

Life's a peach!



Nelson Marshall of Raleigh enjoys a nice juicy peach from his great uncle Watts Auman's orchard. Nelson is the grandson of Bob and Agnes Marsh Auman.

Darr presents paving plan

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



After years of saving, and studying, and planning, the Seven Lakes Land-owners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors is ready to approve a plan for paving the roadways in Seven Lakes North and South.

President Bob Darr laid out the plan, which stretches over the next sixteen years, during the Board's Monday, June 11 work session, using a neatly hand-lettered flip chart and color-coded maps.

Driving the plan is a comprehensive study of the roadways conducted late in 2011 by the engineering firm S&ME, which assigned a "serviceability rating" to every

segment of the street network. Asphalt with little usable life left was assigned a rating of 2.0. Segments in better shape, but with still less than five years of life left, were assigned a rating of 2.5. Other segments were rated 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0, with that last score reserved for roads paved relatively recently, with an expected life of 15 to 20 years.

In addition, S&ME identified forty-eight areas with extensive tree root damage — e.g., along Dogwood Lane — and twenty-nine other areas suffering severe fatigue. Both types of damage will require extensive subsurface work and/or patching prior to any repaving.

Phase 1 of the plan that Darr presented would patch

those severely damaged areas and resurface all the roads rated 2.0 and 2.5 — a total of 4.25 miles — at an estimated cost of \$567,500. That total includes \$3,000 to place speed lifts, also known as speed "humps," in six locations.

Four years later, half of the roads rated 3.0 would be resurfaced (approximately 6 miles), with the other half paved four years after that. Twelve years out, the 3.5 rated roads would be addressed, with the roads currently rated 4.0 addressed in sixteen years.

"And, at that point, we are back to Phase 1 again," Darr said.

(See "Roads," p. 37)

County will name Public Safety Center for Rick Rhyne

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Moore County's new Public Safety Center will be named after Sheriff's Deputy Rick Rhyne, who was killed in the line of duty on December 8, after serving thirty-four years as a law enforcement officer.

The Moore County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a request by Sheriff Lane Carter to name the facility after Rhyne during their Tuesday, June 19 meeting.

"Today we all stand before you with a continued heavy heart to make a simple request," said Carter. "Throughout the history of Moore County, we have never had a Sheriff or Sheriff's Deputy lose his life in the line of duty. That all changed December 8, 2011. We lost

Deputy Rick Rhyne."

Rhyne began his service as a law enforcement officer in 1974 with the Pinehurst Police Department. He later served as Chief of Police for Foxfire Village until his retirement in 2006. He joined the Moore County Sheriff's

Department in 2007 as a Deputy Sheriff.

"I believe, as a County and elected officials of this County, we can offer no finer tribute to Rick and his family than to consider dedicating our Public Safety Center in his honor," said Carter.

"On behalf of all the law enforcement officers in Moore County, I humbly make this request to honor Rick and his family for the sacrifice he made for the profession and County he loved."

In the resolution, Carter said the dedication will "remind the people of Moore County of the sacrifice, his friendship and his life long devotion of service to the protection of the peace."

Rhyne's widow Wanda Rhyne was present to receive the dedication. A formal ded-

(See "Commissioners," p. 20)



Rick Rhyne

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More Benefits for Blaise

Individuals and groups across Moore County continue to join in support of the family of Blaise McNair, a West End Elementary rising sixth grader currently undergoing therapy for an inoperable brain tumor.

A candlelight vigil and benefit yard sale were held last weekend, and the proceeds from a recent golf tournament sponsored by The Tin Whistles of Pinehurst were donated to the family.

Upcoming events include a Charity Ride & Lunch Benefit on Saturday, June 30. Registration begins at Carthage Fire Department at 8 am followed by lunch at Aberdeen Lake at 12:30

pm with music and a silent auction. For details, contact Robbie Mabe at 783-8554 or Rebecca Mabe at 708-2715.

Middle Cross Baptist Church, on Lucas Road in West End, will host a BBQ dinner and Gospel singing benefit on Saturday, July 14, from 11 am to 7 pm. Plates are \$7.

A benefit golf tournament will be held Saturday, July 21, at Whispering Woods Golf Club in Whispering Pines. Cost per player is \$60 and includes green fees, food, prizes and more. Sign up as a single, twosome or foursome. For details, contact cocoeatsclark@yahoo.com

A bow shoot benefit is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 at Bob's Sporting Goods in Biscoe. For details, contact Michael Shore at 910-783-4613 or mshore24@yahoo.com

Lydia's Consignment Shop on Hwy 5 in Pinehurst has a donation box available.

The Seven Lakes Snack Shack has designated July

as "Blaise Days." Every Saturday and Sunday during the month, proceeds from ice cream sales will go to support the McNair Family.

Donations may be offered to the Blaise McNair Family Fund at First Bank, including the branch in the Seven Lakes business district; or to Tony or Linda McNair at their account with the State Employees' Credit Union, mail to SECU, PO Box 599, Southern Pines, NC 28388.



Victoria and Weston Thomson, of Seven Lakes West, collected \$453.84 for Blaise McNair and family with a bake sale and donations from customers of Food Lion Seven Lakes.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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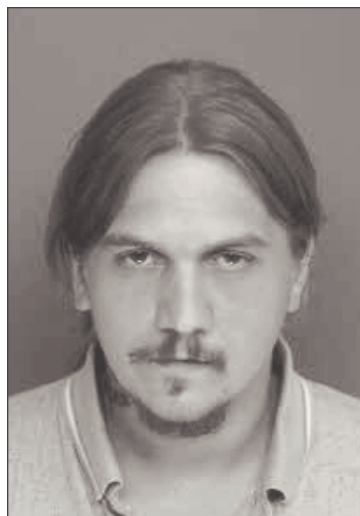
PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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
Dec 28	Jan 4

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Man arrested on drug charge

Mitchell McKinley Goins, 27, of 192 Firetree Lane in Seven Lakes North, has been



Michael McKinley Goins

arrested on felony drug charges, according to a release from the Moore County Sheriff's Office.

Officers arrested Goins on Thursday, June 14, charging him with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, felony possession with intent

to sell a controlled substance, and misdemeanor larceny of a prescription. He is accused of illegally obtaining Fentanyl patches, a Schedule II controlled substance. Fentanyl is a synthetic opiate.

Goins was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

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ARC wants to review Association projects

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



"If it's good for the community, why isn't it good for the Board?" asked

Director Dan Blue, presenting a request that the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] sign off on construction projects initiated by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], as well as those undertaken by landowners.

ARC members want to be included in the decision process — or to at least have the opportunity to review — Association projects like the landscaping around the lower Lakeway Mall pond and the reconfiguration of the front and back entrances.

"I think we should be involved in that," Blue told his fellow Directors during the Board's Tuesday, June 12 Work Session, "and would ask that at least those plans be shown to us."

"The bottom line of the process is that the Board is ignoring the ARC as a resource," said Blue. "That troubles me."

"The Board is ignoring the ARC, which is supposedly a tool to the community. What is the Community's feeling about ARC, if the Board has no respect for its own committee?"

Secretary Jane Sessler said Association projects are always brought before the Board, and, as the ARC Director, Blue represents that committee in the Board's deliberations.

"ARC's voice has always been there," said Sessler.

"If ARC has value to the community and to the Board," said Blue, "Then we would certainly like to be appreciated by the leadership of the community."

Lake and Dam Director Bruce Keyser suggested an ARC member be appointed to the various committees that handle such projects as a liaison.

However, Blue said this may pose two problems: one being time commitment, the

second being a conflict of interest for the ARC member who is also serving on a planning committee.

Legal Director Jack Stevens

said he is investigating ways to prevent this from happening in the future.

There were two problems with the tree cutting, Blue

"The bottom line of the process is that the Board is ignoring the ARC as a resource. That troubles me."

— Westside ARC Director Dan Blue

suggested that members of other committees might make the same request.

"In some of these situations revealing that information and that process out of necessity has to be efficient," said Stevens.

Stevens will take Blue's concern to the Legal Affairs Committee, and ARC will bring back to the Board more information regarding their request.

Unauthorized tree removal

In other ARC news, Blue expressed concern that a tree removal company entered the community and cut down four trees at Lot 3387, at the owner's request but without authorization from ARC. Blue

explained. First, no application for the project had been filed with ARC. Second, the contractor handling the project was not properly signed into the community through security.

"We need to tighten this up and agree on some procedures that we can implement to control access to our common areas," said Stevens.

"The roads are a common space, they are private property, and we have every right to enforce access to our common property," said Stevens, "And unauthorized access, in my opinion, is trespassing."

Blue said the current application process for projects in the community is being

revamped to be more user friendly and streamlined.

"It's a small effort to make the ARC more community service responsive," said Blue, "That's an ongoing working project."

Blue also reported that he is working on a compliance issue with Lot 3115.

Safety and Security Report

In a seven-to-one vote, the Board turned down a proposal by Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy to

install two security cameras at Johnson Point at a cost of \$4,300. Only McCarthy voted in favor of the motion.

McCarthy argued that vandalism and theft in the area means the security cameras are needed sooner rather than later. However, the Board wanted additional information, including where the cameras will be installed and the cost of a monthly service fee to operate them.

Lake and Dam Director

(See "Westside," p. 19)

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Board debates stables and pay-as-you-go

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The debate over how best to manage the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's [SLLA] stables was rejoined during the Board of Directors' Monday, June 11 work session.

In the end, a proposed policy and fee structure was sent back to committee for more work, and a number of Directors seemed to favor a "pay-as-you-go" strategy, not just for the stables, but for all amenities.

Who to charge and how much?

The SLLA Directors abandoned plans to cut costs by cutting the size of the stable herd during their Wednesday, May 23 open meeting, but that left hanging the question of how much to charge for rides and classes, and how those charges should apply

to residents, guests, and Westsiders.

Director Bob Racine brought to the meeting a two-page stables policy proposal, the fruit of a marathon meeting of the Recreation Committee on Wednesday, June 6.

But it was clear the Board itself has yet to reach consensus on how to handle this amenity, as the proposal drew fire from all sides, eventually sending Racine back to the drawing board.

The Stables Proposal

As presented, the proposal preserved free rides for residents, while noting that residents who have already ridden twice in a week should have a lower priority than those who haven't yet used the stables.

Racine recommended a new guest card system specifically for the stables, charging \$15 for a guest card that could be used for up to 20 rides

over the course of a year, and limiting each guest to one card. After 20 rides, guests would be charged \$20 to ride a horse or \$5 to ride a pony.

Westsiders would be allowed to purchase an unlimited individual pass for \$300 per year, or to pay \$20 to ride a horse or \$10 to ride a pony. Guests of Westsiders would pay \$30 per trail ride.

Lessons would be \$25 for SLLA members and guests and \$30 for Westside members and guests.

Simplification Requested

Director Don Fentzlaff was the first to object to the scheme.

"This seems to be pretty complex," he said. "There's lots of ifs and what-fors and everything else. This is awfully complex. I can see a lot of confusion involved."

Treasurer Conrad Meyer echoed Fentzlaff's comments about complexity and homed

in on how the 20-ride limit on guest cards would be handled, asking how that would be tracked, as a practical matter.

