expected to outpace revenue for Fiscal Year 2013, Foxfire Village Finance Director Leslie Frusco heard suggestions from residents on how to best balance the budget during two recent workshops scheduled for the express purpose of gathering public input.

"Our options are to take more money out of the existing Village funds, increase our revenue sources, or cut expenses," she explained at the Citizen's Budget Workshops held on Tuesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 3.

The concerns pushing the cost side of the ledger are palpable: deferred road maintenance projects, debt service — particularly on the Woodland Circle extension loan; and eroding amenities — the proposed budget includes

(See "Foxfire," p. 34)

Voters approve Amendment One

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Voters statewide, in Moore County, and in Seven Lakes and West End approved an amendment to the state constitution that makes "marriage between one man and one woman" "the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State."

Statewide, the hotly debated amendment was approved by a margin of 61 percent to

39 percent, according to unofficial results from all 100 counties. The margin was even wider in Moore County — 63 percent to 37 percent — and wider still — at 67 percent to 33 percent, in West End.

In Seven Lakes, 54 percent voted for the amendment, with 46 percent opposed.

About one-third voted

Thirty-four percent of voters
(See "Election," p. 14)

7 Lakes Unity Service



Seven Lakes area churches held a Unity Service on Sunday, May 6. Participating clergy included The Rev. Dudley Crawford [retired] and Rev. Larry Lyon of West End Presbyterian Church; Rev. Frank Stark and Rev. Don Welch of The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines; Ms. Carolyn Mealing of the First Church of Christ, Scientist; The Rev. Bob Brown of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church; and The Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong of West End United Methodist Church. [See story & sermon on page 28.]

McLendon Hills fire district change could take a while

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

A request by the McLendon Hills Property Owners Association to be moved from their current Eagle Springs Fire District into the Seven Lakes First District has prompted the Commissioners to undertake a complete analysis of the County's Fire Districts — something that hasn't been done in recent memory.

But that also means it may be a while before McLendon Hills homeowners get the lower insurance rates they were hoping to get by hopping districts.

McLendon Hills made the request during the Board's April 17 meeting; prompting

a recommendation from Fire Marshal Ken Skipper that the County hire a consultant to conduct a formal county-wide study of the issue.

During their Tuesday, May 1 meeting, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to have Skipper issue a Request For Proposal [RFP] for a comprehensive study of the fire service districts in Moore County. The project is expected to cost anywhere from \$20,000 to \$90,000.

Unified fire tax rate a possibility

One possible outcome of such a study is that the entire County would move to a "unified tax rate," in which all county residents would pay

the same fire tax rate, instead of a different rate in each district. Current fire tax rates range from a low of 4.0 cents per hundred dollars of valuation in Seven Lakes, to a high of 11.1 cents for Crain's Creek.

"Some of the districts would pay less [than they currently do], and some would potentially pay more under that scenario?" Lea asked.

Skipper confirmed that possibility and added that a unified tax rate would take the issue of fire department revenues out of the equation when considering a change to district lines. So any change in those lines would be more about the proximity

(See "Fire," p. 37)

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Pinecrest PTSA to host new superintendent

Dr. Aaron Spence will be the guest of the Pinecrest High School PTSA during a "Community Conversation" on Wednesday, May 16. The event will be held in the

school auditorium at 6:30 pm.

The public is invited to meet Dr. Spence and hear his thoughts on the direction of the Moore County schools.

This is the first school community get-together for Spence, who has been on the job for few months.

This informal gathering will also include a question and

answer period for those in attendance.

"Dr. Spence has been very busy the last few months visiting schools, community groups, clubs and organizations," said Tim Lussier, Advisor for Community Relations for the Moore County Schools, "and he is very excited at this opportunity to meet

school families and hear their questions and ideas as everyone works together to move the schools forward."

Prior to Dr. Spence's remarks, a very brief PTSA general membership meeting will be held.

For additional information, contact Pinecrest High School at 692-6554.

Lake House hosts Biz Guild

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

Meet the Merchants was the main topic at the Seven Lakes Business Guild's monthly meeting held at Lake House Bar and Grill on April 23.

Danny Bowers was the host and generously offered members a wonderful selection

of his famous appetizers. Many local vendors and businesses have already signed up, for the Saturday, May 19, Meet the Merchants event, from 11 am to 2 pm, and one of areas most popular local bands, Almost Perfect, will perform. Lots of fun activities are planned for kids and adults. It is still not too late to register for a booth which is Free to Guild members, and only \$35 for non-members.

The meeting guest speaker and member was Lorraine Scantlin of Hearing Solutions of Seven Lakes. She provided an overview of her and husband Val's products and services.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the numerous improvements made to the Guild website and marketing ideas. Contact Cheryl Darwell 673-SAIL for more information.



Lake House – Will and Danny Bowers of Lake House Bar & Grill hosted the Monday, April 23 meeting of the Seven Lakes Business Guild.

Help out some Scouts!

Boy Scout Troop 86 of Candor was recently restarted thanks to Scoutmaster Mike Wallace. This restart means the troop must begin to acquire all of its own scouting and camping supplies.

Over the past year, the troop has held multiple fundraisers but as the boys' skills improve, more equipment will be necessary.

The scouts in this troop are dedicated, but many of their families are in need.

There are four boys in Troop 86 who do not have uniforms and five boys that do not own bikes, which would allow them to participate in events to earn badges.

Donations of Boy Scout uniforms, teen/adult-sized bicycles, and camping or hiking equipment would be deeply appreciated.

For more information or to make a financial donation, please contact Scoutmaster Mike Wallace at 910-571-2958.

Correction

In the April 27 edition of *The Times*, we identified the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels as Rebecca Lindstrom. The correct name is Rebecca Listrom, a Seven Lakes resident, who may be reached at 910-692-0384 for information about the Meals on Wheels Program. The Times regrets the error.

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
Aug 10	Aug 17
Aug 24	Aug 31
Sep 7	Sep 14
Sep 21	Sep 28
Oct 5	Oct 12
Oct 19	Oct 26
Nov 2	Nov 9
Nov 16	Nov 23
Nov 30	Dec 7
Dec 14	Dec 21
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Nearly 2,000 boats register for Lake Auman

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



April 30 was the last day to register boats or trailers without paying a \$25 fine,

reported Lake and Dam Director Bruce Keyser during the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board Work Session on Tuesday, May 8.

This year more than 500 non-power boats and 1,430 power boats have been registered. Those who have not registered their boats will be sent a reminder letter.

Lake patrol will begin on May 19, with boating rules being "strictly" enforced, said Keyser. Multiple violations of Lake rules may result in a fine, with the possibility of that boat being banned from use on the Lake.

Keyser reported that a fish and lake assessment study was completed on Friday, May 4 by Foster Lake and Dam Management. The results of that study should be back within the next few weeks.

After discussing the matter in executive session, the Board approved replacing the current gate system at the boat and trailer storage area with a twenty-foot sliding gate, as well as making necessary repairs to the present

fences.

Barriers will be placed inside and outside of the gate on both sides to prevent damage to the gate or fence from vehicles or trailers. The total cost of the project is not to exceed \$5,000.

In other lake news, Keyser reported that electrical repairs at the Johnson Point docks are underway and should be completed by next week. The swimming platform should be in the water on May 19. ARC Director Dan Blue reminded all dock owners to check their cleats and mooring lines for wear and proper tying.

The Lake Auman Dam Development Committee should have a recommendation for possible uses for the top surface of the Dam within the next few weeks, Keyser said.

During member comments, resident Jim Brannon asked about progress on resurfacing the roadway over the dam. Keyser said due to some equipment and material delays — as well as being dependent on the paving contractor's schedule — it could be another four weeks before the work is complete.

Events

The Seven Lakes West Summer Concert Series started its season on Friday, May

4 by setting an attendance record, with over 300 people on hand, reported Events Director Rosemary Weber.

"Everybody just really had a really, really great time," said Weber, adding that the event was dedicated to the Backpack Pals program.

The Events Committee installed lighting along both driveways at Johnson Point for the event, which was met with appreciation by the community, Weber said. She and Keyser are investigating a more permanent lighting solution for the area.

The next concert, featuring the band "Paris," will be held on June 1 and will be dedicated to Vietnam Vets.

On Monday, June 11 Sergeant Tom Brady and Officer Steve Clark, Resource Officers for Moore County Schools, will host a two hour Basic Self Defense Class at 6:30 at the West Side Park Community Center [WSPCC]. Residents may email Weber or contact the Landowners' Office to sign up.

On Tuesday, August 14, Brady and Clark will be back to host a Hand Gun Safety class, which will discuss dismantling, cleaning, and proper storage of a weapon. It will also review some of the new North Carolina gun laws, said Weber. Both events are free.

Weber is asking for feedback on hosting a concealed weapons certification class in the community. The eight-hour certification class would cost \$80 a person and is required prior to applying for a concealed weapon permit, she explained Weber.

During member comments, Westsider Dale Erikson thanked Weber for her efforts in organizing the personal safety courses. "The gun safe-

ty and personal safety are both very practical items," said Erikson, "and will benefit the community . . . Rosemary responded to the questionnaire, and not only responded to the questionnaire, but did it right away with some very practical things, and I think many people will look forward to attending." Weber had used the SLWLA website to gather suggestions for future

(See "Westside," p.16)

Got Grads? We want 'em!

It's graduation season at high schools and colleges all across the U.S. If you have a daughter, son, grandchild, etc. that gives you graduation bragging rights, we'd like to help you spread the word.

We'll be publishing photos and vital stats on graduates in the May 25 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times*.

To make sure your grad is included, get us the following by Friday, May 11: a photo of the grad, full name, name and location of school, degree, names of parents, grandparents, or other Seven Lakes/West

End/ McLendon Hills/Fox-fire connection, something about the grad's next big step in life (college, job, etc.) and anything else you think brag-worthy.

We prefer that you email the photo and information: mail@sevenlaketimes.net.

But you can also send it via USPS to PO Box 468, West End, NC 27376 or drop it off in the drop box beside our office door at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza in the Seven Lakes Business Village, just across the parking lot from First Bank.

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Resident pleads for better enforcement

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



In a brief reprieve from an arduous round of budget discussions, the Foxfire Village Council made short work of a limited agenda during their monthly meeting held on Tuesday, May 8.

Joan Hopkins, a longtime resident with ties to the Village dating back to 1972, addressed the Council and passionately argued for better enforcement of ordinances — particularly in Foxtail Villas area around her home.

"I live in the condo area, and it is like a slum," she said. "Today, I counted twenty large dog droppings in one area; and another home, a rental, has a shack behind it."

"I love Foxfire . . . I would like to die here with Foxfire still being the same wonderful and beautiful place that it always has been. But if you let it go downhill like this! Can't you come and take a look and see what is going on?"

In addition to the dog excrement she said that several large dogs are left tethered in garages and expressed concern for their welfare. Hopkins also argued that the outdoor shed was an unauthorized structure and that the abandoned foundations on the Eastside — left unfinished by owner Ron Jackson when the economy slumped — are a safety hazard.

"We have open cement basements that you say you can't do anything about. What if a child fell in one of those?" Hopkins cautioned.

"I pleaded with you before to do something about this, and now it has gotten worse. You wouldn't want it next to your house — so please don't allow it next to me."

Hopkins noted that several property owners have banded together on her street to create a homeowners association.

"We keep up our properties and have a landscaper come in every week. We take care

of our stuff, but not these other people," she said. "I feel like I'm living in a slum over there, and I'm not the only one. The whole circle feels that way."

Mayor George Erickson told Hopkins that state legislation had prevented the Village from taking action on the abandoned foundation for three years. But that time period has now expired.

"Ron Jackson has been notified that, if he does not build a house or do something else with those foundations, the Village will do something about it and charge that back to him," Erickson said. "He has been notified."

Councilman Steve Durham also recommended a more proactive approach to dealing with the dog droppings.

"We need to find the person responsible and put them on notice," he said.

Water

Phase 1 Mandatory Water Restrictions have remained in effect for Foxfire Village for over three years.

Councilman Durham called attention to several key areas of the restriction, notably:

- Automatic and non-automatic spray irrigation systems are permitted only between midnight and 10 am. Properties with odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Mondays and Thursdays and even numbered addresses on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Hose-end sprinkler watering is permitted between 6:00 am and 10:00 am and also 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Mondays and Thursdays, even numbered addresses on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Hand-held hose watering devices are permitted between 6:00 am and 10:00 am and also 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Odd numbered addresses may irrigate on Tuesdays and Saturdays, even numbered addresses on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Low volume drip irrigation is permitted at any time. Additional restrictions

include a prohibition on washing vehicles except on Saturdays and Sundays, and washing of outdoor impervious surfaces — patios, decks, driveways — is strictly prohibited. Commercial use of a power washer is permitted.

Civil penalties include a \$200 fine for first violation; \$1,000 fine for a second violation; and possible disruption of water service to the customer following a third violation.

A complete copy of Phase 1 Water Restriction and information is available on the community website or resi-

dents may drop by the Foxfire Village offices.

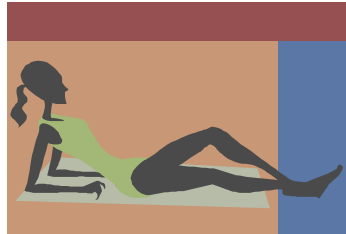
Also during the water report, Councilman Durham said he anticipates receiving bids to repair or replace the fence around the water tower.

Public Safety

Eleven residents have signed up for the Senior Touch program, sponsored by the Foxfire Police Department.

Developed by Officer Scott Patterson, the program is particularly useful for elderly and those living alone. Registered participants can

(See "Foxfire," p. 17)

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More spending, no tax hike in county budget

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



County Manager Cary McSwain is proposing a \$131 million budget for Fiscal Year

2012-13, and no increase in the property tax rate.

McSwain presented the budget — which reflects an increase of nearly two percent over this year's budget — to the Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, May 1 meeting.

Most of the requested \$2.5 million year-to-year increase will be allocated to personnel costs, McSwain said, including the addition of four new detention officers and seven new paramedics. Funding for the latter will come from the Advanced Life Support [ALS] levy rather than the general property tax levy. However, the budget includes no increase in the two-cent ALS tax rate.

Lea Questions Increased Spending

"A lot of people in Moore County who run businesses and they're not increasing their budgets," Commissioner Tim Lea said, questioning the proposed budget increase.

"In some cases they are shutting down their businesses or still laying off people," Lea continued. "Budgets aren't increasing. They are staying the same or decreasing. We have to be sensitive to that, because, obviously, these are the people paying the taxes, giving us the opportunity to move this budget forward."

"If we are looking to increase our budget this year from last year, some people are going to ask: Why are you able to do that, when we aren't able to do that — and we're the ones paying the taxes?"

McSwain said the proposed additions will bring the number of full time employees [FTE] to 630 — still below the FY 2007-08 total of 644.

"The Board's done a great job in decreasing FTE," said Lea. "It looks like we are

heading in the opposite direction."

"Every open position is

scrutinized by staff," McSwain said, "as to whether it is necessary to fill."

A second factor driving up personnel costs is an increase in county employee cost of

living allowance [COLA] by 1.5 percent — adding a total

(See "County," p. 21)

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Board delays decision on cuts at stables

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



A possible reduction in the number of community-owned horses at the stables drew a slew of criticism from a few dedicated riders during the Wednesday, April 25 meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

Citing the need for better information on usage of the facility, Director Bob Racine, whose Recreation Committee had recommended the cut-backs to the herd recommended the Board delay taking action.

"When I'm wrong I will admit it," Racine explained. "In this case, we were wrong. We made a decision based on insufficient information. At this point, I recommend that no further action will be taken to reduce the number of animals or personnel until there has been a thorough review . . . I ask that you not make any assumptions. My mind is not made up to do anything."

In early April, the Recreation Committee unanimously approved a recommendation to reduce by approximately half the number of horses at the stables. Fewer Association-owned horses would allow the vacant stalls to be rented to private owners, allowing the stables to produce additional revenue. The combination of rental fees and reduced expenses were expected to save the Association more than \$30,000 annually.

Once the Recreation Committee's recommendation became public, closer scrutiny of the data on which that recommendation was based suggested the number of riders had been seriously underestimated.

Bad numbers complicate debate

Voicing strong opposition during the public comment period of Wednesday's meeting, Debra Kester said she had corresponded with four members of the Board and

found that the information they have at their disposal is inconsistent and inaccurate. Kester also said her request for a trail ride count had been denied.

"It shouldn't take three months to count the number of trail rides taken over the year," she said. "I believe there is a motive for what they are doing, and I am here tonight because I would like some answers."

SLLA President Bob Darr responded that the counts would be made available after they were reviewed at the committee level for accuracy.

"On the stables, there has been a lot of discussion, with some saying we need to get rid of it and some saying otherwise," Darr said. "One of the issues this new Board is talking about is expenditures and funds and dues increases. The issue of stables came up as part of that discussion, but one of the things that we did not have was data. We decided to gather all the data assembled by Karen [Reeder, the stables manager], and look at it to decide what we should do or should not do."

Darr continued, "Like every other issue we discuss, we need to take that data, and all the input we get, and analyze it in a Work Session. One of the issues we will discuss at our next meeting will be the stables. At that point, we will share all those numbers and try to make some kind of decision about what we're going to do."

Forced to referee a controversy that may have been based on the premature release of questionable data, Darr warned that financial or supporting information for future decisions would, likewise, not be distributed until the Board felt confident that data was accurate.

"There are a whole number of items coming up as it relates to dollars and cents," said Darr. "As we develop the data surrounding those kinds of things, we will not be giving those numbers out until I am sure we can have an open and factual discus-

sion with you."

During public comment, Linda Christy also expressed concern about the stables and recommended an independent cost study to determine the full costs of running the stables and — once that

information was compiled — a vote of the community to determine the outcome of the stables.

Kathy Lishawa also spoke against reducing the number of horses.

"The stables can be used

by everyone. If they don't use it, that is a choice," she said. "When you move into this community, you pay your \$900 [annual dues] and know the money is used for the stables, the pool, the roads.

(See "SLLA," p. 18)

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In memory of . . .

Esther Hortense Wethington Squire, age 89, died May 6 at FirstHealth Hospice in Pinehurst.

Mrs. Squire was preceded in death by her husband Edward, sisters Dorothy Black and Helen Ortman, son William Michael Squire, grandson William Squire, and great granddaughter, Nadia Grant.

She is survived by her siblings Mary, Margaret, and Joseph Wethington; sons: Edward, Mark, Randall, Kenneth, and Daniel Squire and

daughter Carolyn Loveland as well as grandchildren: Malora Squire Grant, Peter, Marietta, William, Joseph, Beverly, Daniel, and Annie Squire; Jennifer and Michael Loveland and seven great grandchildren.

Final interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery to be buried with her husband, Edward Squire and son, William Michael Squire.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations sent to Will's Hope, 320 Cheshire Court, Colorado Springs, CO.

Will's Hope is a foundation established in honor of Will Squire to assist children and young adults with disabilities.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family.

Zalmon Omar "Bill" Sherwood, M.D., formerly of Seven Lakes, died Friday, April 20, at his home in Dallas, TX.

Services were private.

He was the son of Della Gertrude Owen and Dr. Zal-

mon Omar Sherwood Sr., of Geneva, OH.

After service in the medical corps at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH, he was board certified as a general surgeon. In 1953, he opened a private practice and served his hometown for 29 years.

In 1982, he and his wife Janet, moved to Seven Lakes to pursue their other two passions: golf and bridge. A Silver Life Master, he played duplicate bridge several times a week throughout his retire-

ment, adding Master points until about four months ago. He moved to Sarasota, Fla., in 2002, and then two years ago to Dallas.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet.

He is survived by three daughters and a son; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions be made to the former Geneva Memorial Hospital, now University Hospitals – Geneva Medical Center, 870 Main St., Geneva, OH.

Programs at Moore County's Senior Center

Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse

On Tuesday, May 15 at 10 am, Moore County Department of Social Services will present a program at the Senior Enrichment Center on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. May 13 through June 17 is "Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month." Protecting vulnerable and elder adults is a community responsibility

and it is imperative that communities work together to help reduce and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Research shows that abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable and elder adults are grossly underreported. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive system of protection, North Carolina enacted the nation's first elder abuse law in 1973 and has

been providing protective services to adults throughout its one hundred counties Department of Social Services since 1975. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

Keeping in Balance

Poor balance can mean dire consequences, the biggest one is that of falling.

Join Karen Backall, PT, of Appalachian Physical Therapy at the Senior Enrichment

Center on Thursday, May 24 at 4 pm, to learn ways to improve your balance, decreasing the risk of falling and thereby maintaining quality of life and independence.

Each year one in every three adults age 65 and over falls. Falls, which can lead to moderate to severe injuries such as hip fractures and head traumas, can even increase the risk of early

death. In addition to the physical and emotional pain, many people need to spend at least a year recovering in a long-term care facility. Fortunately, falls are largely preventable. Backall will offer tips you can incorporate into your everyday life to help you stay mobile. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

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Casa Garcia owner has plenty of experience

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

After twenty years in the restaurant business with various family members, Maria Rivera decided it was time to go strike out on her own. Two months ago, the oppor-

tunity for Rivera to own her own restaurant presented itself, and she bought Casa Garcia in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

"I love it," Rivera told *The Times*, "It is never the same day twice."

Being the sole owner has had its challenges, Rivera explained, but it has also been very rewarding.

"Every day is something new," said Rivera, "I meet new customers, or somebody walks in that I haven't seen for a long time. It is exciting to see old faces and new faces."

Having helped her parents with their restaurant, El Vaquero, in Southern Pines, Rivera noticed that a lot of people from Seven Lakes would make the thirty minute drive to eat there. So why not bring the food to Seven Lakes?

"It was scary . . . but still very exciting," she said of the decision to acquire Casa Garcia.

Casa Garcia's four page menu boasts an expansive menu of Mexican cuisine made with seafood, chicken, beef, and steak — to name a few.

"Our fish tacos are the best

in town," boasted Rivera, who also makes a special dessert "tres leches" cake from fresh pineapples, strawberries or peaches.

The restaurant also has a newly renovated bar, with beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

Becoming a full time resident of Seven Lakes is something that Rivera could see herself doing in the near future.

"I have had a lot of support

from the community," said Rivera, "It's been a very positive response."

Casa Garcia is located right beside Phoenix Fashions in the Seven Lakes Business Village and is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday from 11:30 am to 9:00 pm, and is closed on Sundays.

Take out is available; the phone number is 910-673-1276.



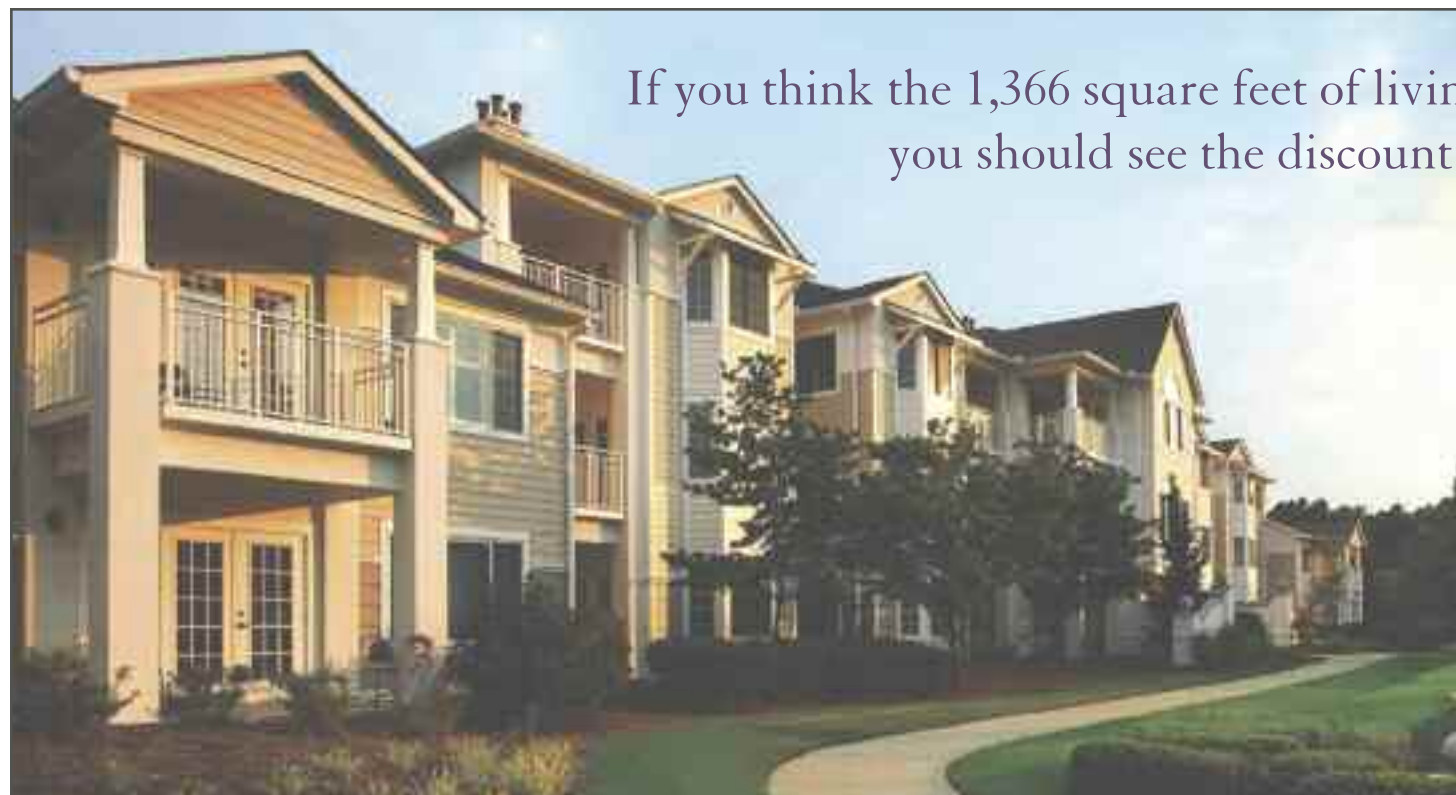
Maria Rivera is the new owner of Casa Garcia Mexican Restaurant in Seven Lakes Business Village.

Sign up to be a Seven Lakes Stingray

A registration and information session for the Seven Lakes Stingrays Swim Team will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Come out and meet Coach Barbara Keating. Information on swim lessons

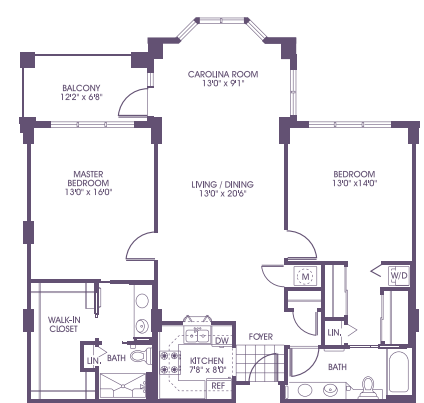
will also be available.

If you are unable to attend or would like additional information about the Seven Lakes Stingrays Swim Team or recreational programming at the Northside Pool, please call the SLLA office at 673-4931.



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PJ Woodard is tops in math competition

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Straight A student PJ Woodard knows a thing or two about math. You might even say he's gifted. But there is one fact that is for certain: he is the number one ranked third grade student in the State of North Carolina in the "First in Math" program.

A competitive online mathematics website, the program strengthens lessons learned in school through problems and timed games.

"It teaches new concepts and reinforces basic skills," explained West Pine Elementary teacher, Beth Walker. "It accelerates and remediates, and there is something for everybody."

Walker has used the First in Math program as part of her classroom curriculum for three years, after she qualified for a grant to initiate the program. When PJ's new homeroom teacher opted not to use the program this year, Walker was able to secure permission for him to continue playing along — on his own time.

"I just like the competition!" he exclaimed.

That, and the chance to earn a really big trophy, his mother, Cheryl Woodard, explained.

"You can purchase a home subscription for the First in Math program, but PJ wanted

to compete against his friends at school," she said. "So this year he has been playing strictly on his own time, adding about a half hour a day to his homework."

Progress is tracked by the program, with students earning credits for each skill set they complete. Geared towards children from the first through eighth grades, the curriculum includes everything from basic addition, through fractions and decimals, to geometry and algebra.

"Throughout the year, student standings would be posted only once a day; but, as the annual competition wound down, PJ was able to track his scores in real time," Woodard said.