Noting that the Association has hired a new manager at the stables, Meyer asked whether her input had been incorporated into the proposal and said he felt that input was essential to producing a workable policy.

President Bob Darr asked that the Committee's next proposal make clear any differences between the new policies at the stables; and Director David Buckingham suggested the policy be laid out more like a menu, so that the various charges are clearer.

Racine good-naturedly made note of all the input, saying he would take it back to the Recreation Committee to be incorporated in a rewrite.

What to Do about Guests?

The question of how to accommodate guest riders — and whether Westsiders should be treated differently than other non-residents — generated a number of comments from Board members.

"There has got to be some consistency in what we are doing for guest passes," Chuck Leach said. "I, for one, believe, when this place was originally developed, amenities were for people who lived here, who purchased here, and they were amenities for them. I don't think we should be spending our dues money on guests that are from New Jersey that can ride for almost a month free. I can't buy into that."

"I like what Chuck said," Director Steve Ritter added, "and, I kind of agree about what the amenities are for and where we need to go in terms of generating some off-setting revenue."

(See "Stables," p. 36)

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Board wrestles with access, enforcement

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Deciding whether to require members to purchase barcodes, as well as how to handle the several classes of frequent visitors to Seven Lakes North and South, continues to be a challenging issue for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

With Gerry Stickl and Ken Dennis of The Budd Group — the SLLA's new security contractor — in attendance, the Board worked through a draft rewrite of Section 2 of the Association's Rules and Regulations during the Monday, June 11 work session.

Security Director Steve Ritter walked the Board through the draft, prepared by Ritter and his Security Committee, based on input they received during the May Board work session. The debate touched on a number of key issues, including mandatory barcodes.

Barcodes & Stickers

Ritter's proposal continues

the SLLA practice of utilizing both barcodes and windshield stickers, and does not require that all residents purchase a barcode, as is the current practice in Seven Lakes West.

Ritter explained that a windshield sticker is particularly valuable when the barcode reader occasionally "goes down," whether due to a lightning strike or some other reason. In addition, he said, with so many communities using barcodes, "the fact that you have a barcode doesn't prove that you are an SLLA member." Windshield stickers permit roving security patrol to determine whether a vehicle parked on Association property in fact belongs to a member.

President Bob Darr said he would like to move away from windshield stickers so that any resident driving a vehicle without a barcode would be inconvenienced by having to present their membership card at the gate, "so that we can encourage folks to get barcodes."

Darr added that he was not convinced of the importance of identifying vehicles once they have entered the

gates. "The only place that we have any control is at the gate," he said. "If someone is in here, whether or not they have barcode or sticker, there is not a darned thing that is going to happen."

Ritter said the Committee believes barcodes should be mandatory for all residents, but stopped short of requiring them in its revision of Section 2, because "what are you going to do with the person who refuses to purchase a barcode?"

"We can't force people to get the barcode," Darr said, "but I think the only way you can make it happen is to make it really inconvenient."

Guests, Westsiders, Clubs


In addition to encouraging all residents to purchase barcodes, the Committee recommends allowing residents to purchase barcodes for immediate family members, and also allowing residents of Seven Lakes West to purchase barcodes, without any sort of 'sponsorship' by an SLLA member. Because both communities use the same barcode system, Westsiders would not need to have two barcode stickers on their vehicle. Instead, their existing barcode could be authorized in the SLLA system.

Director Chuck Leach argued that, in all cases, security would be enhanced


if the Board required that all stickers and barcodes be affixed to vehicles by SLLA staff, rather than by the resident. The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association currently has staff affix barcodes to vehicles. Ritter agreed that would enhance security, but questioned the amount of staff time that would be required. "I do like it, but we are trying to cut costs here, not add positions," Ritter said.

Under Ritter's recommendations, clubs that regularly use SLLA facilities — for example, the Lions Club, Women of Seven Lakes, and Project Linus — would be

(See "Access," p. 35)



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Council approves budget with 3¢ tax hike

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



The Foxfire Village Council unanimously approved a three cent tax increase following a public hearing and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget before a supportive crowd on Tuesday, June 12.

Based on the new rate of 35 cents per \$100 valuation, the nearly \$1 million dollar budget includes funding to purchase a new police vehicle, demolish the unplayable tennis courts, upgrade the community website, increase road maintenance work, and meet the Village's debt service obligations.

Finance Director Leslie Frusco said the Council did not reach the decision to raise taxes easily or lightly.

"It was 2004 when we had our last tax increase," Frusco said, "when the rate went to 32 cents. It has not changed since that time. Foxfire has the second lowest municipal tax rate in Moore County and will continue to do so even with this increase."

"I believe this Council is very cognizant of the impact; but it is clear to us, from long range planning and the survey report, that even though we must focus on debt service, we can't do that to the detriment of the existing village. We can't forego mowing or all road service. It is not in our best interest to shut down the pool or let it go. These things need to be maintained."

Specifically, the three cent increase will result in \$90 in additional property taxes per year for a \$300,000 home; or \$45 additional per year for a \$150,000 condo.

Debt service a top concern

Debt service on the Woodland Circle extension road loan has been an urgent concern in the budgeting process following the donation of a 160-acre parcel to the Village in lieu of the \$1.4 million assessment on the property.

That property remains for sale, listed with a local agent. Frusco has taken proactive steps over the past two years to manage the unanticipated debt load, by negotiating for two years of interest-only loan payments, paying down the principal using a portion of the Village's fund balance, re-amortizing the loan, and successfully requesting a lowered fixed interest rate.

During the public hearing on the proposed budget, only one resident spoke, offering conditional support of the

increase.

"I know the Council worked long and hard on this, but I would hope the tax increase is focused on servicing our debt," said former Councilman Ed Lauer. "When that is serviced, I hope that we, as a Village and Council, will consider a reduction based on our property values and everything that goes into that process."

"I urge you to focus the tax increase on debt reduction. I support it 100 percent on that basis. I feel very strongly

that we need to get that debt put behind us," he said. "But I don't want those taxes going to something we'd like to have . . . \$90 more on a fixed income can be a lot. I'm not criticizing the budget, but I just hope the focus is on getting us [financially] healthy."

Frusco said she understood those ramifications and also had undertaken a substantial analysis of the Village fund balance.

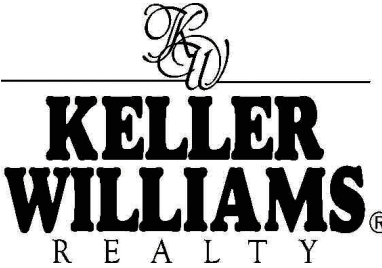


"I wish I could tell you when we will sell that property, but I can't give you that time-

line," she said. "Once it is sold, those funds will go toward paying off the debt. This has not been an easy decision."

Total debt service includes the Woodland Circle loan at \$1,897,527; the Village Green Park loan at \$180,000; and water system loans at \$388,621.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Summary

Offering a brief summary of projected revenue, Frusco (See "Budget," p. 33)


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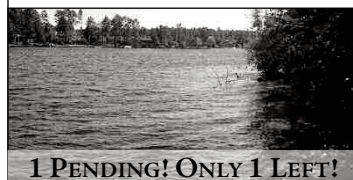
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Foxfire settles on six acres for horse lots

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Tying up a few loose ends in quick succession through four public hearings held on Tuesday, June 12, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget, with a three cent tax increase;
- Repealed the private water well ban;
- Revised an existing appearance ordinance;
- And finally put to bed the months-long controversy over minimum lot size requirements for equestrian properties.

When the Village originally created its equestrian zoning district, the ordinance required at least six acres to keep a horse. In 2005, the Foxfire Village Council increased that minimum from six acres to ten acres; however, the revised ordinance was never properly codified.

Last Fall, that oversight was discovered; and, based on a recommendation by the Village Attorney, the current Council called a public hearing to gather input before reaffirming the ten acre requirement. The Council was urged to reverse the policy by a local developer and a real estate professional to reverse the policy, who argued that a six acre minimum would increase marketability and was in keeping with

established equestrian properties in areas annexed by the Village.

As a formality, the Council unanimously moved to re-adopt the ten acre minimum — but also tasked the Planning & Zoning [P&Z] Com-

tough call, and it has been batted back and forth between ten and six acres.”

McCue said that, during his initial review last Fall, he visited a well-tended six acre property and, based on that experience, began to

the proper care of two horses on six acres, so then it becomes an issue of aesthetics and open space.”

McCue said an increase to a ten acre minimum does not necessarily guarantee the property will be better maintained or more attractive, a position Frusco supported. Nor would it guarantee that the home and various farm or stables buildings would be more spread out, since

the ordinances do not address placement of buildings.

Mayor George Erickson noted that the revised ordinance was carefully written to allow the Village to monitor equestrian properties. Specifically, the ordinance states that the horse owner is responsible for adequate pasture; odor and insect control; and management of waste and run-off from the prop-

(See “Foxfire,” p. 31)

“The sale of more property in Foxfire is a valid consideration to increase our tax base. Our interests with developers and Realtors are not always aligned, but here they are.”
— Foxfire Councilman Mick McCue

mittee with reevaluating the requirement.

Over the course of several months, the issue became increasingly heated as the Planning & Zoning Committee returned with a unanimous recommendation in favor of retaining the ten acre minimum, while others argued that six acres was adequate — both in terms of proper horse management and aesthetics of the property itself.

Back on the agenda in June for consideration, the controversy appeared to have run its course, as the public hearing drew no words of support or opposition for either position.

“I think it is imperative to discuss this again before we vote,” said Councilman Mick McCue. “I want to put on record some of the way I’ve been thinking. This was a

question the need for ten acres.

“We have had experts come in to talk to us, including a veterinarian and Animal Control; we talked to our own Planning & Zoning Board; and we looked at the requirements for our neighboring horse properties and developments,” he said. “In my mind, there is no issue on

Church hosts American Heritage Concert

Join the West End United Methodist Church as they present an American Heritage Concert on Sunday, June 24 at 4 pm.

The Church will present a program of Patriotic Music, Guest Musicians, and an Old Fashioned Sing-a-long. Following the pro-

gram, there will be apple pie and ice cream served in the Fellowship Hall. Please come for this time of celebration and fellowship.

West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

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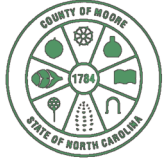
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16 Lentil Soup ♥	17 Vichyssoise	18 Cream of Zucchini	19 Chicken Dumpling	20 Curried Cauliflower Soup ♥
Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	Lemon Chicken with Rosemary Orzo	Beef Enchiladas Dinner ♥	Pecan Crusted Tilapia Dinner	Island Pork Tenderloin Dinner ♥
23 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥	24 Split Pea with Ham Soup	25 Summer Vegetable Soup ♥	26 Chilled Cucumber Soup	27 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥
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Bojangles' offer touched off broader debate

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Moore County Board of Commissioners met three times in closed session to consider an offer from Bojangles' to purchase 1.3 acres of county property in the Carriage Oaks Center in Carthage — on October 18, 2011, February 7, 2012, and May 15, 2012.

Almost everything said in

those sixty minutes of debate, under North Carolina's Open Meetings Law, should have been discussed in open, not closed session, according to Attorney Mike Tadych, of Stevens Martin Vaughn & Tadych, PLLC, a Raleigh firm that specializes in Open Meetings and Public Records issues.

That's because, far from simply discussing how best to sell a piece of property, the five Commissioners used

those meetings to debate how best to accommodate the future space needs of County government.

A broader debate

At the center of that debate lay two competing options:

- The expansion of the Carriage Oaks Center, favored by Commissioner Tim Lea, or
- The acquisition of thirty-two acres off Pinehurst Avenue in Carthage, near the current Moore County Office Park, to serve as the site for a new Administration Building, a option favored by Commissioner's Chairman Larry Caddell.

The offer from Bojangles' landed annoyingly in the middle of this debate. But what was at first an annoyance

came, for some Commissioners, to be seen as an opportunity — as a source of cash that could pay for the Pinehurst Avenue expansion.

The NC General Statutes provide a handful of reasons that local governments may enter closed session deliberations. Discussing the County's strategy for addressing long-term space needs is not among them.

The Clerk to the Board posted audio recordings of the three closed sessions on the County website Thursday afternoon; the account that follows is based on a careful review of those recordings.

The core issue

The Bojangles' offer touched a key problem the Moore County Board of Commis-

sioners faces — one that Commissioner Nick Picerno explained during the May 15, 2102 Closed Session. Bringing Commissioner Craig Kennedy, the rookie on the Board, up to speed, Picerno explained that, when he joined the Board three years ago, one of the key goals was to develop "a vision of where the County would be in thirty to forty years: what property we would need, where people would be located, what would be the best for our citizens, where they would come and get their services, how we could consolidate."

"Unfortunately, we got into this war about the Public Safety Center," Picerno continued, "and we lost our vision. We really never had (See "Closed," p. 24)

Picerno: Board relied on attorney's advice

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



If it happened, it was a mistake — not some attempt to pull one over on the public. That's the bottom line for Nick Picerno, who served as the Chairman of Moore County's Board of Commissioners during the first of three closed session in which the Board discussed an offer from Bojangles' to purchase 1.3 acres of County property in Carthage's former Carriage Oaks Shopping Center.

"You don't go into these things try to do anything illegal," Picerno said. "You go into them thinking about how you can best serve the taxpayers."

"Trying to conceal it from the public is the farthest thing from my mind," he added.

Thinking about a swap

"Our attorney told us that what we did in October was fine," Picerno told *The Times*, "because we were discussing swapping land, not selling land."

Picerno explained that, prior to the October 18, 2011 closed session in which the offer was first discussed, he, as Chairman, approached County Attorney Misty Leland to ask her whether the Board

could discuss a land swap in closed session. Knowing that the County had received an offer for the purchase of property, and knowing that the County had its eye on some parcels elsewhere in Carthage, Picerno wondered if a land swap might be possible.

"I went to her ahead of the meeting," Picerno told *The Times*. "I was following the attorney's advice. If she was wrong, she was wrong."

The discussion of a land swap is, in fact, legal under North Carolina's Open Meetings Law, according to Attorney Mike Tadych, of Stevens Martin Vaughn & Tadych, PLLC, a Raleigh firm that specializes in Open Meetings and Public Records issues.

And, late in the October 18 Closed Session, Picerno did in fact bring up the possibility of a swap. But the bulk of that fourteen minute session was devoted to a discussion of the Bojangles' offer to purchase land and the County's options for expanding its own operations at Carriage Oaks.

"The basis of that Closed Session is that we were looking at a potential swap of land," Picerno told *The Times*. "If that had been discussed in Open Session, then the owner of that land would have said 'I've got 'em,' and raised the price."

(See "Picerno," p. 24)

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New manager wants barn filled with kids

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A military brat who lived all over the world before earning a Master's degree in applied mathematics — that's not the resumé you'd expect of a stables manager, but then you haven't yet met Kate.

Hired just two weeks ago to take over management of the Seven Lakes Stables — and in the midst of swirling controversies over costs, usage, and consideration of a major policy shift towards pay-to-play fees for community amenities — Kate Pennington may be a breath of fresh air that is much needed at the facility.

And when zeroing in on her qualifications to take the job, it wasn't so much her degree as her pedigree that mattered.

"My whole family has owned horses," she said. "There are pictures of my mother pregnant with me on a horse and of me in a backpack riding with my father on a horse. My father was in the Navy [and is currently serving as a government contractor in Afghanistan], so we moved around; but every Summer I spent with my grandma and did horses."

Pennington started riding the traditional way: first on a pony, then moving up to horses, before owning her first horse at sixteen. By that time, her family had settled in Moore County and — while still in high school — Pennington started working professionally with hunting and show horses at the Fox Track training center.

After college, Pennington intended to become an environmental scientist and even worked, briefly, for the Department of Defense. But she was unfulfilled.

"Horses are what make me happy," she explained. "I worked in an office, and it was boring. I went to college like my dad wanted, but then I said, 'That's it! I did it, and now it's time for me to do what I want.'"

And what she wanted was to come home to Moore

County, where she continues to work with horse events, fox hunting, and other equestrian pursuits.

Settling quickly into a new routine at the Seven Lakes Stables, she said she is very impressed with the quality of the horses.

"They are sweethearts. Karen [Reeder, the former stable manager] did a fine job of selecting trail horses. They are just really nice horses," she said.

An early decision was to more than double the num-

ber of horse camps scheduled this Summer. The camps are a popular recreation program that always fills to capacity. In fact, of the eight camps added to the schedule, all have filled. There are two spots still available for Pony Camp, scheduled July 16-20 — and those are going fast.

"I am excited about getting more kids involved with the stables," Pennington said. "Even if they are not riding, I want people to come out to the barn to pet the ponies

and visit the horses. I want this barn full of kids!"

Pennington's enthusiasm for reaching out to children is based in her belief that her own success in school was the result of long hours working with horses.

"I was at the barn every-day," she said. "And if you're at the barn, you know what kids are doing — they're learning responsibility. They

are riding, and grooming, and cleaning."

"I like to train up older kids who can then help with the younger kids. It is a great leadership tool. You give them a sense of responsibility and that makes you want to be a good example and role model for the younger kids."

Pennington also hopes working at the barn will foster

(See "Manager," p. 33)



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Seven Lakers come through for Scouts

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

An impromptu request for prayers and assistance during a Bible study prompted an outpouring of support for Boy Scout Troop 86 of Candor, from the Seven Lakes community and beyond.

Reorganized last year by Scoutmaster Mike Wallace, the troop had begun acquiring supplies for camping and other outdoor activities. However, proper uniforms — which can be costly, especially for families in need — were not a priority.

"We held fundraisers and had some donations, but we put all that money into purchasing equipment and so we could send the boys to summer camp [Boy Scout Resident Camp]," explained Assistant Scoutmaster Charlene Wallace.

"But then I read they would need uniforms for meals and certain ceremonies at camp. I was concerned their poverty would show. That the boys would stand out for what they did not have. I thought it was awful that kids who had worked so hard would not be recognized as real scouts."

Wallace said they had purchased merit badge sashes for the nine boys of Troop 86, but that was all.

Frustrated and disappointed, she was moved to share their struggle during a Bible study in May, before a meeting of women she described as very close-knit.

One of those ladies, Roberta Robinson of Seven Lakes South, quickly stepped into what has become a familiar role of helping out those in need and started making contacts and organizing assistance for the troop. Others did the same, with an appeal for Troop 86 broadcast on Facebook and in the pages of *The Times*.

"Roberta came up and said, 'I know some people,' and she got it done," said Wallace, with tears in her eyes.

Donations of supplies and financial assistance came through; and the scouts are now fully-uniformed, with

shirts, pants, belts, sashes, and even a few hats. In addition, the troop was able to stockpile some donated shirts that will be offered to new members as they join; and they accumulated a pile of "wish list" items, including

coolers, a mess kit and tarp, sleeping bags, fishing rods, and ten plastic totes for storage.

Bicycles for the boys — necessary for some merit badge work — were also a top priority; and Wallace said

three bikes were donated, along with one helmet. Two of the bikes are in good working order and another needs repair, but Wallace said she is thrilled and overwhelmed by all of the support.

Even more important, Wal-

lace said a local Seven Lakes cycling enthusiast has reached out to the scouts and offered to teach bike maintenance, and help them train for the merit badge mileage requirements.

(See "Scouts," p. 30)



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Tournament raises nearly \$12,000 for Backpack Pals

For the past six years, Seven Lakers for Backpack Pals have conducted a benefit golf tournament at Beacon Ridge Country Club.

This year, the tournament, chaired by Ginger Finney assisted by Jo Nicholas and committee members, Peggy and Larry McCallum, Mike Finney, Joe and Sue Sikes, Rosemary Weber, Debbie Bobbitt, Dot Lawless, Gary LaRouche, Jo Copper, Sharon Clatchey and Jim Ferguson netted a record, \$11,663 for the Backpack Pals program. 116 golfers played in the Captain's Choice event.

Major sponsors of the event

were Lee Electrical Construction and North Carolina Electric Cooperatives. Supporting them were eleven Corporate Sponsors, thirty-three tee and green sponsors and seventy-nine prize donors from all across Moore County.

Winners of the Captain's Choice Event

1st Flight – 1st Place – Harris Printing (Justin Garner, Doug Harris, Joey Kimball & Garrett Lovin); 2nd Place – Don Truesdell, John Shaughnessy, Bruce Bedder & Butch Allen

2nd Flight – 1st Place – Suzy Carlton, Charlie Carlton,

Bob Burwell & Lisa Chandler; 2nd Place – Don McCallum, Donna Langdon, David McCallum & Phil Ward

3rd Flight – 1st Place – Mike Shapiro, Dawn Shapiro, Joe Krallinger & Hilde Krallinger; 2nd Place – Ken Jenkins, Jim Davis, Don Gerhardt & Jack Fetzer

Longest Drive – Female – Lisa Chandler; Male Garrett Lovin

Straightest Drive – Paul Sowe

Closest to the Pin – #5 – Bob Burwell; #12 – Jim Abbott



Ginger Finney (at right), Chair of the 6th Annual Seven Lakers for Backpack Pals Golf Benefit Tournament presented a check to Linda Hubbard, Director, Backpack Pals, Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina for \$11,633. Ginger is pictured with Linda and volunteer Sheila Henderson checking new products that will be included in the packs this Fall.

Amateur Radio Field Days

To most amateur radio enthusiasts, hams, Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, Fun!

This year Field Day will be held at Cannon Park, Pinehurst, near the intersection of State route 211 and Rattlesnake Trail hosted by the Moore County Amateur Radio Society (MOCARS), beginning at 2 pm, Saturday, June 23 until 12 noon, Sunday June 24.

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The group welcomes everyone to stop and explore the exciting world of amateur

radio. For more information contact: James D Johnson, 910-400-3019.