Because the program is used by schools and parents

across the country, Walker explained, PJ was competing against literally thousands of fellow students — but only the top 100 are tracked on the website.

Carefully calculating his chances of winning, PJ spent extra time on the computer as the competition concluded, and was thrilled to learn that he will indeed be bringing home that sought-after trophy as the top ranked First in Math student at West Pine Elementary.

His final score also ranked him first in Moore County for all grades, second in the State of North Carolina for all grades, and third in the nation for third grade.

PJ said he hopes to become a doctor. He is the son of Phil and Cheryl Woodard of Seven Lakes West.



PJ Woodard and West Pine Elementary teacher, Beth Walker

Water Aerobics at Beacon Ridge CC

Get your Spring and Summer season off to a great start this year by getting into shape with the newly formed Beacon Ridge Water Aerobics class beginning Tuesday, June 5.

Classes will be every Tuesday and Friday from 10:15 am to 11 am. As an added treat there will be a "special heart healthy" lunch menu

available to enjoy by the pool for those that wish to relax a bit after class. A nominal fee will be charged by the instructor for this fun and exciting class.

Sign up at Beacon Ridge Country Club or contact Rosemary Weber at rweber129@gmail.com for more information. This class is open to all Seven Lakers

Golden Anniversary Celebrated

Pat and Jim Mark of Seven Lakes West were honored by their children, Tom and Melanie with a surprise Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 28, at Beefeaters Restaurant in Southern Pines.

Friends and relatives of the family from near and far were there to provide the ultimate surprise.

It was a wonderful, memorable evening for Pat and Jim.



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May 19 - 3 Brooms Sauvignon Blanc



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West End Presbyterians celebrate their Centennial

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

West End Presbyterian Church kicked off a year-long Centennial Celebration in late March with a worship service of music and tributes led by a bagpiper, in recognition of the church and Moore County's Scottish roots.

Historical records note that the first service in the newly constructed sanctuary in West End was held on March 25, 1922. On that same date in 2012, descendants of charter and early families in the church were invited to join in the celebration. A luncheon and program followed the service, with many sharing poignant stories about some of those people who occupied the pews and pulpit in years past.

The Centennial Celebration Team, led by Ann Chase, spent more than a year planning various projects and events, including the March anniversary service.

An early initiative, chaired by Donna Clemens, was the publication of a cookbook, Centennial Cuisine, to assist in funding other projects and events. In addition to recipes submitted by current members, recipes from earlier church cookbook projects were also included. Cookbooks are available for purchase at the church office as well as at Sandhills Winery and Head Quarters Beauty Salon.

Another project undertaken by the Centennial Team was the creation of three large historical panels depicting The Early Years, The Emerging Years, and West End Presbyterian Church Today. These panels will be on permanent display at the church, thanks to the efforts of Frank Land.

In April, church members enjoyed an historical tour of old West End and the surrounding area. The Rev. Dudley Crawford explained how Highland Scots emigrated to this part of North Carolina

in the 1700s and settled Moore County. Many of their early churches are still active.

Jackson Springs was developed as an early resort and hotel area, and West End grew into a vibrant community with many stores and businesses. The old McDonald store is still standing, and recent photographs taken inside show merchandise still sitting on the shelves and a newspaper with the headline "Roosevelt Dies" on the counter.

The historical tour also included the old handkerchief factory and original post office building in West End, and visits to other area churches — some established more than one hundred years before West End Presbyterian — and a stop at The Old Scotch Graveyard.

Ann Chase said upcoming Centennial Celebration events will include an intergenera-

tional local mission project to assist elderly West End residents, and a final celebration dinner and program on November 17 — the anniversary date of the church's original charter.

"The congregation is a real blending of old West End families and new people who have come to Seven Lakes," said Chase.

By the 1970s, the church membership had fallen to about 100 members. Concerned that Seven Lakes newcomers would not make the trip to West End for services, the Fayetteville Presbytery purchased five acres of land at the crossroads of Hwy 211 and Seven Lakes Drive.

In 1983, the Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterian Church "shook hands" and formed a unified organization, a decision that proved to be a watershed

(See "Centennial," p. 15)



Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg and world renowned bagpiper, leads the congregation's recessional in the celebration of West End Presbyterian Church's 90th anniversary of its sanctuary on March 25.



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Stephanie Monroe is MCS Teacher of Year

West Pine Elementary School second grade teacher Stephanie Monroe was named the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year during Moore County Schools' ceremony honoring the school system's teachers April 26.

2011-2012 Moore County Teacher of the Year Tracy Metcalf provided the welcome and opening remarks. Board Vice-Chair Enola Lineberger also provided opening remarks thanking the teachers for their service to the students of Moore County.

Monroe will now go on to represent Moore County in regional competition. Regional winners compete for State Teacher of the Year which will be announced early next year.

Monroe has spent the past ten years as a classroom teacher, serving her first eight at West End Elementary and then moving to West Pine Elementary as the new school opened in 2010. After graduating with her B.A. from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 2002, she earned her Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education from UNC-Pembroke in 2007.

In addition to her accomplishments in the classroom, Monroe has been active outside the classroom, as well. She is a member of the regional team for Language Arts Total Instructional Alignment, Moore County representative for a state initiative for English-Language Arts Total Instructional Alignment,

a second grade Common Core presenter for Moore County, an mClass trainer for West Pine Elementary, K-2 representative for the school AIG (Academically and Intellectually Gifted) program, Teacher Advisory Council representative for West Pine Elementary, a member of the Reading Textbook Committee, Reading Counts representative for the second grade, and Relay for Life captain

for West Pine Elementary. She is also a current member of the N.C. Association of Educators and the Moore County Reading Association.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be a teacher . . ." she said. "While growing up, I had some wonderful teachers who were role models for me. . . As the school years passed by, I was able to see how my teachers were making a difference not

only in my life, but in the lives of the other students. I wanted to be that type of person that could make a difference in others' lives, too."

She continued, "I want my students to know that I care about them not only in the classroom but also outside of the classroom. I enjoy participating in activities such as attending their ball-games, dance recitals, birthday parties or other special occasions. I praise them for their accomplishments and help them through their struggles. Every day I leave school, I want to know that I have made a difference in a child's life."

The mission of the North

Carolina Teacher of the Year Program is to promote the profession and recognize quality teaching professionals implementing "best practices" within classrooms across North Carolina. Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in the National Teacher of the Year program, which recognizes teachers at the school, local, regional and statewide levels. Individuals who are chosen to represent their school as Teacher of the Year advance to competition at the local school system level. Once that selection has been made, school district Teachers of the Year vie for regional Teacher of the Year in the eight educational regions of the state.



West Pine Elementary School second grade teacher Stephanie Monroe was named the Moore County Schools' Teacher of the Year at the recent ceremony honoring the district's teachers. Presenting her the award are Board Vice-Chair Enola Lineberger and Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence.

Zumba is Back

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Tuesday evening starting May 22, from 7 pm - 8 pm, 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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VA Mobile Unit Coming June 9

"Keeping the Promise" The people in the VA who welcome Home with Honor all Combat Veterans are bringing their VA Center Mobile Unit to the Aberdeen, Walmart Parking Lot, on Saturday, June 9, 10 am to 4 pm.

There are only three of these specially equipped buses in the state. VVA Chapter 966 is sponsoring the first visit to Moore County.

The services that will be available onsite include:

- Individual and group counseling for Veterans and their families.
- Family counseling for military related issues.
- Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death.

- Military sexual trauma counseling and referral.
- Outreach and education including PDHRA, community events, etc.
- Substance abuse assessment and referral
- Employment assessment & referral. VBA benefits explanation and referral
- Screening & referral for medical issues including TBI, depression, etc.

Please bring any records that may be in error or need corrections and include any questions that you need answered.

All counseling will be done on a one on one basis in private.

Contact Chuck Spelman, President of VVA Chapter 966, 910-975-1095 or maj03@earthlink.net

Outstanding Little Miss

Winners of the Moore Outstanding Little Miss contest held on April 28, will now be able to compete at the N.C. Outstanding Little Miss Pageant in July at Louisburg College.

This program is designed to be a stepping stone to the

Miss North Carolina Outstanding Teen Program.

Pictured below are:

Petite Division - Jasiah Gilchrist of Lakeview
Junior Division - Jennifer Ryder of Seven Lakes
Young Division - Isabella Arnot of Seven Lakes

Alessandra Gironda - Reigning Miss Moore County's Outstanding Teen 2012

Majestic - Tanna Stafford of Southern Pines

Preteen Division - Hannah Spinali of Pinehurst

People's Choice Award - Jaidyn Abbey of Pinehurst



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Piranhas Swim Team host 7 Lakes meet

The Piranhas Swim Team hosted a dual meet the weekend of April 27 against the Sanford Squids.

The meet was held at the Seven Lakes Health & Fitness Center in Seven Lakes North.

This was a great introduction to all new swimmers and parents that are new to the sport. There were great swims by all and many new best times were made. The Piranhas are excited to take these

times and improve on them in the pool for future success.

The Piranhas would also like to take the time to thank all of their sponsors. With all the sponsor donations the team was able to purchase:

Kick boards and pull buoys, a dry erase board and easel, a pace clock, and car magnets.

Also a portion of the proceeds helped purchase two pairs of T-shirts and startup costs for the website www.pinehurstpiranhas.com

The Piranhas would like to thank the following sponsors: Sandhills Pediatrics, First-Bank, Seven Lakes Prescrip-

tion Shoppe, Whelan Reality, Chris Hall Vinyl Siding, Dr. Moubry DDS., Harris Trucking, Lee Moore Insurance, Poverty Hill Nursery and Seven Lakes Health and Fitness Center.

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The Piranhas Swim Team

New Horizon Band Spring Concert at Sr. Center

The Moore County chapter of the New Horizons Band will return to the Senior Enrichment Center for a Spring performance on Friday, May 25 at 3 pm.

Come and enjoy the wonderful music of this adult band. Be prepared for a fun listening experience!

The New Horizons Band is for anyone age 50 and over who have either never played an instrument, or haven't played in a long time.

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Election

(Continued from front page)

statewide cast ballots in the primary; Moore County turnout was slightly better, at 39 percent.

Surprisingly, the Seven Lakes Precinct did not live up to its reputation as providing the County's highest turnout, with only 32 percent of registered voters participating.

However, those numbers may not be ready for prime time, because they do not include voters from the Seven Lakes Precinct who voted early at the One Stop Voting Center in Carthage. Final turnout numbers will integrate the one-stop voters in the precinct totals.

Long lines in Seven Lakes

Lines were long all day at the Seven Lakes Fire Station, with a thirty-minute wait to vote the rule rather than the exception.

Poll worker Mary Price told *The Times* that this election was the first time the precinct had used a new computer-based system to check in voters before giving them a ballot. The learning curve involved in getting up to speed on that system may have slowed the process.

Price said a very early morning printer glitch delayed early morning voting by ten minutes or so, frustrating some voters who stopped by to cast their ballot on the way to work.

Presidential Race

Barack Obama and Mitt Romney were the overwhelming favorites in their respective party's primaries statewide and locally, with Obama winning the support of 80% of Democrats who voted statewide and Romney attracting the votes of 66 percent of Republicans.

Obama picked up support from 78% of Seven Lakes Democrats and Romney won the votes of the same percentage of Republicans in the Precinct.

But 832 Seven Lakes Republicans cast ballots in the Presidential primary, versus only 339 Seven Lakes Democrats.

In West End, it was 271 Democrats and 394 Republicans, with Obama pulling 74 percent, and Romney, 72 percent of those respective party voters.

US House District 2

Freshman Republican Congresswoman Renee Elmers faced a barrage of competitors for her seat from both Republicans and Democrats, but was able to garner the support of 56 percent of Republicans, well ahead of the 30 percent won by her closest opponent, Richard Speer.

She will face Democrat Steve Wilkins, who won 51% of his party's votes, in the November election.

Elmers, who is new to Moore County voters, having become the area's Representative as a result of redistricting, picked up the support of 47 percent of the County's Republicans who cast primary ballots. Speer picked up the votes of 66 percent of Moore County Democrats.

NC Governor

Former Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory ran against Bev Perdue for the Governor's job four years ago, and so it is little surprise that, despite competition, he was the overwhelming choice of NC Republicans to try again for the post. He took 83 percent of the GOP vote statewide, 80 percent in Moore County, and 78 percent in Seven Lakes, and 82 percent of

West End.

A crowded Democratic field had Walter Dalton edging out former District 2 US Representative Bob Etheridge 46 percent to 38 percent and winning the right to challenge McCrory in the Fall.

But the situation was reversed in Moore County, where Etheridge took 47 percent of the vote, to Dalton's 40 percent. West End results mirrored the County as a whole, while Seven Lakes Democrats preferred Dalton over Etheridge 51 percent to 35 percent.

NC Senate 29

Redistricting moved Moore County from Senate District 22, where Senator Harris Blake is retiring, to District 29, where Republican Jerry Tillman is the incumbent.

Though he faced two Moore Countians in the GOP Primary, including Pinehurst's John Marcum, Tillman captured two-thirds of the votes cast district-wide, and 61 percent in Moore County.

Richard Morgan

Former NC House District 52 Representative and former House Speaker Richard Morgan of Eagle Springs ran this year for the post of NC Commissioner of Insurance, having lost in his bid in the last round to claim the post of NC Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In a very tight race, Morgan captured 37 percent of the vote, against 35 percent for

Mike Causey and 28 percent for James McCall.

Because Morgan failed to meet the 40 percent threshold, that race, as well as a number of others, will be decided in runoff elections to be held on June 26.

Morgan pulled in 44 percent of the vote in Moore County, 45 percent in Seven Lakes, and 50 percent in West End.

More results online

The NC State Board of Elections maintains an excellent website that provides election results by race, county, and precinct, as well as turnout data and a variety of voter resources. It may be found at www.ncsbe.gov.

Moore County's Board of Elections also offers similar resources at www.moorecountync.gov.

Race to fight hunger

MANNA! in Motion, the 5K, 10K Trail Race and Fun Run, will be held at Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Southern Pines, on Saturday, June 2.

The MIM trail race starts at SCC and winds through the beautiful Reservoir Park of Southern Pines. The race course provides obstacles that trail runners will enjoy.