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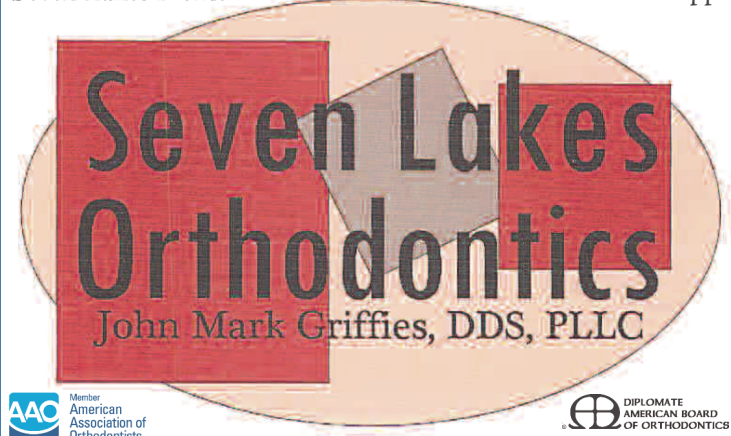
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Kiwanians lunch at WEE

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On Tuesday, April 17, West End Elementary entertained the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club at lunch at their school.

Leigh Ann McClendon, Principal, arranged this in honor of the many years of service the local Kiwanians have given to the WEE facility and its children.

Afterward, four fifth-graders, Isabella Arnot, Andrew Bounthanon, Alyssa Kushner, and Anthony Nuzzo, delivered a computer power-point presentation – totally of their own creation – on the subject of the school's newly developed vegetable garden.

Numerous beds displayed their initial seedling's growth of this year's spring plantings of lettuce, kale, carrots, beans, and the like. Interestingly, many of the individual gardens will produce vegetable items from around the world which are not normally grown here in the USA.

Brad Thompson, a fifth grade teacher, praised the entire class for their enthusiasm, hard work, and creativity in developing these interesting and bountiful gardens.

The children's goal is to have an entirely "green approved" operation. Towards that end they have put in a self-sustaining watering system utilizing rain water. A mulch-pile for future fertilizing has been started. Part of this program is slanted towards usage of these home-grown vegetables in their school's cafeteria.

Adding to the authentication of the "world-wide" influence, the children have made a Cobb Oven. This unit is very large, reaching almost five feet in height. Formed from cinder block, natural soil, clay, and water, the oven resembles a small Eskimo igloo in shape.

The oven is lined with bricks that were home-made from dirt and straw by the

kids. Wood-fired, the oven can get to an internal temperature of 600 degrees and is used to actually cook some of the produce.

An inquiry was made seeking information as to protecting the gardens from rabbits, deer, and other varmints. Mrs. McClendon said, "while some of the area has a chain link fence, we think the main deterrent is opportunistically provided by a pair of nesting red-tail hawks situated right over our cultivated area. So

far we have had no problems."

After the computer presentation and garden walk-thru, the Kiwanians stayed on at the school and helped the kindergarten classes assemble blue-bird houses.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets Tuesdays at the Seven Lakes Country Club at 11:30 am. Their mission is "Serving the Community and its Children."

Guests are always welcome.



West End Elementary students invited members of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club for lunch.

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Some uncertainties remain for school funding

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Addressing the Monday, June 11 meeting of the Board of Education

Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence thanked those who turned out at a Board of Commissioner public Hearing to support the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 local budget funding request, which was fully funded at \$26 million.

Spence told School Board members that he anticipates full funding from the State, with some possibility of additional funding based on pending action at the NC General Assembly.

However, Spence highlighted three areas of concern for next year's funding.

The first is with a budget before the US Senate that, unlike the House of Representatives budget, would cut \$260 million in expiring "Edu-Jobs" funding.

MCS Finance Director Mike Griffin told *The Times* the expiration of that funding could cost Moore County \$2 million. Griffin said, if approved this funding would replace certain federal stimulus funding that is expiring.

Secondly, the NC Senate's budget does not include any salary increases for teachers, but does include a 1.2 percent salary increase for other permanent state employees.

Thirdly, the NC Senate's budget does not include additional Pre-Kindergarten slots, and would limit enrollment in Pre-K programs.

"For any of you with passion around the budget, or any of you who would like to see us receiving the money to fully fund education, or those of you who are keenly interested in Pre-K, or those of you who feel if state employees are receiving raises our teachers deserve those same raises," said Spence, "I encourage you to contact your legislators."

School start times to change

Next year MCS school start times will be adjusted, Spence said. Letters have been sent home to explain the new start times, and reminders will be sent out as it gets closer to the beginning of the school year in August. New start times are also posted on the MCS website.

By limiting the number of buses on the road this year, the school system was able to save \$400,000, Spence reported. "We want to make sure those savings continue in the district," he added.

Spence also thanked the entire MCS community — include parents, teachers, and administrators — for a great 2011-2012 school year.

Facilities Report

The Board approved applying \$10.9 million in savings MCS' Phase 1 Capital Improvement projects — funded through bonds approved by the voters in 2007 — to the next capital improvement phase for MCS.

Facility Chairwoman Laura Lang explained that Phase 2 of the Capital Improvement Plan includes: auxiliary gymnasiums at both Pinecrest High and Union Pines High, as well as modernizations for the three county high schools to include: HVAC, roofing, electrical, plumbing, security and technology.

An additional \$100,000 from lottery funds will also be used to help pay for the updates needed.

The next step is for the Moore County Board of Commissioners to review and approve the request.

"We are very lucky to have a good working relationship with our County Commissioners," said Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Farren.

"This proposal is well thought out," said Spence. "I feel like this work is responsive to our Community."

Voters approved \$52 million in school bonds in 2007; those funds can only be used for capital projects.

The Board approved an

additional \$170,000 for a cafeteria expansion at Union Pines High School. The extra funding will come from lottery funds for \$100,000, child nutrition funds for \$50,000, and \$20,000 from anticipated overall project savings.

Other Business

Other Business conducted during the Board's Monday June 11 meeting included:

- Spence introduced three new administrative personnel during Monday night's meeting: new assistant principal

Dante Poole of Union Pines, Jonathan Jessup as the new principal of North Moore High School, and Deputy Superintendent Mark Bergin.

- Dr. Eric Porter reported that 839 seniors graduated

(See "MCS," p. 30)

 <p>REDUCED!</p> <p>103 SHEROFF Like new (2005) 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Split Plan Close to Johnson Point. \$259,000</p>	 <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>114 OWENS CIRCLE Immaculate and recently-updated 3BR, 2 BA Split Plan. \$235,000</p>	 <p>REDUCED!</p> <p>102 THOMAS POINT 3 BD, 2 BA, screened porch close to Johnson Pt and BR Country Club. \$179,900</p>
 <p>147 EDGEWATER 3 bedroom 3 bath w/walk out, move in ready on Echo in SLN \$324,900</p>	 <p>REDUCED!</p> <p>103 STANDISH POINT Outstanding 4 bedroom 3 bath Lakefront on Lake Auman. \$799,000</p>	 <p>177 MORRIS DRIVE 3BD, 3.5 all brick, lake front home. Perfect for evening outdoor living. \$649,900</p>
 <p>630 McLENDON HILLS DR. LOT #103 Premium .93 acre lake front lot in the equestrian community of McLendon Hills. \$335,000</p>	 <p>SOLD!</p> <p>105 ROUND OAK COURT All Brick Lake Front Home on Lake Longleaf in SL North. \$269,900</p>	 <p>104 FOGLEMAN COURT 3BD, 2BA on a private cul de sac near the back gate in SLW \$237,500</p>

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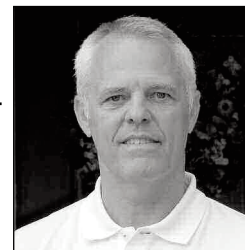
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In memory of . . .

Dorothy "Jean" Downer, 87, formerly of Seven Lakes, died on Friday, June 15 in Fairfield, CT.

Mrs. Downer was born in Philadelphia, PA, daughter of Peter and Caroline Beck. She attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls, and served in the US Navy during WW II as a Wave in the hospital corps. She and her husband Prescott moved to North Carolina in 1982.

Mrs. Downer was active in her churches and volunteer organizations, and charities, including the American Red Cross, Camp Fire Girls and was the founder of the Seven Lakes Diamonds.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Louis "Bud" Beck; and her husbands, Harold "John" Amann and Prescott Downer.

Survivors include sons, David Amann of British Columbia, Canada and Peter Amann of British Columbia; daughters, Carolyn Morgano, of Orchard Park, NY; Susan Durham of Fairfield, CT; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial services and interment will be private at Pine Hill Cemetery, Gowanda, NY.

Memorials may made to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, 555 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven, CT 06511.

Tayden Shane Locklear, 6-year-old son of Shane and Tia Garner Locklear, of West End, died Friday, June 15, at Duke University Hospital from a brain tumor.

Funeral services were Tuesday, June 19, at Halls Memorial Church conducted by the Rev. John Stinnett. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Tayden was born in Guilford County and was a student in Mrs. Blue's kindergarten class at West End Elementary School. He always looked forward to camping with his family and playing in the water. He was a happy boy and, even after being diagnosed with a brain tumor in January, he believed he would get better.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by brothers and sister, Daylon, Shania and Dakota; maternal grandparents, Debbie and Joe Garner, of Greensboro; paternal grandparents, Natalie Locklear and Less Oxendine, of Carthage; maternal great-grandparents, Lucille Osborne, of Greensboro, and Betty and Jimmy Gaines, of Coleridge; paternal great-grandparents, Nathan and Betty Locklear, of Stanley.

Memorials may be made to the Tayden Locklear Memorial Fund, c/o First Bank, PO Box 115, Carthage, NC, or any First Bank branch location.

Fry & Prickett Funeral Home is caring for the Locklear family.

Paul W. Hartung, Jr., 84, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, June 9, at his Jackson Township residence, Canton, Ohio.

Mr. Hartung was a Canton native. His parents were Paul W. Hartung Sr. and Leona (Hilty) Hartung. He graduated from Lehman in 1945.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp. After his service, he attended Kent State for one semester before transferring to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In 1951, he joined the Belden Brick Company and was the third generation of Hartungs to work there following his grandfather L.B. and father Paul Sr. He spent his entire 42 year professional career at Belden, retiring as Vice President 1993. He served on the Board until 2009.

Mr. Hartung served on various boards and fundraisers over the years including the Philomatheon Society and the Canton Preservation Society. He was a member of Brookside Country Club and Church of the Covenant.

Mr. & Mrs. Hartung had a winter home in Seven Lakes. He was a member of The Chapel in the Pines.

He was preceded in death by his son Grant, wife Nancy,

and sister, Marnie Mitchell.

Survivors include his daughter Barbara Smith of Bristol, VA; son P.W. "Wick" Hartung, III of Canton, OH; son Tom Hartung of Laguna in Niguel, CA; a sister Beverly Deuble and brother David Hartung; along with ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Canton Preservation Society, 131 Wertz Ave, Canton, Ohio 44708, to support the Hartung House which was his grandparent's home, now serving as the Canton Preservation Society offices. Shriver Funeral Homes & Cremation Service of Canton, Ohio is assisting the family.

Madeline Claire Will, age 61, of Seven Lakes, died on June 8, at Kindred Hospital, Greensboro. She was born in Jamaica, New York to the late Joseph and Josephine Will.

She was a successful business woman and enjoyed playing Majohng and Scrabble with her many friends.

Survivors include a brother

Fredrick Will of Marco Island, FL; sister Christine LoBello of Knoxville, TN; her nephew Lee LoBello and niece Vincenza LoBello.

A memorial service was held on Monday, June 11, at Chapel in the Pines. Interment will be at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Seven Lakes Beautification Committee c/o Seven Lakes Landowners Association, 501 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. in Seven Lakes assisted the family.

William A. Graff, 88, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, May 26 in Harrisburg, PA. He was born in Highland, Illinois, grew up there, and attended the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, earning a Ph.D in Ceramic Science in 1949.

Mr. Graff joined the Lamp Glass Department of General Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio. He worked for thirty-eight years in the research and development of glass materials and processes. The holder of numerous patents, some of

his work was an integral part of early space exploration as well as significant development of materials used in the field of electronics.

After retiring from GE, he and his wife, Roberta moved to Seven Lakes, where they built a home on Pineneedle Drive. During their twelve years in Seven Lakes, Mr. Graff was an active member of the West End Presbyterian Church and the Seven Lakes Tennis Club.

In 1999, they relocated to Green Ridge Village, a Presbyterian Senior Living Community in Newville, PA.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Roberta; son A. Steven Graff of Falls Church, VA; daughter, Trudy G. Bailey of Carlisle, PA; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held on Sunday, July 8 at the First Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, PA.

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Planning Board endorses Working Lands Plan

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Taking action on the Working Lands Protection Plan for a second time, Moore County's Planning Board unanimously recommended the revised study for approval by the Board of Commissioners during the Thursday, June 7 meeting.

The original draft that won the Planning Board's recommendation last Fall drew criticism during a public hearing called by the Board of Commissioners, and was returned to Planning staff for additional input.

In mid-January 2012, a series of three public meetings were held and, working cooperatively with dissenting residents, the Planning staff updated the plan so that it no longer includes a controversial buffer zone near Fort Bragg.

A comprehensive but non-regulatory document, the Working Lands Protection Plan provides a comprehensive analysis of farm and forest industries in the county, identifies various challenges and opportunities, and suggests strategies and actions that will help defend these vital lands. Agricultural cropland, pastures, and forestland encompass nearly three-quarters of the total land mass of Moore County and are considered essential elements that contribute to the rural character of the area, improve the quality of life for all residents, and also provide economic opportunities and environmental services.

The original draft referenced a five-mile protective perimeter around Fort Bragg's — a significant buffer that

stretched into Moore and five other nearby counties and had potential impact on many private properties and a significant portion of downtown Southern Pines.

After revisions, the recommended draft approved by the Planning Board no longer includes the buffer zone.

"Any references would be incidental," said Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter.

Offering strong support for the plan, John McDonald, who chairs the Moore County Soils and Water Conservation District Board, was the only resident to address the Planning Board during the June 7 public hearing.

McDonald praised Jeremy Rust and the Planning department and said all comments offered at the public meetings had been preserved and made available for review.

"We have had input from the farming and non-farming community . . . and it was a very good process," he said.

Speaking for the sole member of his Board who refused to endorse the plan, McDon-

ald said that resident has opposed the document since the initial draft, had chosen not to participate in the revision discussion, and, simply put, objected to the involvement of government in the property rights of citizens.

"So this is a philosophical difference more than a procedural difference?" asked Planning Member Bernard Capstick.

McDonald responded affirmatively.

With no other discussion, the Board unanimously recommended the revised Working Lands Protection Plan for adoption by the County Commissioners.

Other business

In other business on June 7, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Heard from Debra Ensminger, Planning & Community Development Director, that the office has been restructured into two divisions, with Tim Emmert promoted to Planning Supervisor.
- Heard from Ensminger that

staff are continuing to work with local municipalities on watershed allocation related to a redistribution of 46,000 acres from the

county to various towns. She anticipated the updated map would be on the August meeting agenda for discussion.



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128 Vanore Road, SL West – Lot 4207 Sec. Blackwood
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102 Donnell Pt – Lot 4283, Seven Lakes
Large corner lot at Dennis and Donnell Pt. with large water views.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$62,500

111 Dubose Drive Seven Lakes West, Lot 5161 Westwood Sec
Wonderful building lot on cul-de-sac surrounded by beautiful homes. Lot slopes away from the street lending itself to a walk-out lower level.
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124 Vanore Rd – Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West
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147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173
Good building lot across the street from Lake Auman. Located near the recreation facilities and the main gate.
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122 Lawrence Overlook - Seven Lakes West Lot 4188
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McPoland**

Menchville High School
Newport News, VA

Alexis is the granddaughter of Bob and Jackie Simpson of Seven Lakes West.

She will attend Virginia Commonwealth College, Richmond, VA majoring in history.



**Troy
Yarish**

Westhill High School
Stamford, CT

Troy is the son of William A. Yarish of Whispering Pines and the grandson of William J. and Brenda Yarish of Seven Lakes North.



**Skye Nichole
Harris**

Ashford University
Clinton, IA

Skye is the granddaughter of Bob and Jackie Simpson of Seven Lakes West.

She received a Master degree in Education specializing in early childhood education.



**Brittany Faye
Sullivan**

Boston University
School of Communications
Boston, MA

Brittany is the granddaughter of Bob and Jackie Simpson of Seven Lakes West.

She received a degree majoring in Public Relations with a minor in Western Art History.

Cooking with Herbs

Early in May, the Sandhills Horticultural Society held a workshop for participants to learn how to grow herbs and create their own container gardens to take home. Now, Shawna Smith will teach everyone how to use herbs in cooking. Learn about which herbs go best with what food and then sample several dishes that Smith will prepare. Recipes will be handed out. Whether you grow your own herbs or pick them up at a Farmers Market, this is a workshop you won't want to miss.

Join the Society on Saturday, June 30, 10:30 am to 12 Noon at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Cost is \$5 Horticultural Society members and \$10 for non-members. To register, call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882.

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Panel begins rewrite of 1999 Land Use Plan

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



As a roadmap for growth, the Moore County Land Use Plan is the foundation document

for all planning-related decisions. Originally adopted in 1999, the plan is now thirteen years old and, earlier this Spring, the Moore County Board of Commissioners assigned a nearly thirty member committee the task of updating it.

In addition to reviewing the plan's language, the committee — which includes elected municipal officials, representatives of various organizations, and other interested stakeholders — has two main goals: to incorporate into the plan a master water and sewer infrastructure solution and to integrate the plans of the Moore County school system.

"Try to evaluate what you, as an individual, believe is of merit and should be retained; and what you believe should be challenged in part or in entirety," recommended Chairman Robert Hayter, after opening the floor for discussion during the Monday, June 18, meeting of the Moore County Land Use Plan Steering Committee. "There are no rights or wrongs in this process at this point."

Hayter, who also chairs the Moore County Planning Board, suggested — for the sake of efficiency — that points of interest should be flagged for detailed discussion at a later time.

"I don't want this process to get too bogged down," he said. "Right now this is analytical and dialogue-based. We are not at a decision-making place."

One major hurdle for the group is attracting input and interest from the general public, a difference from the 1999 process, which took place before Moore County had countywide zoning, and property owners were apprehensive about the impact of the process on their own property.

"Public interest was much higher and more acute," Hayter said, "whereas now, we are focused on a much more broad-based realignment of the Land Use Plan. We have a little more of a passive public than in the past."

Setting goals

Only eight pages in length, the 1999 Land Use Plan concisely lays out a specific vision, as well as objectives and strategies to achieve seven stated goals.

The language that was used in the plan — particularly within the goals — is intentionally expansive and broad enough to cover a range of situations. These "sweeping statements," as some committee members termed them, quickly drew comments; and a lengthy discussion ensued, most notably over the first two goals in the original Land Use Plan.

Goal 1 states: "Preserve and protect the rural, agricultural nature of the County of Moore."

"Agriculture has probably changed more in the last thirteen years than the previous forty," said Steering Committee Member David

Cummings, a former Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners. While "rural" is still an accurate description of much of the county's open space, Cummings said, attaching the term "agricultural" so prominently as a goal was perhaps too restrictive and did not reflect the current situation. Cummings was serving on the Board of Commissioners when the original Land Use Plan was approved in 1999.

"Farmers may need to sell their land," he explained. "I want to make sure we don't stop that." He noted that the same concern was present during the development of the original plan. "I want a happy medium, so people could still develop land if they needed to."

The committee discussed the possibility of designating some areas as more sensitive to development — an issue that would be raised again during a brief discussion of environmental stewardship — but Hayter and Committee Member Mike Wilson both pointed out that there are already options to designate an area for protection as a Voluntary Agricultural Dis-

trict.

"How can we fairly delineate an area, but make it so that it is not so uncertain or nebulous that it has no meaning?" asked Hayter.

Dr. John Monroe, a committee member who also participated in the Small Area A Plan Steering Committee agreed.

"It's not just the rural character but the ambiance," he said. "What is the view? How do we want to live? How do you broaden that statement

of Goal 1 to accommodate change in our county culture? Maybe we aren't agricultural-based anymore. Maybe we are rural with forests and open space versus farmed fields; but I agree our first goal needs to flow a little more."

Some words carry more weight — or baggage

Committee Member Bill Cochrane said he did not disagree with setting goals (See "Land Use," p. 34)

Free Zumba Class

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Tuesday evening from 7 – 8 pm, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center.

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 3)

Bruce Keyser said public comment in previous Board meetings has encouraged the Board to focus on the East Gate, rather than Johnson Point, at this time.

"We can't keep putting this off," said McCarthy who explained that a theft occurred at Johnson Point in the past week.

"We're not," replied Keyser. "But we need a better idea of our priorities."

During member comments, retired Safety and Security Director John Hoffmann said, "It was my experience that you can't have enough cameras. If you do have enough, it tends to not be affordable."

Hoffmann said two cameras at Johnson Point is not enough, in his opinion.

"The cameras have some detouring value," said Hoffmann, "but almost no value when it comes to proving and then getting a conviction and restitution to your owners."

Stevens recommended that McCarthy go back to the Security Committee, fine tune their request, and then represent it to the Board.

In other Security news, McCarthy said roving security patrol will begin on June 15, covering Fridays and Saturdays from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, and on other days at McCarthy's discretion.

Lake and Dam Report

In a seven-to-one vote, with Director Rosemary Weber opposed, the Board approved the installation of an electronic gate at the boat storage area for a price not to exceed \$7500. The gate will replace the current manual gate at the facility and comes with a one year warranty on labor and parts.

Keyser reported that the Lake and Dam Committee agreed to allow the Piranhas swim team from Seven Lakes Health & Fitness to use the swimming area at Johnson Point on the evenings of June 18 and June 20.

A comprehensive study of Lake Auman has been completed, Keyser said, and the results are posted on the community website for fur-

ther review.

Paving on the remediation areas of the dam has been postponed due to weather.

A volunteer lake security patrol has been reinstated, Keyser said, in cooperation with the Lake Auman Sports Club, and will work in conjunction with the Lake Security Officer.

Amenities Report

Amenities Director Rosemary Weber said the West Side Park Community Center's [WSPCC] kitchen has been organized and inventoried. It has also been restocked with \$500 worth of kitchen appliances and utensils.

The pool rules have been reviewed and are in place. More benches may need to be purchased to add or replace existing ones throughout the community, Weber said.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that, as long as an event is Board-sponsored, tables or chairs from the downstairs areas of the WSPCC can be used. Use of these will not be extended to any clubs in the community. Secretary Sessler said some type of rule needs to be put into place regarding this and it should be handled by the CAS team.