There are three choices for registering for MIM: by mail registration form to MANNA! P.O. Box 1081, Southern Pines, NC 28388, online at www.active.com,

and on Race Day June 2 at SCC. Entry fees are: Fun Run \$10, 5K and 10K Race \$25.

Those registering on race day need to add \$3 to the registration fee.

Number and chip pick up begins at 6:30 am. To assure receiving a free race T-shirt, runners need to register prior to May 20.

There is a \$5 discount for Sandhills Striders members. Pre-registration will be held Friday, June 1 at 5 pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines.

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May 13th – Reverend Welch
“The Faith of Two Women” (II Timothy 1:1-8)
Bob Tourt, soloist

May 20th – Reverend Welch
“Strangers in This World” (John 17:6-19)
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Not your grandma's hydrangea

The south has always had a love-affair with Hydrangeas. A perennial favorite in old, established gardens, this once old-fashioned plant is experiencing a spectacular revival and newer, reblooming (remontant) cultivars are fueling the excitement.

Today's hydrangeas include many new cultivars, not just your grandmother's mid pink to mid blue mop heads. The Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs and the Sandhills Horticultural Society, will host Josh Kardos Ph.D., on Friday, May 18, at 10 am, in the Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Dr. Kardos, a national expert in the field will present "From Grandma's Shrubs to Infiniti

and Beyond." He will address the history of hydrangeas, tips for successful cultivation, hydrangeas for every garden, current breeding and the future of hydrangeas.

His love affair with hydrangeas began at age 14 and continues today because "they are very showy, have a huge color range that flower up to six months and include both sun and shade plants."

The company Kardos works for, Plant Introductions, Inc. (PII), converted an abandoned hog farm in Georgia into a facility to breed, select, evaluate and develop new ornamental plants.

Kardos will examine the selection, planting and care of hydrangeas and address

common misconceptions such as that all hydrangeas do not all need heavy shade and a great deal of water. With the advent of new hydrangeas and the wide variety of flower types; there is a hydrangea for everyone's garden.

The most common mistake gardener's make, in Kardos' estimation, is pruning at the wrong time.

Kardos will have plants for sale after the presentation. Proceeds will help with the cost of the presentation which is being offered free to the public on May 18, at 10 am, in the Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Call Tricia Mabe, 910 695-3882 for reservations.

Centennial

(Continued from page 10)

event for West End Presbyterian, as construction on a new sanctuary was delayed.

That same year, The Rev. Dudley Crawford was installed as the new pastor, and many Seven Lakers began making the trip "to the little church in the wild-woods of West End."

Wording on the historical panels on display reflect this new direction: "Coming from all parts of the country, these new members in conjunction with their West End neighbors brought a rich heritage and diversity to the life of the church and its programs."

Rev. Crawford's energetic and dynamic ministry drew newcomers to the church from many different faith backgrounds and the church grew to its current membership of more than 500.

Upon Crawford's retirement, The Rev. Larry Lyon began his ministry at the church in 2006, followed by Assistant Pastor Chip Pope in 2008.

Worship services are held at 11:00 am on Sundays [10:00 am in Summer], with Sunday School at 10:00 am. West End Presbyterian has a fine music program, including an adult and children's

choir and a hand bell choir.

In 1999, the church broke ground on a large activity center, renamed in honor of Dudley Crawford in 2005. This facility is used for various church and community-related events, including two after-school programs for children.

Tuesday Tutoring is a very well-received program that brings together local Hispanic students for one-on-one homework assistance. Approximately thirty-five children are enrolled, from Kindergarten through seventh grade.

WOW is an afterschool education and music program

geared towards children, and the church sponsors a music camp each Summer.

West End Presbyterian also participates in the Family Promise program. As a sponsoring facility within the network, the church provides housing for homeless families for a week at a time. Transportation, shelter, and meals are included, along with training in job skills and budgeting.

Mission projects are an important ministry within the church, including youth trips to Appalachia and adult mission trips to a sister church in Mexico.

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Westside Work Session

(Continued from page 3)

events.

On June 23 the Events Committee will host the annual community picnic starting at 4 pm at Johnson Point. The event is free, but tickets need to be picked up in advance at the CAS office.

Weber said she is researching two additional events: a boating safety program and a shape-up boot camp.

Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Committee [ARC] plans to periodically update the community with reminders and information regarding ARC changes, said ARC Director Dan Blue. "That is a developing process," he said, "so bear with us as we begin to get this underway."

Blue reminded the community that permits are required on any exterior improvement, addition, or change. If there is a question, landowners should refer to the ARC standards or call CAS employee Lucy Hadlock.

Blue reminded homeowners to not plant anything in easements. "If it is a permanent improvement — which is not allowed — they [homeowners] may bear the cost of having that improvement removed," he explained.

The first fifteen feet from the edge of the asphalt into a homeowner's lot is a right-of-way held by the Association, explained Community Manager Joan Frost, adding that the next fifteen feet is the easement.

After discussion in executive session, the Board approved the following lot recombinations: 3349/3359, 5234/5235, 5141/5143, and 5522/4206.

Blue reported that nineteen projects are underway in the community, nine more have recently been approved, and four were recently completed.

Manager's Report

New CAS employee Susan Latolian is working with Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy on security related issues as well as compliance issues, Manager Frost report-

ed.

"She is working hard to help homeowners understand the standards set by the Board," Frost added.

The Association's new security company is actively training new employees as well as those retained from the previous company.

The CAS team is busy learning the new security software. "We will continue in a learning process for the next few months," said Frost.

Pool passes are ready for distribution and can be picked up at the CAS office. The pool will open May 26. Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm; and Sunday, Noon to 7:00 pm. Repairs have recently been made to the pool area, said Frost.

Jeanette Mendence will take over the role of Community Manager upon Joan Frost's retirement on May 18. "I wish to thank all of you for your cooperation in the nearly four years I have been working as your Community Manager," said Frost.

Communications

A Westside Newcomers reception was attended by twenty-one new members of the community, from thirteen different families, Secretary Jane Sessler reported, adding, "It was a really nice event."

The message board on the West Side's website has been taken down temporarily, due

to the web host changing the format explained Sessler. This change will take a couple days and the message board was expected to be back up no later than Wednesday, May 9.

"We did not just take it down for no apparent reason," said Sessler, "It was for the function of routine maintenance of the website."

During member comments Jim Brannon also asked if member comments on the website can be retained longer than two weeks before they are archived. Sessler said, with the new website format, she will look to see if this is possible.

Treasurer's Report

Cash disbursements for April totaled \$82,000, reported Treasurer Don Friert. This is above the "normal operating" amount of \$66,000.

The increase was due to continued work by Cable

Landscaping to remove the road curbing at the dam, along with the rebuilding of the the swim platform for \$7,900.

Tree removal and lot clearing at the bottom of Lakeway Mall cost \$1,500, and engineering work on the piezometers performed by Dr. Dan Marks cost \$6,700.

A CD for \$95,000 from Harris Bank will be called on May 21, Friert said, indicating that he would make a recommendation on reinvesting those funds at a later date.

A \$70,000 CD called in April was combined with other funds to purchase a Wells Fargo step-up CD at 2.5 percent which is callable in four years.

Infrastructure Committee

Construction of the maintenance storage building is complete, Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman reported. The last step is to put in

the electrical, add a fence, and move equipment into the building, with completion of those tasks expected by the end of the month.

A fence 1.4 miles west of the back entrance on NC Highway 73 was damaged Pierman reported. Manager Frost added that it is the sixth time in three years that the fence has been damaged. No police report was filed, but materials to repair the fence have been ordered.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, May 8 meeting included:

- Carolina Records will make a presentation to the community about archiving documents on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm in the Community Center, reported Legal Director Jack Stevens.
- The new safety and security services are in place and

(See "West Side." p.17)

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673-6789

Foxfire Council meeting

(Continued from page 4)

expect a monthly visit from a uniformed police officer, who will help ensure their emergency information and medical card for first responders is up-to-date; conduct a home safety and security survey; and provide information on available social services.

For more information, please contact Foxfire Police at 295-5959.

Long Range Planning

Due to the Citizen's Budget Workshops scheduled last week, the Long Range Planning Committee postponed their monthly meeting, reported Councilman Mick McCue.

"We are continuing to work on detailed plans — putting meat on the bones if you will," he said.

One anticipated recommendation will be additional funding set aside next year for the Appearance Committee.

Finance

One hundred percent of

budgeted Ad Valorem property taxes have been collected, reported Finance Director Leslie Frusco.

"We still have some outstanding accounts that we are diligently pursuing," she said. Though the budgeted amount has been collected, there are still some unpaid taxes.

As of April 30, the General Fund stood at \$900,794, with \$20,994 in the Stonehill Pines restricted account, \$23,455 in Powell Bill funds, and \$75,076 in capital reserves. The Water Fund was reported at \$338,762 plus \$135,660 in escrow and restricted for a new well.

All annual loan payments for Fiscal Year 2012 have been made. Next year, Frusco anticipates a loan payment of \$26,966 from the General Fund toward the Village Green Park; \$41,144 from the Water Fund toward new water lines and wells; and \$187,229 for the Woodland Circle project.

Recently, Foxfire Village

received approval from the North Carolina League of Municipalities to re-amortize the Woodland Circle Extension loan, which included a reduced interest rate.

The Council unanimously approved a slightly increased contract award for an audit of Fiscal Year 2011-2012 accounts.

Streets

The Council also unanimously approved a contract not to exceed \$24,793 with Pro Seal & Striping for crack sealing and street repairs on two areas identified by Councilman John Eltschlager.

"The contractor suggested there may be some areas that may be unnecessary," he reported. "I will walk the site with the contractor and perhaps be able to reduce the amount of asphalt to be repaired, with anticipation that the price may be lower by the final walk-through."

Work is expected to be complete by the third week of June.

Other business

In other business by the Foxfire Village Council on Tuesday, May 8:

- Pat Hescocock was appointed to the Appearance Committee by a vote of acclamation. She will be the first resident of the Grande Pines subdivision to serve in this role.
- Public Hearings will be scheduled in June to dis-

cuss potable water well concerns and in July to reopen discussion on minimum lot size restrictions for equestrian acreage.

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West Side

(Continued from page 16)

new software should be installed by Friday, May 11, reported Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy. McCarthy noted that he has been working with John Hoffman in designing the guard house for the reconfigured front entryway.

• McCarthy said fifty bar-

codes have been distributed to frequent guests sponsored by SLWLA members. "It is going along well," said McCarthy. "Everybody's happy. Everybody on the other side is happy."

- Frost said that Hoffmann will be doing some repair work around the trash bins at the Community Center.



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SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 6)

I really hope you will look at this again."

Contract awarded for Sequoia Island bulkhead

Another contentious issue was finally resolved after a months-long negotiation when the Board approved a \$36,400 contract with Tanner Construction for bulkhead work at Sequoia Island.

Director Don Fentzlaff explained that the bulkhead was a safety hazard and that, without immediate repairs, it would have to be closed off and begin to wash away.

"There is a perception that the island is not used, and that those who do use it are few and select," said Fentzlaff. "As with all of our amenities, the island is available to all of our residents."

"We have to maintain our amenities. If we let them deteriorate because only some of us use them, then we will have a pretty shabby-looking community before long," he said. "I would be hard-pressed to find any resident who uses all of our amenities."

Noting that the decision was in keeping with recommendations in the Reserve Study, Fentzlaff said the replacement bulkhead should last as long as the existing one, which dates back to 1973 and has needed only occasional repairs.

"This is not something we have to do every year," he explained. "You may not use the lakes, but, if you have company come down, they will be able to sit on the island. Don't look at this as an expenditure that is wasted: it is not."

SLLA President Darr also spoke in support of the contracted work: "This has been a discussion at a number of Board meetings, and we had to decide either to fix it or not. If we don't, give it ten years and the island would be gone. From my perspective, the island is a protector of my property values. This is a community we call 'Seven Lakes.' If we let the island disintegrate, my property values go down and yours go

down."

He continued: "You can look at any amenity this way. The building were in [North Clubhouse] is used sparingly. If we would decide not to fix it because it is not used by everyone, it would hurt our property values. I have an

investment in my house, and I want to protect that."

Darr noted that the bulkhead replacement project was unanimously supported by the Lakes & Dams Committee and also reviewed and recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee.

When the contract was called for a motion of approval, Treasurer Conrad Meyer expressed support, but abstained from voting, since Sequoia Island is located in very close proximity to his lakefront home.

Lifeguards, but no lifts

Community Manager Alina Cochran reported that the pool will be staffed with lifeguards this Summer and is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 26. Barbara Keating will return to coach the

(See "SLLA," p. 19)



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UNDER CONTRACT!

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UNDER CONTRACT!

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2 WATERFRONT LOTS • LAKE AUMAN



GREAT VIEWS, NEAR BACK GATE • \$175,000 EA

143 OWENS CIRCLE • LAKE AUMAN



UNDER CONTRACT!

WATERFRONT LOT - \$209,000

123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW



AMAZING WATERFRONT - \$750,000

230 FINCH GATE • 7LW



GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! - \$320,000

155 HASTINGS • 7LS



GOLF FRONT, MINT CONDITION! - \$209,000

110 DORSET DR • 7LS



STORAGE GALORE! - \$172,000

221 LONGLEAF • 7LW



4BR+BONUS, OPEN LAYOUT - \$275,000

168 SIMMONS DR • LAKE AUMAN



3 BR, ALL BRICK, NEW KITCHEN - \$684,000

141 WERTZ • LAKE AUMAN!



2 KITCHENS, MANY UPGRADES • \$565,000

129 HARRELL RD • 7LW



3 BED + DEN, SPACIOUS, GREAT VIEWS! - \$548,500

108 SMATHERS • 7LW



NEAR MARINA! MANY UPGRADES! \$275,000

251 FIRETREE • 7LN



2500 SQ FT, MANY UPGRADES - \$190,000

148 MORRIS DRIVE • 7LW



POOL!

3BR+2 BONUS RMS • \$329,900

SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 20)

Seven Lakes Stingrays swim team and will also offer swim lessons and serve as pool manager.

Former director Andy Lowe asked whether Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pool lifts must be installed, but both Racine and Darr responded that no action will be taken on installation of the expensive devices until federal regulations are hammered out.

"The important part is they [federal rulemakers] are still fooling around with it," Darr said. "We may have to do something down the road; but, until we have to, we will not be doing it."