Weber will be using tables from the WSPCC for the upcoming community picnic at Johnson Point on June 23 at 4:00 pm. Weber said tickets need to be picked up ahead of time at the office and will need to be presented

at the picnic. The picnic will have a DJ, food, and games.

Events Report

Over forty people attended the Self Defense class held on Monday, June 11 Weber reported.

A Boat Safety Class will be conducted at the Community Center on Wednesday, June 27 at 6:30 pm, reviewing the rules and regulations governing boating in North Carolina.

July 4 festivities will begin with the Kid's Parade at 10:00 am at the Community Center, followed by the boat parade at 1 pm at Pine Island. Fireworks will begin at dusk.

The Johnson Point Summer Concert Series continues on Friday, July 6 at 7:00 pm and will feature the Redline Band. The 50/50 raffle will benefit the Moore County Special Olympics.

The Durham Bulls game bus trip has been canceled due to lack of sign ups, Weber said.

On August 14, the Events Committee will host a hand gun safety class at no charge to the community. The class will be held at WSPCC beginning at 6:30 pm. Weber asked that participants sign up for the class either with the CAS office or by emailing her.

Infrastructure Report

Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman said vegetation has been planted at the lower Lakeway Mall pond dam with work on the backside of the dam expected to begin next week.

Other Infrastructure news reported by Pierman included:

- Work on a guardrail and walking path continues at the Lakeway Mall pond dam.
- Carriage Park Dam number four has been surveyed, and drilling is being done to investigate the condition of the overflow and spillway pipes.
- An investigation is underway of road deterioration caused by storm water drainage from Beacon Ridge Country Club.
- Moore County will be doing the repaving on Dennis Circle, Pierman said.
- Work on the maintenance building is complete; the next step is to put a lock on the gate.
- The Committee is investigating the cost of fire hydrant packages.
- The Board approved the appointment of Bruce MacDonald to the Infrastructure Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Cash disbursements for

last month were \$82,500, reported Treasurer Don Freiert. Unusual expenses for the month included the lake study for \$4,400, planting vegetation at the lower pond dam for \$2,900, the storage building for \$13,000, and the first installment of the firework displays for \$5,800.

Freiert reported that \$50,000 was placed into a new CD which matures in ten years. \$250,000 in pre-paid dues was transferred into a Merrill Lynch money market fund. Another \$95,000 was placed into a step-up CD.

Manager's Report

Signs warning residents to "Beware of Snakes" have been posted near the dam at Johnson Point, reported Community Manager Jeanette Mendenhall. The signs have replaced the speed limit signs that were posted. The new yard waste sign with hours of operation has also been installed.

(See "Westside," p. 20)

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

ication ceremony for the Public Safety Center will be held upon its completion.

Land transferred from Airport to County

After a spirited debate between Moore County Airport Authority attorney Tom Van Camp and Commissioner Tim Lea, the Board approved a special warranty deed that transfers land currently titled to the Airport Authority to Moore County.

The sticking point, for Lea, were deed restrictions that would prevent the County from selling the land without the Airport Authority's approval.

The Board was presented with two options during Tuesday night's meeting — one with the deed restrictions and one without. But Van Camp told the Commissioners the Authority would only transfer the land was if the County agreed to the Option 2, with the deed restrictions.

"Option one is not an option," VanCamp said, arguing that neither the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] nor NC Senate Bill 942, which created the Moore County Airport Authority, allow the Authority to give up control over the airport and the land

that buffers it.

"Whatever land is deeded to the County, I wanted it to have an identical status as the existing property," said Van Camp, "And the existing property falls within the umbrella of Senate Bill 942."

The NC Senate passed Session Bill 942 in 1993, creating an Authority to operate and maintain the Moore County Airport facilities. Individuals on the Airport Authority are appointed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lea saw the additional language in Option 2 — that Moore County must refer to the Airport Authority before selling the land — as a way for the Airport to control what the County decides to do with the land.

"Why at this point should the Moore County Board of Commissioners give up their right to take whatever action they deem necessary for this property?" asked Lea. "Why should we have to go and ask permission to the Airport Authority for us to take any action where this property is concerned, when that right was given to us by the Moore County taxpayers?"

"You gave up complete control over the operation of the Moore County Airport," said Van Camp, referring to Sen-

ate Bill 942. "Under the law, we are not obligated to transfer it [the land] but we are happy to."

Whether the County or the Airport Authority owns the property, the land is ultimately controlled by the FAA, explained Van Camp. Neither can deviate from Senate Bill 942. "The FAA won't permit that," he said.

Senate Bill 942 governs the Authority's and County's rights with respect to the airport land, Van Camp said, and, unless the FAA provides a release, all the property has to be used for airport purposes.

Once Lea had both Van Camp and County Attorney Misty Leland on the record stating that the deed restrictions bound the County no more tightly than it is already bound by Senate Bill 942 and FAA grant agreements, he dropped his opposition to moving forward.

The Board then unanimously approved the Option 2 paperwork, transferring nineteen tracts of land from the Authority to the County.

"We're glad we are getting it back to where it should

have been to start with," said Lea.

After the Board's decision, David Korb from Stop Airport Waste — a frequent critic of the Airport — told the Airport Authority and the Commissioners that he would see them in Court.

Caddell and Commissioner Jimmy Melton spearheaded the effort to get the property transferred from the Airport Authority to the County.

"Everything you asked us to do we did," said Caddell, "subject to FAA approval."

With the controversial land transfer off the table, the Commissioners approved a slate of paperwork allowing the Airport Authority to accept and use a variety of federal and state grants.

Senior Enrichment Center

The Board tabled a proposed resolution that would have reserved any proceeds from the sale of "the Drexel property" — four acres originally acquired as a site for the Senior Enrichment Center — to be dedicated to funding the Senior Center.

In 1999, David Drexel sold two acres and donated two acres of land to the County as a site for a Senior Center. However, the County decided to build the Center elsewhere.

Commissioner Lea made a motion to approve the resolution, but it died for lack of a second. Commissioner Nick Picerno asked that the item be tabled so he could further review it. The property is located on NC Highway 22

(See "Commissioners," p. 21)

Westside meeting

(Continued from page 20)

A fire marshall's inspection of the Community Center has been completed and fire extinguishers will also be inspected. A new filtration system has been installed at the pool that utilizes 1800 pounds of sand.

Due to reports of suspicious activity, the roving security patrol will be monitoring activity on the Lake Auman Dam, reported Mendenhall. Secretary Jane Sessler has also asked for security to monitor dog walkers in the community.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the SLWLA's Tuesday meeting included:

- Director Stevens asked

that residents be familiar with the new North Carolina law on forced annexation. "It gives the local folks the right to vote on this issue, so it is an important development," he said.

- The Board approved Ed Cockman as a member of the Judicial Panel, as requested by Stevens.
- Kathy Kirst said the Sailing Club is in its first week of sailing. She also asked that, if security cameras are going to be put at Johnson Point, then cameras should also be placed at the upper storage lot. "We need to consider all of the storage areas," said Kirst, "if we are going to do it."

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 20)
in Southern Pines.

The Board did approve a request from the Aging Council to accept the FY 2012-13 Home and Community Care Block Grant totaling \$781,000 to fund transportation, nutrition, in-home aide services, information and assistance and senior center operations. The required local match is \$87,000 and was requested by Jill Sherman.

Public Transportation

The Board authorized Moore County Transportation Services [MCTS] Program to apply for state funding through the Rural Operating Assistance Program [ROAP].

The grant request is for a total of \$205,000, allocated from three different programs: Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program, Employment Transportation Assistance Program, and the Rural General Public.

Commissioner Picerno relayed information from a concerned citizen that the fares charged by MCTS will increase from \$1 one way to \$3. In more rural areas this will increase to \$7 and \$10 one way.

MCTS Manager Tawanna Williams said prices have increased, due to fuel prices, other counties with transportation services, and the length of County's waiting list of passengers. Some of the costs can be deferred via assistance from other agencies, she explained.

The Board also approved the adoption of the MCTS Safety Program Plan as presented by Denise Brook and Tawanna Williams. Each Community Transportation System that receives federal and or state funds must have this program in place.

Property Management

The Board approved a lease agreement between Moore County and Duckworth Properties LLC for the building known as 2 Courthouse Square for \$1,365 per month or \$16,380 annually, as requested by County Property Manager Rich Smith.

The Board approved a DH

Griffin Construction Contract change order on the Public Safety Center and Detention Center project that will not increase the cost above the contracted amount of \$27 million.

In a 4-to-1 vote, with Commissioner Lea opposed, the Board approved a DH Griffin Construction change order that moves the project completion date to November 4.

The Board approved the replacement of HVAC Equipment at the Health Department and Ag Center at a cost of \$175,000.

Governing Body

The Board endorsed NC House Bill 1065, proposed legislation requested by Moore County School, which would allow school buses to be used for visitor transportation during the 2014 US Open Golf Tournaments in Pinerhust. Neither state nor local funds will be used to operate the buses; the cost will be borne by Pinehurst LLC. The legislation would also allow school to begin one week earlier for the 2013-2014 school year in Moore County.

The Board approved the salary adjustments for the County Clerk, County Attorney and Tax Administrator.

Detention Center

The Board approved a request by Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey for a contract Amendment with Southern Health Partners for Inmate

Medical Services from \$180,600 to \$182,400 at the Detention Center. The per diem for inmates in excess of 130 will remain \$1.75 per inmate. Funding is included in this year's budget.

The Board approved a contract with Aramark for Inmate and Staff Food Services, which are currently handled in-house. The current cost per meal is \$2.62. The savings will be \$1.22 per meal or \$176,900 per year, said Godfrey.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, June 19 meeting included:

- All items on the Board's consent agenda were unanimously approved except for Item "A-7" which was approved 4-1 with Commissioner Lea casting the dissenting vote. That item dealt with the repayment of a loan from the County to the Moore County Airport.
- The Board authorized the Day Reporting Center to apply for the Treatment for Effective Community Supervision Program, which would allow the County to continue to offer alternatives to incarceration for some offenders.
- The Board recognized June 18 to June 24 as Moore County Amateur Radio Society's Radio Week.
- The Commissioners relinquished its first right of

refusal to purchase property next to Elise Middle School, which would allow the Town of Robbins to purchase the property from Moore County Schools for a well site.

- The Board approved an Amendment to add seventeen roads and change the names of twelve other on the Moore County road map. Three of the new roads are in Seven Lakes.

Appointments

The Board approved the following appointments:

- Thomas P Marsh to the Southern Pines Board of Zoning Adjustment ETJ.
- Heather Funk to the RSVP Advisory Council.

- David Kennedy, Ron Milewski and Ottis Ritter to the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.
- Sharon King and Bonnie McPeake to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.
- Penny Johnson and Frank Thigpen to the Board of Adjustment.
- Elizabeth Marsh to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.
- Don Black, Gene Norton and Bryan Phillips to the Transportation Advisory Board.
- Dr. Wendi Carlton to Sandhills Center Board of Directors.
- Glenn Mathews to the Robbins Planning ETJ.