Summer Camp Eliminated

Northsider Marty Kane asked why the Summer Day Camp program had been discontinued — and argued that such a decision would affect the quality of life of residents.

"When my grandchildren came to visit, they went to camp and enjoyed it," he said, arguing that it should not be eliminated based on cost. "You are chasing mice, when there are elephants running around!"

The camp has drawn a decreasing number of children over the past few years. Racine did not elaborate on that rationale, but simply said the data and figures that were used to make the decision would be available at the upcoming Recreation Committee meeting.

Long Range Planning

Reporting for the Long Range Planning Committee, Darr said he recently met with two paving companies to discuss a bid for repaving work and anticipated talking to at least one more firm. Initial estimates are expected within the month.

"I have said a number of times that we will be paving this Summer; and, God willing, we will be paving this Summer," he said.

Specifications for the work were developed in a paving study, which also offered recommendations on which roads or areas should be pri-

oritized. In addition, Darr said, color-coded maps have been created that detail those findings.

Finance

As the Association transitions this year to a new auditing firm, Treasurer Meyer said this is a perfect time to conduct an inventory of capital items. He anticipated the project commencing in the next week.

At his request, the Board also approved a transfer of unused operating funds from Fiscal Year 2011 to the unrestricted reserve account.

Community Manager Cochran reported that expenditures have been on target with the exception of an understated bill for the Yard Debris Site. She explained the April financial statement will carry a two month billing for removal services.

"As you know, we have been keeping a close eye on the Debris site expenditures and looking at ways to curb this," she said. "For this year, we will be at essentially \$40,000."

In addition, Cochran noted there were some unanticipated overages in printing and postage costs due to the annual election and mailings.

A recent auction of several surplus items was successful, with the Association selling off an abandoned paddle boat, two boat trailers, and an inoperable Ford F150 truck.

Lakes & Dams

Lake water testing will com-

mence in May for total water quality, and monitoring for E.coli contamination will be conducted by volunteer members of the Lakes & Dams Committee, reported Fentzlaff.

"Testing for E.coli is not a mandatory requirement," he explained. "The testing will be done in-house with equipment donated by Ron Erskine, who has been doing it privately for a number of years. The standards we use are set by the EPA."

If there is ever a high reading, signs will be posted and the area retested.

"Usually by the time of the retest, the water is cleared," Fentzlaff said. "We have had maybe four bad readings in testing all of our lakes over the past few years. It does not happen often."

Lakefront property owners may request testing to be done at their dock for a \$10 fee, to cover the cost of supplies. Fentzlaff said the committee would also be conducting quality testing for Seven Lakes West and McLendon Hills.

The Lakes & Dams Committee has developed a pumping plan to keep the water level equitable in the various community lakes.

"The pumping plan will help keep all our lakes as full as they can be under a number of conditions," Fentzlaff said, noting that drought conditions would impact all levels and that the committee would also monitor the water level above the intake hydrants used by the fire department.

Ski buoys will be placed on Lake Sequoia, and GPS readings of those exact locations will help volunteers to

ensure they remain where they are supposed to be.

On Saturday, May 26
(See "SLLA," p. 20)



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County budget

(Continued from page 5)

of \$327,000 to the budget. The longevity program, which offers County employees a salary increase based on years of service, was reinstated last year by the Commissioners and will continue in the proposed budget at a cost of \$464,000.

Fire tax rates in most districts are held even or reduced in McSwain's budget, with the exceptions of Robbins and Cypress Pointe which will see a two-tenths of one cent increase.

The total value of property in Moore County — the property tax base — is expected to increase by 1.18 percent next year.

Major Projects Underway

The budget includes two major capital projects that will be paid for within the budget year:

- Converting to the VIPER Emergency Communications system, at \$5 million;
- Implementing Desktop Virtualization in County computer systems, at \$500,000; and

In addition, construction is underway on the new Public Safety Complex/Detention Center, with a projected budget of \$32 million and

an anticipated completion date of November 4.

Also currently under construction is the \$25.5 million Water Pollution Control Plant expansion which will increase capacity from 6.7 million to 10 million gallons per day.

Moore County's unemployment rate — at 8.7 percent — is lower than the statewide rate of 9.9. McSwain said, "We are recovering a slow growth," adding that sales tax revenues are, "slowly and gradually increasing."

Sales and property taxes

make up eighty percent of the proposed general fund revenues for the next year, McSwain reported, with twelve percent coming from grants and six percent coming from fees.

SCC Budget Up; MCS Budget Flat

The Manager's Budget projects total FY 2012-2103 General Fund expenditures at \$86 million, an increase of \$1.26 million from last year. The largest expenditure category is education, consum-

ing \$38 million. Second is Human Services, which includes Social Services and the Health Department, at \$18 million. Third is Public Safety, at \$11.6 million.

This year Moore County Schools [MCS] sought no increase in local funding above the \$26 million they received this year.

"They made the budget year easier," McSwain said of MCS, "it helps us tremendously."

However, Sandhills Community College did ask for

a three percent increase — \$120,000 — to help maintain and operate new buildings on campus. The Manager's budget includes that increase.

Looking back at the past few year's budgets, McSwain said: "This year is a little better than those years, and it is good to know that we are improving."

The Commissioners will further review the proposed budget during a Thursday, May 17 Work Session.

(See "County," p. 24)

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SLLA

(Continued from page 20)

Judicial Committee

The Board took no action on appointing Judicial Committee members, based on a recommendation by Director Bob Racine.

"Judicial has done a fantastic job," Racine said. "These are very committed and very fair people, but the members seem to be there for life. For this reason, before I present nominations for appointment, I would like to ask if anyone new would be interested in serving on the Judicial Committee."

For the time being, the current members of the committee will continue to serve. Racine noted their appointments do not have a set termination date.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$10 (all inclusive). Meatballs Stroganoff over egg noodles, salad, rolls & dessert.
- **West End Elementary School PTA Annual Spring Fling** – 5:30 – 8 pm. Come out and enjoy the food, games and prizes and support the fundraiser. Food and drinks on sale in the food court. A fun-filled evening includes cake walks, games for all ages, giant inflatable slides and bouncer out front on the school lawn, a dunking booth! Contact Lori Copper at 910-639-7273.
- **West Pine Elementary School Spring Auction Fundraiser** – 7-11 pm at CCNC, Pinehurst. Exciting variety of silent and live auction items available. Contact Valerie Hawkins at vhawkins4@yahoo.com or www.ncmcs.org/wpe for more information. Sponsored by WPES PTO. Proceeds fund additional playground equipment and shade structures.

SATURDAY MAY 12

- **Weymouth Woods Bird Walk** – 8 am, Join the ranger for a 2 mile hike to look for newly arrived summer and transient visitors from the tropics. Bring your binoculars and bug spray. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.
- **Farmers' Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Pottery Crawl Fundraiser** – 10 am - 5 pm, Enjoy appetizers and wine at Potteries and see the potters in action in Seagrove. Spend the day meeting artists, touring their studios, and admiring their creations. Proceeds will help children and strengthen local families. Call (910) 948-4324.
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm - 2 pm. Perfect Salad for Mother's Day. A few recipes that are easy

enough for kids and dads to make, yet special enough for Mom. 905 Linden



Road Pinehurst, Call (910) 295-3663.

- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Wine Tasting** – 12 - 4 pm. Lelia. A Grenache with earthy, smoky raspberry flavors. Perfect companion for any evening. From Spain.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

- **Mother's Day**
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guests *John Frazier Band*, and *Lizzy Ross*. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **Women's Sunday** – 8:30 am and 11 am, at West End United Methodist Church to celebrate Women's Sunday. Services will be lead by women. Speaker will be Mrs. Jean Alfano and ushers, greeters, and choir will consist of only women.
- **Weymouth Woods Birds, Blooms, and Bugs** – 3 pm,

Join the Ranger for a 2 mile hike to learn to identify birds, plants, and bugs.

Bring binoculars, tick repellent, sunscreen and field guides. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft.

Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.

MONDAY, MAY 14

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room. Open to all landowners.
- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, monthly meeting, at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. All Federal & Postal employees, FedRetirees, spouses/surviving spouses invited. George or Julina LeVander (910) 895-9657; Sheila Lang (910) 448-0704, or Rose (Lin) Heimrick, (910) 295-4090.
- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7-9 pm, Photographer Edward Smith will discuss Nature Photography. Held at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland & Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. Guests are welcome.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

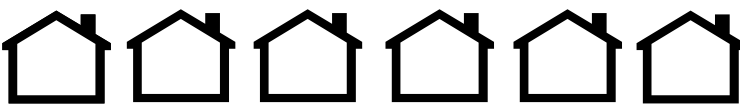
- **Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse** – 10 am, Moore County Department of Social Services will present a program at the Senior Enrichment Center on abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Protecting vulnerable and elder adults is a community responsibility and it is imperative that communities work together to help reduce and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation. 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Women Voters League** – Pat Corso, Executive Director of Moore County Partners in Progress, will be the speaker for the League of Women Voters of Moore County luncheon. Held at Table on the Green Restaurant,

at Midland Country Club, 2206 Midland Road, Southern Pines. Check-in 11:30 am, meeting at 11:45 am. Meeting open to the public. Reservation required. Calling Charlotte at 910-944-9611 to reserve. Cost is \$12.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 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.
- **Welcome to Medicare** – 2 pm, If you'll be turning 65 soon, you may feel that the Medicare related decisions ahead of you are overwhelming and confusing. The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) at the Senior Enrichment Center is offering a seminar to help you sort through the Medicare options. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Pinecrest High School PTSA "Community Conversation" with Dr. Spence** – held in the school auditorium at 6:30 pm.



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The public is invited to meet Dr. Spence and hear his thoughts on the direction of the Moore County schools. Prior to Spence's remarks, a very brief PTSA general membership meeting will be held. Pinecrest High School 692-6554.

- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead. The text will be John 10: 11-18. WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Elliott's On Linden Dining** – 6 pm, in the Field of Sandy Woods Farm on Linden Rd. The dinner benefiting Sandhills Children's Center. Tickets \$125 per person. 910-295-3663.
- **Rufus Barringer Civil War Roundtable** – 7 pm, meeting. Historian and Civil War re-enactor, Patrick Falci will present, "The Life and Times of a Civil War Soldier." Held at the Village of Pinehurst Town Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. Refreshments provided. Bring a friend. New members needed, and visitors welcome. 910-235-0946 or 910-695-9058.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

- **Growing Hydrangeas** - 10 am, Hydrangea expert Josh Kardos of Plant Introductions, Inc. will discuss care, pruning and propagation. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Free. Reservations required. Hydrangeas & Perennials for sale. Tricia Mabe to register at 910-695-3882.
- **BackPack Pals Golf Tournament** – at Beacon Ridge

Golf and Country Club with lunch at 11:30 am. Shotgun start 12:30 pm. Format is Captains Choice-Flighted Handicap. Cost: \$65 per person or \$300 for four as a corporate sponsor. Hole sponsorships \$100. Prizes awarded. Contact Ginger at (910) 673-1330 or Jo Nicholas at (910) 673-3604. Proceeds Benefit Backpack Pals program.

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30, \$10 (all inclusive). Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad, rolls & dessert. Food, games & socializing
- **West End United Methodist Church Salad Supper** – 6 pm, the supper will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets for this event are \$8 each and can be purchased from Lou Anne Cline at 673-5431.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

- **Armed Forces Day**
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Museum Complex Salutes Military History** – 10 am to 5 pm. Celebrate and remember the nation's veterans and heroes on Armed Forces Day with a visit to the Museum of the Cape Fear's annual living history event. For more information, call Megan Maxwell at 910-486-1330 or museumofthecapefear.ndcr.gov or www.31daysalute.com
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm - 2 pm. NC Seafood featured. Freshness from North Carolina waters is a treasure to be shared. 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, Call (910) 295-3663.
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Wine Tasting** – 12 - 4 pm. 3 Brooms Sauvignon Blanc. This is a crazy wine! Aroma: jalapeno peppers. Flavor: asparagus. From Marlborough, New Zealand.
- **Festival of Beers** – 3 pm until 6 pm, Tickets \$25 in advance available at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce or online at www.moorecountychamber.com and \$30 at the

door. Linda Parsons at 910-692-3926.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

- **Weymouth Woods Fire in the Pines** – 3 pm, Learn more about this important ecological process through a short slide talk. Park staff will demonstrate equipment used in conducting a prescribed burn, and take a short hike. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guests *Bruce Molesky, and Brooks Williams*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, MAY 21

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

- **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 West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Carolina Philharmonic Pops Finale** – 7 pm, Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School. Carolina Philharmonic presents a "Salute to Broadway." Tickets: \$25 general; \$50 reserved seating, \$10 student at: Carolina Philharmonic Community Arts Center & Box Office, 5 Market Square, Pinehurst, (910) 687-4746, (910) 687-0287, carolinaphilharmonic@gmail.com or shop.carolinaphil.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

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

- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead. The text will be John 10: 11-18. WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

- **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 for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Keeping Yourself in Balance** – 4 pm, Join Karen Backall, PT, of Appalachian Physical Therapy at the Senior Enrichment Center, to learn ways to improve your balance. 215-0900 to reserve. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

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County budget

(Continued from page 21)

Commissioners' Meetings will be Videotaped

Beginning July 1, Board of Commissioners meetings will be videotaped and placed on the County website.

In a four-to-one vote, with Commissioner Craig Kennedy opposed, the Board approved IT Director Darlene Yudell's recommendations that the taping be outsourced, at an annual cost of \$2,200. The first year fee includes the purchase of a camera, and thus will total \$2,700.

After six months of research, Yudell said she found a company that is "trustworthy" and offers "high usability and high reliability."

"I have gotten a lot of feedback from the public," said Commissioner Lea, who spearheaded the initiative. "It would give people the opportunity who can't make these meetings . . . a way to look and understand what is going on in the meetings."

During the Board's public comment period, David Korb said videotaping the meetings will "ensure full participation in the democratic process by Moore County citizens," while also "a benefit to public officials by providing a precise record."

Kennedy asked the Board to wait until after the budget process is complete and more research could be done before

voting on the matter.

Up to six years of videotaped meetings will be available on the web, Yudell said, after which they will be archived.

Public Works

The Board approved a \$18,400 amendment to a contract with Charles R. Underwood, Inc. for the LS PW-5 rail system to return the lift station in the Pinewild subdivision back to service. The total cost of the project is now \$103,000.

The Board also approved a request by Gould for a change order to Terry's Plumbing and Utilities for the sanitary sewer improvements that will serve the ATEX Technologies project for a net decrease of \$6,500, and the addition of thirty-one days to complete the project.

Public Safety

The Board approved a request by Deputy Public Safety Director Scot Brooks to utilize NC 911 funds to cover a variety of costs associated with the County's upgrade to the VIPER emergency communications system.

NC 911 funds are collected through a sixty-cent monthly charge for every wireline and wireless telephone number. The state NC 911 Board is requiring that Moore County

spend \$850,000 of its accumulated NC 911 fund balance by the end of FY2012, on June 30.

The County had already budgeted \$270,000 of the fund balance in this year's budget, to pay for upgrades to the UHF emergency communications infrastructure to meet narrowband standards.

The Board's action in Tuesday's meeting allocates another \$590,000 for other VIPER-related expenses, including the microwave link phase of the project, upgrading the VIPER infrastructure, and purchasing portable and mobile radios.

Other Business

Other Business during the Board's Tuesday, May 1 meeting included:

- Moore County Human Resource Director Denise Brook presented Employee Service Awards.
- The Board proclaimed May Foster Parent Appreciation month, as requested by Social Services Director John Benton.
- The Commissioners proclaimed May 13 to June 17 Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness month, as requested by Benton.
- The Board proclaimed May 6-12 as International Com-

post Awareness Week as requested by Solid Waste Division Manager Chad Beane.

- The Commissioners heard a quarterly report from County Finance Director Carrie Neal about the Sandhills Center for Mental Health.
- The Board approved the reorganization of the staff at the Aging Department, which is projected to save the County \$8600.
- The Commissioners approved a \$40,000 increase in the contract

with Sandhills Transportation for the transport of Medicaid patients, which will be paid for with Federal dollars.

- The Board approved the FY 2012-13 regular meeting schedule for the Commissioners as presented by Clerk to the Board Laura Williams.

Appointments

The Commissioners approved the reappointment of Dr. Elizabeth Lyerly as an ETJ member of the Southern Pines Planning Board.



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109 ROUNDTREE
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111 WILDEAF COURT
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\$249,000



176 W. DEVONSHIRE AVE
Spacious 3 Bedroom/2.5 Bath
\$229,000



114 SUNSET WAY
Lake Echo Waterfront
\$249,500



117 W SHENANDOAH
Charming 2BR / 2BA
\$140,000



121 PLEASANT VIEW LN
Lake Sequoia Waterfront
\$315,000



122 TIMBER DRIVE
3BR/2.5 BA New Construction
\$174,500



105 TUCKER
Lake Auman Waterfront
\$379,000



160 LANCASHIRE LANE
Golf Fr. 13th Fairway 3 BR / 2 BA
\$175,000



208 FIRETREE LANE
Lake Sequoia Water View
\$189,000

MAY ACTION

Lot #2401 - SOLD
128 Firetree - SOLD
102 Timber - Under Contract
Lot #3168 - Under Contract
116 Otter Drive - Reduced
109 Roundtree - Reduced



128 FIRETREE LANE
Spacious Family Room
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138 WINSFORD CR
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LOT #2552 - \$24,900
LOT#2550 - \$26,000
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Giant pooch on the loose!

The alert was short and to the point.

There is a dog lost in the rural wilds of farm and forest just east of my home. She is described as a friendly female mixed breed named "Lada."

From the bottom of my heart, I hope she finds her own way home quickly. And I do mean finds her "own way" and I do mean "quickly."

You see, Lada is a not just any old mutt. She is half-Mastiff and half-Rottweiler. Picture Marmaduke with some extra heft and girth thrown in, and you're warming up to her proportions.

And because I'm a geek and have a natural curiosity that so often spells disaster for cats, I looked up the etymology of her name: "Lada" is a goddess of love and fertility.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

dog who thinks she's the goddess of love, gallivanting through my back woods. Awesome!

Everyone knows that I like dogs, the bigger the better.

Lada would be welcome at my table, but I'm guessing she'd probably be more likely to knock it over. And I don't see

my feline trio throwing out the welcome mat for a 150-pound dog anytime soon.

But just in case she doesn't

hear the siren call to my door like so many other four-legged creatures, I do have two words of advice for Lada's family — car ride.

There are three things in this world no dog can resist: chasing squirrels, food, and a free ride.

Seriously, grab a bullhorn and stand in the middle of Moore County and holler, "Come on, girl. Go for a ride?" Throw in a whistle or a kissy noise and I guarantee success.

My own pooch, Biscuit the Wonder Hound, would be the sole exception. She doesn't have a problem with cars per se, as long as they

aren't going anywhere. It is the motion part of this simple addition problem that unbalances her force. Dog plus ride equals lost lunch.

Hopefully in Lada's case, she skews a bit more to the traditional and would hop right in. I can see her now, snout to the breeze, ears pressed back and loose jowls happily flapping out the car window.

Quick, where's a bullhorn when you need one?

Lada, oh dear Lada. It is time to go home! Come on girl, go for a ride?

Who are Christians, to be preaching 'Unity?'

Question: Don't you think it is hypocritical for the ministers of Seven Lakes to hold a service of unity for the community, when the churches themselves cannot agree on the basic doctrines of the Church?

Response: *Touché!* Yes it is hypocritical, but it points out how divided we are as humans on things that really matter. Although many Christians affirm each Sunday that they believe in the "Holy Catholic Church," they

are a long way from affirming that they are united with all of the institutional expressions of the church, from the Roman Catholic Church to the Independent Holiness congregations that dot the landscape of this country.

We are still fighting the theological wars that divided Christians five hundred years ago. Most of these fights are staged by clergy or theologians; but, unfortunately, lay Christians have followed blindly behind their leaders

into controversies that may have made sense four centuries ago but are irrelevant for the Christian today.

Some of the controversies are about how the church shall be governed. Will it be ruled by a pope, or a group of Bishops, or by a Presbytery of or the officers of an Association? Will it be a denominational church (Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran)?

Perhaps it will be non-denominational or interde-

nominal? Many people, and I am one of them, wonder: "What does all that have to do with following Jesus?"

In Seven Lakes, there are many ways to be a Christian. Some choose to worship in

hope that the Seven Lakes we now enjoy will be there for our children and grandchildren.

The Christians and others who gathered at the Seven Lakes Chapel last Sunday afternoon may not be united in doctrine or polity, but they were united in their love of this community and

Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch



one of the churches here or in West End. Others go to Candor, or Pinehurst, or Southern Pines. The concern of the ministers who planned the recent service of unity was to unite all of us in a common concern — the future of our community, Seven Lakes.

Will we ever unite in one church? I doubt it.

Will we ever see eye to eye on the social issues our day? Probably not!

Can we unite on a shared vision of what we hope our community will become? I pray so! If not, there is little

their dedication to the future of a united community.

I do not believe that the divisive nature of the church is blessed by God, but I do believe that when Christians can look beyond their differences and unite their prayers and commitments toward the betterment of the place where they and their neighbors live, it is a very good thing, and God blesses their efforts.

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

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Christianity is not a club, it's a relationship

Dear Editor:

In a recent article, "No one comes to the Father," "The Rev" stated that some find it necessary to exclude most people from God's love in order to enhance their membership in "the club."

First, God's love is for everyone, and no one has the means to change that or to

exclude another person from His love.

Second, Christianity is not a club, it's a relationship. In fact, it's not even exclusive. Christ desires a relationship with every person, but it's up to us to accept this relationship and the gift of eternal life that comes with it.

As a firm believer that the

Bible is God-inspired, as stated in 2 Timothy 3:16 and supported by 2 Peter 1:20-21, I believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, also known as the Gospel.

Jesus identifies himself as the Son of God in all of the Gospels, not just in John. I take it on faith that Jesus

is the only way to the Father, not because I say so, but because He said so.

My salvation does not depend on the damnation of others. God created man with a free will to choose. If we don't choose to accept Christ, we condemn ourselves. Most Christians who promote Christ as the only way don't do so with the purpose of being high and mighty, but in obedience to the "Great Commission," as instructed by Jesus in Matthew 28: 19-20 to go and spread the Gospel.

How will others know if we don't share?

It's hard for people today to accept absolute doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 states, "For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires they will gather

around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (NIV)

Critical thinking leads me to conclude that this is speaking of "social religion," a watered down doctrine that requires little faith. Unfortunately, this theology has become commonplace, even in many of our churches.

There are good Bible believing churches in our community. I'd recommend giving one a visit.

You won't find perfect people, but you will find people who are attempting to be Christ-like and, as such, will love you as He loves you.

Joel Fox
Seven Lakes West

A call for volunteers

Dear Editor:

At both of the last SLLA Work Sessions and Open meetings the problem of illegal dumping at the Northside yard waste site was discussed. Despite a concerted effort to get a functional camera that could capture license plates and others means of identification the problem continues to grow and has become a major cost concern for the current board.

During the last work session, the current contractor suggested several areas that are causing the cost overrun.

- Dumping of trash bags and other containers that have to be manually separated.
- Oversized tree trunks and limbs that have to be hauled to a different site for disposal.
- Construction debris that must be manually separated and hauled to a separate area.
- Illegal use of the site by a few contractors.

At the open meeting, Director Ritter suggested before more restrictive measures (fewer hours) or truly expensive cameras be considered, a group of resident volunteers be formed to insure that only authorized residents use our

site as well as only proper material be dumped.

If you're like me and want to keep our area looking good and enjoy the convenience of the yard waste site at the lowest possible cost, then become a volunteer by calling the office and leaving your name and number.

A small group of men and woman have already said yes, more are needed so no one spends an inordinate amount of time at the site.

Help Director Ritter keep our costs down and the dump open.

Bob Cook
Seven Lakes North

Farewell from the Marks

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We would like to thank all of our friends, neighbors and fellow golfers of Seven Lakes for a wonderful twelve years.

We are in the process of preparing for our next adventure by moving to Florida.

We will miss you all very much, but we have so many great memories that you will never be forgotten.

Pat and Jim Mark
Seven Lakes West

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The way we were and are and hope to be –

The church pews were filled with bowed heads and the choir sang with glory as prayers for peace and tolerance were raised during a Service of Unity on Sunday afternoon, May 6.

Prompted by controversy over recent policy changes regarding gate access between the Seven Lakes North and South, and Seven Lakes West communities, the worship service was organized and led by ministers representing several area faith congregations, including Rev. Don Welch and Rev. Frank Stark of The Chapel, The Rev. Dudley Crawford [retired] and Rev. Larry Lyon of West End Presbyterian Church, The Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong of West End United Methodist Church, Ms. Carolyn Mealing of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and The Rev. Bob Brown of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church.

Opening with words of welcome, Rev. Welch said the Service of Unity had been interpreted in many ways.

"It is not a protest...it is a service of worship to celebrate this wonderful place and ask for God's guidance to help us live and work together," he said.

Longtime Seven Lakes West resident Rev. Dudley Crawford offered a poignant sermon on 'The Way We Were and Are and Hope to Be.' What follows is a condensed version. The entire sermon is available on The Chapel in The Pines website at www.seven-lakeschapelinthepines.com. CD copies of the service are also available at the SLLA office or by contacting Andy Lowe at 673-2118.

The title of this sermon comes from one of my favorite sayings from that great old Baptist preacher Carlyle Marney who used to say "People don't go to church to be who they are, but to be who-to-God-they-hope-they-look-like-they-are. And there's a difference."

Thirty of my seventy years have been spent right here in this beautiful place we've called home. Seven Lakes is

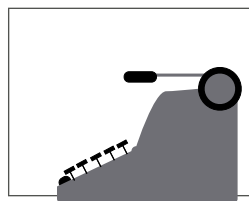
a place called by many names, full of people from many places. In the early days, nobody was from here at all. You could ride around and see the signs

pleased. Fish and ski in their lakes. Swim in their pool. Play on their tennis courts and golf course. Even ride their ponies. Our four children enjoyed

every minute of what we refer to as amenities. All for the price of an annual sticker for you and all your kids.

Your Turn

Rev. Dudley Crawford



in the yards: Sam and Mary so-and-so, Newark, NJ . . . or Kalamazoo, MI. I don't ever remember seeing a sign saying the occupants of that house were Seven Lakers. But, somehow that is what we were all becoming in those days: Seven Lakers.

In the yesteryears of Seven Lakes, the restaurant sat on the main corner and was the only eating place in town — and the center of the communication hub. There people talked about the developer, and who had just moved to which side, and who was building all of these new houses. That used to be us.

After renting for a year on the North Side, we were the one of the first houses built on the western front, where we enjoyed dirt roads and no dam. We were merely stepchildren of the greater Seven Lakes community. But those gracious folk on the other side of the tracks let us go and come as we

That used to be us.

When Lake Auman filled and the golf course on the western front was completed, there was a built-in reciprocation for our neighbors on the other side of the tracks. While folk felt a sense of security within our gates, we also felt this freedom and respect inherent in living together under the common flag of Seven Lakes, without any geographical references. That used to be us.

So for the past forty years people have chosen to come to live in this particular corner of God's world. They've come from hither, thither, and yon. Mostly from yon — where the harsh winter weather and urban sprawl had begun to take its toll, just like the turnpikes. Looking for a place where one can feel free from the fears that can make us mentally and physically exhausted, they found it here in this quiet and quaint hamlet of a place and in this won-

derful balance where security did not take away our freedoms. That used to be us.

Even now we are a young community, only in our early forties.

We have not been here long enough to have produced a generation yet. But we have certainly grown exponentially over those four decades.

And the growing pains are beginning to be felt throughout the land. Developers have

given way to the completely volunteer boards that govern our two communities, and they seem to be having a hard time figuring out how to deal with the larger numbers. And we should all be grateful to them even if we do not agree with them.

Since we are so short on history, we have a hard time reconciling our various visions of our future. Since there

(Continued on page 29)



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Dudley Crawford's Unity Service Sermon

(Continued from page 28)

were no founding mothers or fathers any of us can remember, we are caught betwixt and between. That feeling must be even more frustrating for those who have just recently become residents and may not give a hoot as to how we ever got started and all the history that is merely water under the bridge.