Free Cooking Demos every Saturday
12 p.m. & 2 p.m.

June 23~ Maple View Dairy

Milk was designated the official state beverage for North Carolina in 1987. Come try our state beverage as it was meant to be served, "fresh from the farm". We will be featuring milk from Maple View Farms in Hillsborough, NC in a number of different recipes.

June 30 ~ North Carolina Tomatoes

Farm fresh, locally grown tomatoes are great when sliced up in any dish. We will show you how to take advantage of the summer abundance of our favorite fruit with some seriously sophisticated combinations.

Free Wine Tastings every Saturday
12 p.m. till 4 p.m.

June 23 ~Andre Scherer Pinot Blanc
June 30 ~ Altano from the Douro Valley in Portugal



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FRIDAY, JUNE 22

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30. \$10 (all inclusive). Sliced ham w/pineapple sauce, roasted potatoes, salad, & dessert. Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

- **Kiwanis Club Blueberries for Sale** – 10 lb. boxes or flats of (12) 1 pint containers. Cost \$30 each. 9 am to 2 pm. NC grown, sweet and fresh. Call Don Yoder 910-949-4519, Gary Southard 910-295-7500 or Charlie Carlton 910-235-0271.
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm - 2 pm. *Maple View Dairy*: Milk was designated the official state beverage for North Carolina in 1987. Come try the state beverage as it was meant to be served, "fresh from the farm." Milk from Maple View Farms in Hillsborough. 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, (910) 255-0665.
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Wine Tasting** – 12 pm - 4 pm. *Andre Scherer Pinot Blanc*. 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, Call (910) 255-0665.
- **Amateur Radio Field Day** – 2 pm, until 12 noon, Sunday June 24. To most amateur radio enthusiasts, hams, Field Day is a picnic, a camp out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, Fun! Held at Cannon Park, Pinehurst, near the intersection of State route 211 and Rattlesnake Trail hosted by the Moore County Amateur Radio Society (MOCARS). Community Welcome to stop and explore the exciting world of amateur radio. James D Johnson, 910-400-3019.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

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

- **Belford Baptist Church Annual Homecoming** – 11 am, Belford Baptist Church, 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson Springs.



- **"One Man, Two Guvnors"** at the Sunrise - 2 pm and 7 pm. A special National Theater Live Encore Presentation. Tickets \$15 available only at the door before each show. Starring James Corden in a Tony Award Winning Performance. Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni with songs by Grant Olding. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weymouth Woods Discovery Hike** – 3 pm. The group will look at any flowers, shrubs, bugs, birds, frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, turtles and mammals that we encounter on this two mile hike. Learn how to identify what the group find as well as ecological connections between certain species. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.
- **American Heritage Concert** – 4 pm. West End United Methodist Church will present a program of Patriotic Music, with Guest Musicians, and an Old

Fashioned Sing-a-long. Following the program, there will be Apple Pie and Ice Cream in the Fellowship Hall. Please join the church for this time of celebration and fellowship. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guests *Tony Furtado, Laurelyn Dosssett*. Buy your tickets online. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JUNE 25

- **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.
- **Seven Lakes Business Guild** – meeting 5:30 pm, at Sandhills Winery. Greg Hankins, publisher of the *Seven Lakes Times* will present part one on advertising. His topic: "What good is advertising?" Call Cheryl Darwell at 910-673-7245 and let her know you will be attending.
- **"One Man, Two Guvnors"** at the Sunrise - 7 pm. A special National Theater

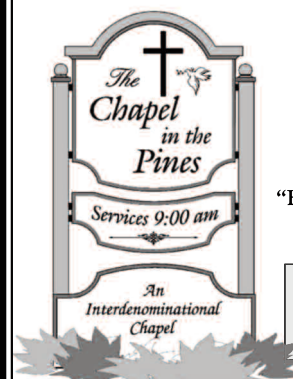
Live Encore Presentation. Tickets \$15 available only at the door. Starring James Corden in a Tony Award Winning Performance. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Belford Baptist Church Revival** – 7 pm, continuing through June 27. Guest speaker is Pastor Robert Dockery of Macedonia Baptist Church of Hoffman. Belford Baptist Church, 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson Springs.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

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

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **"One Man, Two Guvnors"** at the Sunrise - 7 pm. A special National Theater Live Encore Presentation. Tickets \$15 available only at the door. Starring James Corden in a Tony Award Winning Performance. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Advanced Funeral Planning** – 7 pm Daniel Armstrong, Funeral Service Licensee of Boles Funeral Home will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to offer an educational presentation about funeral planning. He will explain the process of preplanning and making decisions in regards to funeral plans. 215-0900

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Glenda Clendenin**July 1st – Reverend Welch**

"How the Mighty Have Fallen" (2 Samuel 1:19-27)

Emily Braun, violinist

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- **Welcome to Medicare** – 7 pm, a seminar, offered by the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) at the Senior Enrichment Center, will help you sort through the Medicare options available to those turning 65. Learn about Medicare Part A and Part B, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare drug plans. 215-0900 to reserve. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

- **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, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study. The Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session. Meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

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

derful 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

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

- **Weymouth Woods Bird Walk** – 8 am. Meet at the Visitor Center parking area for a 2 mile hike to look for newly arrived summer and transient visitors from the tropics. Many of the birds the group hopes to see will have flown from as far away as Peru. 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
- **Cooking with Herbs** – 10:30 am to 12 Noon, Sandhills Horticultural Society workshop to learn how use herbs in cooking. Shawna Smith will teach about which herbs go best with what food. Recipes will be handed out. Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. \$5 Horticultural Society members and \$10 for non-members. To register, call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882.
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm - 2 pm. *North Carolina Tomatoes*: Farm fresh, locally grown tomatoes are

great when sliced up in any dish. Elliott's will show you how to take advantage of the summer abundance. 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, Call (910) 255-0665.

- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Wine Tasting** – 12 pm - 4 pm. *Altano from the Douro Valley Portugal*. 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, Call (910) 255-0665.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Weymouth Woods Hoppers Climbers & Swimmers** – 3 pm. At this time of year, nights are filled with sounds of frogs and toads. Program will focus on some of the more than 20 species, from the tiny grass frog to the great bull frog. 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 *Mosier Brothers Band*. Buy your tickets online. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JULY 2

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

TUESDAY, JULY 3

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

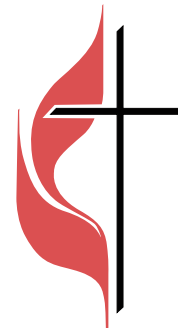
- **Independence Day**

THURSDAY, JULY 5

- **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.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, JULY 6

- **Johnson Point Concert** – 7 pm, "Redline" a beach-country-rock-oldies band. Free, please bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks and drinks. (Event for SL West Side Residents)



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By Appointment

Closed Sessions

(Continued from page 8)

a vision. The vision never got to be placed out, kind of like these architects do, when they come in and set these models out and say 'This is what you want to do' — we really never got there. "

"The reason I think we are having a study again done is to get back on the track of that vision We all [individually] may have a vision of what that looks like, but, without the facts behind it, we don't know what the best vision for the county is and how to best use our resources and taxpayers dollars would be."

Carriage Oaks vs. Pinehurst Avenue

The study that Picerno referred to is a recently-commissioned analysis of the County's need for space

stretching 20-50 years into the future, as well as an assessment of how well current County buildings can meet those needs.

But, as Picerno suggested in his comments to Kennedy, some Commissioners already have their own visions, not carved in stone, but forged in previous debates about where to locate county offices and assets.

Throughout the closed session discussions, Commissioner Lea repeatedly returned to two points: the need to wait until the study results are in, and the possibility that the County could expand its facilities at Carriage Oaks. In the midst of the war over the Public Safety Center, the Board had architects design a County Administration Building, first placing it on the Grimm property in

downtown Carthage and then at Carriage Oaks.

Commissioner Caddell consistently parried Lea's Carriage Oaks thrusts, arguing that the site was unsuitable for expansion because of wetlands on the property and the location of the Veteran's Memorial right beside the Department of Social Services [DSS] — the most logical spot for an initial expansion at Carriage Oaks.

Caddell's vision that emerges in the sixty minutes of closed session debate is, ultimately, to sell Carriage Oaks, after building one or more new buildings in the Moore County Office Park. In addition to placing DSS closer to the Health Department, that vision would return Carriage Oaks to private hands and the Town of Carthage's tax rolls. Sitting

at the intersection of NC Highways 24/27 and 15-501, the property should be a prime candidate for future retail expansion and much more valuable to the town in private, rather than public, hands.

Caddell was Mayor of Carthage for many years, including the year in which the County purchased the then nearly vacant Carriage Oaks Shopping Center, taking it off the town's tax roles. And there may have been an unwritten agreement between the then-Mayor and then-Commissioners Chairman Paul Helms that the County would one day return Carriage Oaks to the Carthage tax base.

Using Bojangles' cash to fund expansion

When the Board first discussed the Bojangles' offer,

in October of 2011, no Commissioner showed much enthusiasm for pursuing the sale. But, nine months later, Caddell had apparently warmed to the idea of selling 1.3 acres at Carriage Oaks and using the proceeds to purchase the 32-acre Kirby property on Pinehurst Avenue.

"If you have a chance to sell a piece of property for \$375,000 or \$400,000 and turn around and buy 32 acres of land," Commissioner Caddell said, "it would be shortsighted not to look at it."

Later in the May 15 closed session, Commissioner Melton argued that, by selling the 1.3 acres "at the right price, that would upgrade the whole shopping center and make the rest of the property a whole lot more

(See "Closed," p. 25)

Picerno

(Continued from page 8)

"I asked the attorney, and I got her advice, and I still believe that closed session was totally legal," Picerno said.

Probably out of whack

The next time the Board discussed the Bojangles' offer was on February 7. That discussion, Picerno said, probably did go too far.

At the very beginning of that session, County Attorney Misty Leland warned the Board that "technically we are not supposed to be discussing this in closed session."

After that, "Tim is the first one to speak up," Picerno said. "He made a generalized statement about it not being a good time to sell land, and then I jumped in, and, I agree with you, it probably got out of whack."

The Board entered the third closed session, on May 15, with the goal of consulting with the attorney about how best to handle the Bojangles' offer, Picerno said, "and then we came out and brought it out in open session."

"In only one meeting, based

on what I understand, did we stray over the line," he added. "I'd love to know what we specifically did wrong on this one."

Trying to find a vision

Picerno explained that his goal, in all these conversations among the Commissioners, was to try to move the Board back toward a unified vision for meeting the County's need for space — a vision that was lost in the

acrimonious debate over the new Public Safety Building and Detention Center.

"I am about trying to have a vision, and trying to get there, and that's what I tried to do as Chairman," Picerno said. "My only motivation is to try to get it right."

"I would never intentionally break the law," Picerno said. "Did I get caught up in a conversation on the February 7? If I did, I'm sorry."

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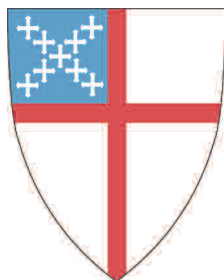
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Closed Sessions

(Continued from page 24)

valuable." He expressed skepticism that the property had any value to the County for expansion purposes.