Having lived here for three-fourths of Seven Lakes' existence, I feel like an old coot that's seen better days. But there's something inside my gizzard that tells me we can still do better, even now. That all this bother and bickering over who's part of us and who isn't — who's north or south or east or west — is somehow undermining and diminishing what we have always known as Seven Lakes. This necessity for control and security at the risk of giving up our sense of community is undermining more than our property values. It runs against the grain of our human values at times and creates a form of tension that's very unhealthy for living graciously. But, per-

haps that's just a southern thing!

The Apostle Paul was trying to get the Jews and Gentiles to learn how to live together as the early church. No small task! But he gives us all a few clues as to what it might take to learn to live together

But we can use both past and present to get our bearings for what we hope to become. What Paul wanted the Romans — as well as the Seven Lakers — to see was a picture of just how life ought to be — which can be considerably different from

"We can't change the way we were nor necessarily change how we are right now. But we can use both past and present to get our bearings for what we hope to become."

— Reverend Dudley Crawford

even within our beloved Seven Lakes. "... love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor ... live in harmony with one another ... do not claim to be wiser than you are ... so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all ... do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all ... overcome evil with good."

We can't change the way we were nor necessarily change how we are right now.

the way it is. Guiding us to be more proactive citizens who look for ways to live up to those marvelous human values that come from that faith tradition, so that the common good of everyone becomes the only good for each of us. If we ever honestly achieve that, we will become the envy of others. We will become a community bound together by a deeper set of values that matter more than anything, and others may just beat a path to our doorsteps.

If we work on these human values Paul suggests and Jesus provokes in us in his gospel, a community of lasting worth begins to emerge. A place where everyone is welcomed and given citizenship. Where community covenants are guides to the spirit of the law rather than the letter of laws that can divide and intrude into our freedom to be part and parcel of this place we all want to be our town — our hometown — rather than just another development with their amenities, which are only filigree compared to what really matters.

Let's try to imagine our Seven Lakes community as a more hospitable place, a community of inhabitants who have chosen to become neighbors. And even if we did not choose our neighbors, proximity has come begging the question for us all. And here we are this afternoon, as some of the folk in our town, simply asking God almighty to bring some hope and joy and reconciliation.

Henri Nouwen, the Roman Catholic writer, puts it this way: "In our world full of

strangers, estranged from their past, culture and country, from their neighbors, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a powerful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be found." Isn't that the dream of us all?

Before the first house was ever inhabited in Seven Lakes, a lot of work had gone into building the infrastructure: roads and power lines and pipes for water and cables for TV and phones. We were all connected by these things that we could not see. We were also connected by another invisible infrastructure being built without any blueprints or labor costs: an infrastructure of welcoming love and caring hospitality for each other as human beings and neighbors who would "live in harmony with one another ... outdo one another in showing honor ... extend hospitality to strangers ... live peaceably ... and take thought for what is noble in the sight of all ..."



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Where we've been, where we are, and the

[The Seven Lakes Kiwanis invited Times' Editor Greg Hankins to speak at their Tuesday, May 1 meeting. This column is a condensed version of those remarks.]

Today, I want to talk about Seven Lakes: Where we've come from, where we find ourselves, and some roadblocks that may make it hard to get from here to where we'd like to be.

So, Where Have We Been?

In the early days of Seven Lakes, we had a vibrant community-wide volunteer culture. That's what built the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, that's what built Seven Lakes EMS.

A group of people decided this community needed a fire department, so they went out and built one.

A group of people decided this community needed a rescue squad, so they went out and built one.

Then there was the Seven Lakes Civic Group.

When Seven Lakers realized that their Landowners Associations had no authority outside the gates, a group of volunteers created the Civic Group. They did a fabulous job, evolving into an organization that placed Seven Lakers on important county advisory boards. The Civic Group made a real difference in increasing the visibility of Seven Lakes with county officials and administrators.

Seven Lakes back then had real community spirit, that produced real community action — real community effort, that got real things done.

Well, those days are gone.

Not that there aren't volunteers in Seven Lakes right now. Clearly there are: scores of them. Hundreds maybe.

The Seven Lakes and Seven Lakes West Landowners Associations just held their annual meetings and they both recognized dozens and dozens of volunteers, who work in a variety of ways to keep those communities running. But those volunteers,

by and large, work inside the gates. They aren't community-wide volunteers.

Of course, Seven Lakes has service organizations, like the Seven Lakes Kiwanis, the Seven Lakes Lions Club, the

There are 552 incorporated cities, towns, and villages in North Carolina. Seven Lakes is larger than 418 of them.

Seven Lakes is now too large to have that automatic sense of community Seven Lakes had in the early days.

Three-quarters of the people who live here now weren't even here when Seven Lakes was the size of a

liberal arts college.

So, instead, we are doing what people always do: we create a smaller, more manageable community to be a part of. We are no longer "Seven Lakers." We are Northsiders, Southsiders, or Westsiders. We derive our sense of community from our church, our service group, our clubs. We are Lions, or Kiwanis, or members of the Women of Seven Lakes.

We are members of the Sailing Club or the Lake Auman Sports Club.

What we are not, any longer, in the sense we once

were, is Seven Lakers.

Seven Lakes has been slowly, but surely, breaking apart for quite a while now. The flap we're having now about who gets in which gates is just the culmination of a slow-motion break-up that has taken years to complete.

The days when Seven Lakes was a tight knit little neighborhood where everyone pitched in for the good of the whole community . . . those days are gone.

So, that's where we've been, and where we find ourselves now.

our future, shaping our growth, enhancing our community-wide quality of life, or protecting our community from unwanted development and other problems.

Let me give you some practical examples:

There's a huge new building going up over on Grant Street. I have no doubt that it will be a real asset to Seven Lakes, because it's going to house Sandhills Pediatrics, a thriving medical practice that has outgrown its current space on Seven Lakes Drive across from Sandhills Winery. Just the parents bringing their kids to the doctor in Seven Lakes will bring business to our restaurants and shops, and maybe even increase demand for Seven

(Continued on page 31)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



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challenge of finding where we want to be

(Continued from page 30)

Lakes real estate. It's a wonderful asset.

But here's the thing. No one in Seven Lakes had any input into the siting and construction of that facility. What if, instead of a wonderful pediatric practice, it was a huge rehab center for substance abuse?

A real town — like tiny Fox-fire Village — can use zoning ordinances and building codes to control their destiny.

Here's another example. Back in 2006 and 2007, before the economy fell off a cliff, The Times was running dozens of stories about all the new developments planned in our backyard. There was one over on Holly Grove School Road nestled up against Seven Lakes North. There was another out at the end of Seven Lakes Drive. Both planned to tap into the already stretched county water supply that feeds Seven Lakes. Again, our input into either proposal was basically non-existent.

A real town, like little Carthage, has an extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction that allows it to control development on its fringes.

One more example. Once the economy turns around, we are likely to see construc-

tion begin on two developments, both as big as Seven Lakes West, just a little closer to the shopping and nightlife in Southern Pines, Pinehurst, and Aberdeen. And both Stonehill Pines and Pine Forest will be up-to-date developments. They'll have convenient walkable retail areas, pocket parks, and the bike trails and foot paths that people want in their neighborhoods now — amenities that our circa-1970s neighborhoods just don't have.

That's real competition for Seven Lakes in the real estate market — and it will impact property values. A real town, like little Robbins, or Star, can compete for state and federal grants to build parks, upgrade their commercial areas, or pay for the installation of bike and walking trails.

We need tools

Seven Lakes lacks the basic infrastructure that we need to do any of this. We have no effective mechanism for, on a community-wide basis, thinking about our future, developing plans, securing funding, or getting things done.

And, unfortunately, a couple of years ago, two very well-intentioned groups rolled out competing plans for incor-

porating Seven Lakes, and the blow-up that followed made "incorporation" a dirty word for a lot of people.

So, that is where we find

So, what do we do?

I honestly don't know what the answer is. But I do know that we can't just shut ourselves up behind our gates

— or something like it.

When he heard that the Civic Group was disbanding, longtime Seven Laker Paul Parks called me up and bent my ear about what a bad idea that was. "You just have to get folks together and get them to do something for the community as a whole," he said. "I don't care if it's picking up trash or planting daffodils. You just have to get them out there doing something. The rest will take of itself."

Maybe Paul is right. Maybe the first step is to assemble some folks who care about the direction of this community as a whole, put them to work, and see what comes of it.

Maybe we could rebuild the community spirit and trust we seem to have lost, and make that the foundation for what would truly be a Greater Seven Lakes.

What do you think?

"Seven Lakes has been slowly, but surely, breaking apart for quite a while now. The flap we're having now about who gets in which gates is just the culmination of a slow-motion break-up that has taken years to complete."

ourselves: stuck.

We need to dream, to plan, to act in order to make the Seven Lakes of the future just as wonderful and attractive a community as it has been in the past. Because Seven Lakes is truly a wonderful place, filled with wonderful, generous people. But we have no tools to put in the hands of those wonderful people, so they can work to keep this a wonderful place.

and pretend nothing else matters. Not if we want a Seven Lakes we can be proud of. Not if we want a Seven Lakes that preserves our property values.

It may be that we have to begin by trying to recapture what we have lost. We need to build some community-wide efforts to make Seven Lakes a better place. That probably means resurrecting the Seven Lakes Civic Group

Methodist Salad Supper

The West End United Methodist Church Women's Salad Supper will be held on Friday, May 18 at 6 pm. Held in the Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets for this event are \$8 each and can be purchased from Lou Anne Cline at 673-5431. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

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Let's look at the third side of that coin

Dear Editor:

In answer to former Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Director Shaver's "Two Two Headed Coins", I must point out that coins have three facets. One side could be the do nothing and let the facilities degrade, the second side to raise dues (giving board members with special agendas the extra to waste). But there is a third area on that coin, and that's the edge. Could that not be called "cut spending?" Just because it's "in the budget" does not mean you have to spend it.

Let's look at Director Shaver's record, for example, to see how agendas can waste money. New maintenance trucks were bought at over \$40,000 a few years ago against the advice of the maintenance supervisor, and then the Board voted to do away with our maintenance department. So we now have a fleet of new and used trucks that are sitting.

Shaver voted to give former Community Manager Dalton Fulcher \$75,000 to do nothing for a year, instead of voting Fulcher out per our by-laws.

Or how about giving Talis a three-year management contract that averages \$150,000?

Data from the NC League of Municipalities suggest that our 1,200 home community should have pay a manager \$48,000 to start, up to a maximum of \$58,000.

Instead of needless spending, why not look at cuts?

Put the money towards the one thing that everyone sees, drives on, and talks about and that's our roads.

Where else could we look for savings?

Why have the office open Monday - Friday 8:30 am to

5:00 pm? Could the manager and one person get more done by having the office open to landowners only Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 am to Noon and Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm?

Or, given that the Board is already looking at cutting the number of horses and ponies at the stables, would you take it a step further? We provide riding to anyone with a guest pass, but how many landowners really ride? Does about two dozen seem right?

I've been told it costs us about \$65 per horse per ride. That's a lot of money don't you think?

With the stables costing about \$75,000 per year, is it worth it? Could we contract with another stable and pay for only landowners to ride and leave those with guest passes and friends and others to pay their own way? If the stables are closed for 36

months, we could have over \$200,000 more to put towards roads. After closing them for 48 months, we would have an extra \$300,000.

Our present board is ready to spend over \$30,000 to fix an island on Sequoia. Why?

Director Don Fentzlaff states, "We live in a place called Seven Lakes."

True, but it's not called Seven Islands!

So why the agenda to rush in and fix something that very few residents see or use? Every visitor and landowner sees and uses the roads. Why not put the money there?

The preceding are simply questions and thoughts about the way our money is being used because of someone's personal agenda.

As Directors, you must think about the community as whole — not just a select few, nor someone that talks the loudest. Please remember

that a coin does have three sides, and I hope you will consider the edge more often

when spending our money.
Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes North

Girl Scouts collecting items for Moore Humane

In May, Girl Scout Troop 1301 will be collecting pet and office supplies for the Moore Humane Society. Donations may be delivered any Wednesday evening between 7:00 and 8:00 pm to St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Seven Lakes Drive, or schedule a pick-up by calling Laura Douglass at 673-1817 or Jeanene Wolf at 673-1226.

Moore Humane Society 'wish list' items include gently used towels, pillow cases and blankets; shampoo for puppies and kittens; pet toys that can be washed —

preferably squeaky toys; harnesses for dogs; tall cat trees; small and medium-sized dog sweaters; stainless steel dog bowls and stainless steel cat litter boxes; also office supplies including 3-ring binders, pens and sticky notes, paper towels, antibacterial dish soap, and AA batteries.

As part of their Bronze Award service project, the ten members of Girl Scout Troop 1301 will also be making homemade dog biscuits and fleece blankets to donate to Animal Advocates of Moore County.

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Foxfire budget

(Continued from front page)

funding to demolish but not rebuild the community tennis courts. All that has Frusco taking a very hard look at the existing tax rate of 32 cents per \$100 of valuation — or \$640 for a \$200,000 home.

“When we throw out numbers and talk about things in budget work sessions — and when we look at possible things the Village needs on a long-term basis, we try to transfer that into dollars,” Frusco explained. “For example, to renovate the tennis courts, estimates were between \$70,000 and \$80,000. A five cent tax increase funds that kind of project. It’s very easy to say we should do this or that, but it is important to realize that all of those ‘should dos’ come with a price tag that our current funding is not able to meet.”

General Fund Expenses

The preliminary budget presented by Frusco, with total anticipated expenses of \$934,175, had little in the way of new costs. She highlighted a revamped community website, a new police vehicle, a new server and printer for the Village offices, a new commercial-grade robotic pool vacuum, and a two-percent salary increase for Village employees.

At 22.9 percent of the total anticipated budget expenditures, Public Safety includes two full-time and one halftime police officer, and a K9 unit. The fire department contract with West End Fire & Rescue and a small utility bill represent an additional 10.9 percent of the budget. Administration is 18.5 percent of anticipated overall expenses, and includes two full-time employees.

Debt service also takes a sizable chunk of the budget, at 21.4 percent; streets are 15.4 percent. Other expenses include pool and tennis [6.5 percent], capital reserve [2.7 percent], Village Green Park [1.3 percent], and zoning [0.3 percent].

Directing attention to the anticipated demolition of the

tennis courts, Frusco said the Long Range Planning Committee recommended that the facility either be dismantled or renovated.

“It is an aesthetic eyesore, Frusco said. “The Council does not have the funds to rebuild, but we have set aside

source of revenue, at 59 percent. Local option sales tax brings in 17 percent of revenue, with assessments [7 percent], Powell Bill funds [4 percent], and pool fees [1 percent] also adding to the Village coffers. Total budgeted revenue is projected to

“It’s very easy to say we should do this or that, but it is important to realize that all of those ‘should dos’ come with a price tag.”

— Foxfire Finance Director Leslie Frusco

money to demolish and remove the courts. And removing the court is what would have to be done if we were renovating the court.”

Expected Revenue

The proposed FY2013 Budget retains the current tax rate, set at 32 cents, the second lowest municipal tax rate in Moore County.

The value of Foxfire Village property is expected to total \$161,550,000, and property taxes represent the primary

amount to \$862,725.

Frusco explained that the County tax department handles the property valuations on which taxes are calculated.

“The second major source of revenue is local option sales tax, which is allocated partly by population,” she explained. “Since our last census, we are deriving a little more revenue.” The 2010 US Census pegged the Village’s population at 901, nearly double the 478 counted in 2000.

To reduce the shortfall between revenue and anticipated expenses, Frusco said the Council intends to use unspent back taxes related to the Foxfire Golf Resort bankruptcy. She explained that, when the bank took over the facility a year ago, they made good on two year’s worth of back taxes — about \$80,000 — which was then allocated to Village road maintenance projects.

With approximately \$52,000 of that \$80,000 remaining, Frusco said those funds would be reallocated, leaving the budget shortfall at about \$20,000.

“There is really not a lot of extras in the expenses, other than the normal things it takes to run the Village,” she said.

Frusco noted that the budget does include a transfer of \$25,000 from operating funds to a fund reserved for future capital projects. The Council could forego that deposit into its savings account this year in order to help close the budget gap.

Is a tax increase the answer?

With only one resident participating in the first of two scheduled citizens’ workshops, Dave Meldrum had the Council’s full attention on Tuesday, May 1.

“My thoughts are, I don’t like deferred maintenance, because little things become big things, especially with roads,” he said. “I would rather take care of potholes, and whatever else is creeping up, and be hit with a tax increase now, so we don’t have bigger problems down the road.”

Meldrum also zeroed in on a few specific expenses, arguing in favor of a larger salary increase for staff. “I think our people deserve more than a two percent increase,” he said. “I would be willing to pay my share to give them a four percent raise.” Meldrum also expressed concern that the existing water system and storage tank may be inadequate to keep up with future growth.

(See “Foxfire,” p. 35)



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Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 34)

"Looking over the budget, the only area that might be possible to cut expenses would be the pool and tennis court," he observed. "You sent out a survey a year ago with questions about the pool and tennis area — what did the survey show?"

Councilman Steve Durham said the pool was identified by residents as a strong asset to the community and "that we needed to invest in it."

He noted residents also showed support for the tennis court, but it was not prioritized as highly as the pool. However, everyone agreed the courts could not be left alone in the current condition.

Frusco agreed.

"The pool came back in the survey as an important asset to the Village, not only from those who use it, but from those looking at it from a long range planning aspect," she said. "If real estate professionals are bringing people here, that it is an asset they can say the community has."

Pool fees were increased over the last few years, with a significant jump in non-resident fees, but Frusco said the pool will never be self-supporting. The cost to run the facility is simply too high to be offset with fees.

To address the eyesore of the unplayable tennis court area, Frusco said, funding has been set aside in the proposed budget for demolition. If the facility is rebuilt in the future, she noted a fee schedule would be developed with resident and non-resident fees.

Meldrum said his concern is the long term impact of decisions and that deferred maintenance is not the best solution.

Frusco asked Meldrum whether he was suggesting that, in order to do some projects around the Village and to get a better handle on debt service, he would not be opposed to a tax increase.

"This is correct," he replied. "I would support a tax increase. Laws allow a municipality to build their reserve,

and that is the way I would go."

Frusco said that, based on current total valuation of all property taxes in Foxfire Village, a one cent tax increase would only net an additional \$16,000.

A five cent tax increase on a \$300,000 home would cost the homeowner approximately \$150 in additional taxes per year, and would generate \$80,000, an amount equal to the estimated cost of replacing the tennis court and also nearly equal to the anticipated shortfall on the Woodland Circle Extension loan in three years, once the Village has collected the remaining assessments due.

Better turnout for second workshop

A livelier discussion was on tap during the second Citizen's Budget Workshop on Thursday, May 3, when a larger and more animated crowd participated.

Questions and suggestions were raised about potential cost savings on a number of expenditures, including the pool, the police K9 unit, and concerns over debt service.

"We don't have to have a K9; but, at this point, we have it," said Councilman Mick McCue, noting that earlier in the week, Foxfire Police Sgt. Chad Shue and K9 BiBo had successfully assisted a Moore County Sheriff's Deputy in searching and locating illegal drugs in a suspect's vehicle.

"Given the fact that Foxfire has two main state roads, we hope the K9 unit will be a deterrent against this kind of crime," explained Frusco.

She estimated the total expenses for the K9 unit program run approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year.

Mayor George Erickson also expressed his support, "It is a real plus for Foxfire to know this dog represents the Village."

In another public safety budget discussion, Frusco said the existing police car is six years old and has over

the community survey] is a very thoughtful plan," she said. "We will continue to work on that, and the Council will continue to take those items and projects into consideration as we move forward. We need to balance the needs of all of our residents."

Asked whether a reduction in open hours at the pool would decrease costs, Frusco

to annex that area into Foxfire Village, Mayor Erickson recalled, residents along that road said they did not want it paved — knowing they would be assessed for that convenience — and indicated that they would take care of the road maintenance themselves.

"Since the road is in an equestrian area, they preferred sand roads, so that is what has been done," he said.

If a majority of current residents on the road file a petition with the Village to have the roads paved, Frusco explained, the process would be the same as Woodland Circle, with each property owner paying a percentage of the total road cost.

Eventually the discussion would back to the inevitable question: "Is a tax increase the answer?"

Honing in on the one-cent and five-cent tax increase scenarios presented, a resident asked Frusco whether, if taxes aren't raised now, they will have to be raised

(See "Foxfire," p. 36)

"We run a tight Village ... The Council goes over the budget line item by line item every year."

— Foxfire Finance Director Leslie Frusco

160,000 miles on its odometer.

"Could we nurse along the police vehicle?" Frusco asked. "Yes. But I'm not sure that would be the best thing and I am not sure it would save that much, because we would need to up the maintenance line item for the existing vehicle."

Turning attention toward recreation, a resident questioned the benefit of a community pool, especially considering the \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year to maintain this amenity.

Frusco responded that a recent survey indicated the majority of residents view the pool as an asset and stated that it was important for the Village to continue to maintain and improve the facility.

"The Long Range Plan put together [from the results of

said hours are already somewhat limited and the facility is heavily used.

In a discussion of road maintenance, a resident of Forest Ridge complained that this interior, unpaved road does not get much attention.

When the petition was filed



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Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 35)

even more at a later date.

"Would the proposal be more like five and ten [cents]?" he asked.

"It would probably be more like five and ten," Frusco confirmed, but this is what we're asking for input for."

"We run a tight Village," she said. "Our lease is a very reasonable cost for office space. Even if we eliminate the two percent salary increase, we would only save \$4,000 to \$5,000. The Council goes over the budget line item by line item every year."

Potential cost savings could be realized by eliminating the \$25,000 set aside for capital reserves, though Frusco advised that is not a good choice for the long-term health of the Village's finances. Another option would be to eliminate roadside mowing, which would reduce street maintenance costs, but Frusco warned it would not be aesthetically pleasing.

One resident expressed support for a five cent tax increase: "I would rather see us pay down our debt and start reducing that level before things get even rougher."

Another resident said she was aware of Village residents who would struggle with paying increased taxes.

Others suggested a one-time-only five cent tax assessment to help buy the Village more time to sell the Woodland Circle property, or a compromise tax increase of three cents.

Concluding the May 3 discussion, Frusco thanked the crowd for their participation.

"The Council has not set any amount at this point, but this is the kind of input we were seeking with this workshop."

Debt service

"Debt service has a significant impact on the Village, and encompasses two areas — the debt owed on the Village Green Park loan and Woodland Circle," said Frusco.

In Fiscal Year 2013, anticipated loan payments include

\$27,000, at a 3.87 interest rate with a total balance due of \$180,000 on the Village Green Park; and a payment of \$173,000, at a 3.19 interest rate with a total balance due of \$1,756,351 on Woodland Circle. The loan was re-amortized this year with five years added to the repayment period and a reduction in the fixed rate.

"The big thing for the public to know about Woodland Circle is that we have three more years to collect on assessments that current property owners are paying," Frusco said. "These payments cover about half of the loan payment. But at the end of those years, the entire amount is the responsibility of the Village."

She said nearly all of the assessed property owners are up-to-date, with one in negotiation, and one property that may be foreclosed upon. The largest single property assessed — at 160 acres and representing nearly three-quarters of the total assessment — was donated to the Village in lieu of payment and remains for sale on the real estate market.

"I want to stress that Woodland Circle [road extension] was started many years ago," Frusco said. "The property owners in that area requested the road to be built. It was never the intention of the Council, when they started this process, that it [debt] would become the Village responsibility."

The asking price for the 160-acre property was recently lowered to \$1.2 million.

"The property is not subdivided and is equestrian zoned," Frusco explained. "If a buyer is interested in other options, the Village would be willing to entertain offers. But because it is a municipal property, we are subject to a specific bid process."

A resident complained that there is a lot of ill will in the Village over Woodland Circle, and he expressed concern that many do not want to see the Council "in that same frame of mind and take us down that road again."

Frusco agreed.

"The Council feels the same way," she said. "We don't like it. We have to deal with it. And it was never our intention for that road to become a cost to the Village."

Offering a quick review of anticipated loan payments due, Frusco said the decision to start paying down the principal lowered the annual payment from \$256,000 to \$188,000 in 2014. The proposed 2013 Fiscal Year Budget includes a \$173,000 loan payment toward Woodland Circle.

Noting the large size of the property, a resident suggested the Village should consider

setting some funding aside to develop 'out of the box' marketing opportunities.

"It is in our best interest to come up with some ideas," he said.

Councilman Steve Durham welcomed the input and noted that he is satisfied the property is being well-marketed by the Realtor.

Foxfire Water Department

The Water Department is not funded by taxes. Instead, it is a self-supporting enterprise system with 91 percent of its revenue collected through water bills. Additional revenue comes from assess-

ments and tap on fees.

"It is very self-supporting from a financial standpoint," Frusco said. "We have looked at long term maintenance needs of the department and developed a 15-year schedule of anticipated maintenance."

She also noted that the Village undertook an extensive water study a few years ago. At that time, the Council decided to increase water rates, so that additional revenue would be on hand as needs arose.

Frusco reported that administrative costs represented the bulk of water

(See "Foxfire," p. 37)

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Fire District

(Continued from front page)

of a fire station — and not what it would cost for that person or community to be moved from one district to another.

The County's sixteen fire tax districts were drawn up in the 1960s, Skipper said, with some minor adjustments in the 1980s and 1990s.

"Maybe it's time for an independent look at how those lines have been drawn," said Commissioner Nick Picerno,

"and how they are serving our County."

Insurance rates, not taxes, are McLendon Hills' concern

McLendon Hill POA President Peter Dotto said his community's request to move from Eagle Springs to Seven Lakes was not about taxes, but about the insurance ratings of those respective departments.

"Our original request was not about taxes it's about

the insurance districts," said Dotto, "And I would like for this study to include what we perceive as the inequity of a tax district that is farther away from our home. Because the ratings are worse, we are paying much more insurance."

The Seven Lakes squad has a better insurance rating, which would significantly lower the insurance premiums paid by McLendon Hills homeowners.

"If you do come up with a fire tax throughout the County, we still don't get the insurance district," explained Dotto. "I think it would be fair to have a home governed by the nearest fire station."

Chairman Larry Caddell replied that, when the fire districts are analyzed in the independent study, the insurance districts will be analyzed as well.

"The insurance rating and distance to the fire depart-

ment is relative," said Caddell, "One goes with the other."

"It's also important [the station's] distance to you," said Caddell, "that is just as important as to me as it is to reduce your costs. Both of those should go hand-in-hand."

Skipper said he expects RFPs will be issued on July 1, with a recommendation for a vendor and funding to come before the Board by

their second meeting in August. If approved by the Board, the results of the study are expected by February of 2013.

Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 36)

department expenditures, at 38.2 percent of the proposed budget. Other expenses include maintenance and repairs [16.8 percent]; debt service [24.6 percent]; and costs associated with chemicals, utilities, water testing, and a contingency fund.

Responding to a concern raised over water consumption, Councilman Durham said Foxfire Village remains under Phase 1 water restrictions.

"Monitoring over-consumption is difficult," he explained. "There is a Long Range Planning initiative looking at future water sources, but it would be very expensive to hook into Moore County."

One suggestion that gained traction was to add a conservation reminder along with the monthly water bill.

Foxfire Fire Department

West End Fire & Rescue offers one of the lowest fire district tax rates in Moore County.

Frusco explained that Village residents pay the same rate as all other property owners in the West End Fire District — and that amount did not increase as a result of 24/7 coverage by a first responder housed at the Foxfire Fire Department facility. The only new cost involves minor utility bills to provide heat and air conditioning at the station's living quarters, which Frusco estimated at less than \$500 per year.

Foxfire Golf Resort

Resident Meldrum said he hoped the town and any future owners of the Foxfire Golf Resort, currently owned by a bank, would work together, "as a matter of cooperation and coordination . . . You have a real hidden asset there."

Frusco agreed, noting that it will be critical for the Village to engage in a partnership with a new owner.

Mayor George Erickson recalled that when Avestra purchased the course several years ago, Foxfire and the new owners held a series of public meetings to discuss how to best promote the golf course and Village.

Timely access to news

Frusco reminded citizens that Foxfire Village has a community website chock-full of important information including budget figures, dates of upcoming meetings, and details on current water restrictions.

She also strongly encouraged residents to sign up for *The Seven Lakes Times'* emailed news updates.

"There was a complete article published about the first workshop and you would have received that today if you were signed up," she told participants at the May 3 Budget Workshop.

"They do the best job of reporting. If you sign up, you will have immediate access when important information comes out."

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