"If we could come up with a price on the high side of what it is worth," Melton said, "personally I would like the Board to consider selling it and go after another tract with that money."

Debate grows heated

Near the end of the May 15 closed session, the debate between Lea and Caddell grew quite rancorous, to the degree that Commissioner Jimmy Melton had to intercede. Lea said Caddell had told him, before Caddell joined the Board of Commissioners, that he wanted to sell the property beside of Hardee's. Caddell disputed that, but said "When I negotiated the shopping center, there were some negotiations with the County . . . I tell you what we will do: We will bring Paul Helms down here and sit him in the room and ask him . . ."

Provoked by Lea's charges that he is "spinning" the facts, Caddell's anger rose: "You all can do anything you all want to do," Caddell said. "But just remember . . . that you represent all the people . . . This happens to be my home town. I can't help it. This is where I live."

Just after that outburst,

the Commissioners agreed to bring the Bojangles' offer into open session, though they did not, in that open session, reveal the amount that had been offered for the property, or anything about the larger debate the offer had triggered among the members of the Board.

The Veteran's Memorial

The Veteran's Memorial, placed at Carriage Oaks by a 2004 vote of the Commissioners, is a nagging fly in the ointment, no matter how the County meets its future needs for space. And the fact that the Memorial is located at Carriage Oaks may have been more an accident than the result of careful planning.

The issue of the Memorial came up briefly in the October 18, 2011 closed session.

"DSS, if they were going to expand, they should never have put the Memorial there," Caddell said. "If that was what the plans were, because they owned over an acre right beside it [DSS]."

"We tried to stop that," Lea replied.

The Memorial comes up again in the February 7, 2012 closed session.

Lea said he had spoken with Raymond Doby, a key organizer of the Memorial effort, when the decision about where to locate it was being made.

"I said 'Mr. Doby, it may be that the County agrees to put this Memorial here today, but sometime in the future, if we need to expand the building next door, then we may end up having to move that Memorial to another place.' And his comment back to me was, he said 'That's fine, as long as we've got one.'"

"I'd sure hate to move that thing," Caddell responded. "Man, I tell you what, you talk about a hot potato, son. That's like shooting yourself in the foot and saying: Ooo, that hurt."

Picerno said the Memorial should be located at Hillcrest Park, and Lea replied, "That's where we tried to get it to go, and politics got into it, and it went there [at Carriage Oaks]."

Caddell said the Town of Carthage offered a spot, but the organizing group and the Town Commissioners couldn't agree about saving two large pine trees on that site.

Later in the meeting, Lea returned to the issue, saying he understood "the sensitivity of moving the Memorial, but that was part of the understanding up front with those that located it there."

"Well, you can make that motion, Tim," Caddell replied. "In my humble opinion, that's never going to happen."

"Well," Lea replied, "obviously you wouldn't ever vote to do anything like that unless they were in agreement with it prior to taking that action."

In short, the Memorial is in a precarious spot.

If Lea's vision of expanding County offices at Carriage Oaks prevails, the Memorial sits upon the most obvious acreage for the expansion of the DSS offices. If Caddell's vision of ultimately returning Carriage Oaks to the private sector is realized, the Memorial would not only front onto a Bojangles' but would quite likely be surrounded by a retail shopping center.

Open Meetings Law

It is not clear whether the discussions in all closed sessions held by the Moore County Board of Commissioners range as widely over County strategy and policy as did these discussions

prompted by the Bojangles' offer — or whether the offer, because it touched on a core, unresolved debate, provoked the Board to venture far beyond the bounds the Open Meetings Law allows.


It is clear from the audio tapes that the County Attorney attempted to rope the Commissioners back into the very narrow question that it would have been proper to discuss in closed session: whether to use an auction, sealed bids, or a negotiation and upset bid process to sell the property. But the County Attorney is not a sergeant at arms with the power to stop debate.


According to Tadych, an attorney who makes a specialty of Open Meetings Law, nearly everything else that was said in the sixty minutes of debate on the Bojangles' offer should have been discussed in open session.

Mental Illness Support Group


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

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OPINION

Adventures in outdoor dining

I thought it was elk.

Not that I've ever actually seen an elk this up close and personal — whole or in part. But I enjoy guessing games, so I was a willing participant; though this was more like guessing the game.

That is, game being meat.

We were camping in the ancient Uwharrie Mountains with a dozen boys, five horses, three canoes, and enough rods and reels to find Nemo — the fish, not the submarine.

Happy that mercury-laden catfish was not on the menu, I had no problem filling my plate with beans flavored with bacon and ground buf-

falo. Feeling adventurous, I didn't even flinch when my host scraped the lid off the ash-covered Dutch oven and — picking around charred veggies — carefully selected a choice cut of mystery meat for me.

"This will be delicious," he promised.

No, it did not taste like chicken. But it also wasn't elk; despite rumors flying around camp to the contrary. Dinner was actually their more docile relative. Basically, I was eating the hobbit version of an elk: venison.

Okay, let's just get this out of the way. It was Bambi, I admit it.

Though after months of media coverage over pink slime in our beef, I wasn't about to get rattled over a slab of wild game at the end of my fork. And, full disclo-



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

sure, I've eaten venison before and wild boar: quite a bit, in fact.

I blame my parents.

We were living in the Middle

East where lamb is the preferred main course. Looking for some weekend excitement, a bunch of yahoo Americans — my folks included — would head into the vast frontier

in search of better pickings.

An animal-lover, I was kidded endlessly for calling them cute.

Where I saw pug-faced snouts and bristly hair poking out in all directions, the rest of my hunting party saw danger — and meat.

I have a classic memory of sitting on a barren mountain with my mother. She had an enormous rifle and I was content building my own little Barbie Dream House — the Stone Age version. We were lulled by a goat herder singing in the distance until, suddenly, shots rang out over the valley.

Let's just say we lived to tell the tale that, forty years ago, I mistook a family of boar — angry stampeding boar — for a placid herd of goats.

Too bad they weren't elk instead.

Where should an aspiring minister study?

Question: I will begin my senior year in high school this September. I am very active in my church's youth program, and I have come to believe that I am called to be a minister. My pastor has recommended a Bible College as a first step. What would you advise?

Response: You do not state the denomination of the church where you are active. Each denomination has its educational requirements for ministers and some have no requirements other

than a sincere "call to preach." You do not state your gender or your sexual orientation. Many denominations restrict the ministry to males and many more exclude gays and lesbians.

The first century Christian church had few restrictions. If you believed that Jesus is Lord and Savior and were willing to tell others, that was all that was required. The earliest preachers — the twelve apostles of Jesus had no formal education. Yet they, along with Paul — who

was very well educated — spread the gospel over most of the Middle East and the Mediterranean world.

Beginning with the Reformation in the 15th century,



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

many of the mainline protestant churches established educational standards that ministerial candidates must meet before they are ordained.

For the purpose of answering your question, I will assume that you are a heterosexual male who wishes to become a minister in one of the mainline denominations or in an established non-denominational or inter-denominational church.

These churches usually require a four-year undergraduate degree and an additional three- or four-year degree from a theological

seminary or a university school of theology or divinity. I would recommend that you spend your undergraduate

years studying in as many fields as possible. You will have plenty of time to study the Bible in seminary or divinity school.

Recognize that God's speaking is not confined to the Bible but that God speaks through literature, history, the arts and sciences — and especially through mathematics, the language of the sciences. If a minister is not versed in these disciplines, he or she has little to relate to the words of God in the Bible.

Immerse yourself in technology, for without these skills, a person limits the research and communication that is necessary to communicate any knowledge in today's technological world. Learn to speak and write effectively. I don't know which is the greatest sin — knowing

a lot and not able to communicate it or communicating well but knowing little.

After college, you may choose a denominational seminary or a university school of theology. The former will immerse you in the theology, history and polity of your denomination and the latter will expose you to the rich smorgasbord of beliefs and perspectives that you will find out in the world. Both will provide you with valuable critical study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures that Bible Colleges often do not offer.

I wish you well in the years ahead, when your faith will be formulated, broken-down, and reformulated numerous times as you experience periods of questioning and even doubt. Look at this time as an opportunity to discover your own faith and to perfect your calling. God bless you! The Church of Jesus Christ needs you.

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

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Candor Scouts say Thanks!

Dear Editor:

Thank You!

My fellow scouts and I thank you.

You wrote an article about our troop's needs on May 11, 2012. Thanks to your article and some postings on Facebook, several people made donations.

You were told about us by Ms. Roberta Robinson. I sent her a thank you note. I also sent thank you notes to all who have sent our troop money and donated things for our troop.

We now have uniforms, some fishing poles, two great

bikes and one to fix, one more sleeping bag, several coolers and tote containers to store our stuff and two books to help us learn more about First Aid.

The troop used almost everything we have this week on our three night campout. We had two dads and one grandfather visiting at one time or another at our campout this week for Father's Day.

If we were thanking you in person, we would say: "We are Troop 86, BEAVER Patrol. We chop 'til we drop To get 'er done! Chomp Chomp! We

are BEAVER Patrol, We gnaw 'til its down, Drag 'til its in place, And keep on 'til it's done. Chomp Chomp! We are trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

We are Troop 86, BEAVER Patrol. We thank you! Chomp Chomp!"

We thank you and your readers for your support of our troop and the Boy Scouts of America. Chomp Chomp!

*D. Robert Wallace,
Beaver Patrol, Scribe
BSA Troop 86, Candor*

Scripture: A different opinion

Dear Rev. Welch:

While I admire your honesty regarding your view of the Bible, I must also say that I disagree with it.

First, you state that the Bible contains the Word of God.

This seems to indicate that it is up to scholars to determine which parts of the Scriptures are the Word of God and which parts are not. Instead, I choose to believe 2 Timothy 3:16 which literally says that "All Scripture is God-breathed..."

Secondly, though the Bible was recorded for us by "fallible human beings," they were writing as the Holy Spirit moved them (2 Peter 1:21).

Thirdly, you mentioned that the Bible is not scientifically accurate. Did you realize that the ancient world believed that the earth rested on something else (i.e. pillars), but the Bible said it hangs on nothing (Job 26:7)?

Also, many believed that the stars were a finite num-

ber, but science and the Bible agree that they are too numerous to be counted (Jeremiah 33:22). These are just a couple of examples. Many still believe the old line: "The Bible was written to show us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go." However, oftentimes science had to catch up to the accuracy of the Bible.

Fourthly, though parables could be fiction used to make

a point, nothing says that Jesus' parables were not true stories. I'm not sure about you, but I will oftentimes use true stories to illustrate a point of a sermon.

I am thankful to God that He gave us the Word of God, all of which is Scripture, true and accurate.

*Pastor Bill Cooper
Calvary Baptist Church
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Taking another look at tolerance

The addition of a couple of preachers to *The Times'* cadre of columnists sure has elevated the level of discourse in our Opinion section, and we're mighty happy to have them around to class up the joint.

Pastor Chris Hrabosky, in his column last week, acquainted us with the "preposterous idea" of "the new tolerance," which he defined as "the belief that truth is relative to the community. And since there are many communities, the new tolerance claims many truths."

"In contrast with traditional tolerance, where everyone has an equal right to believe or say what he thinks is right," Rev. Hrabosky wrote, "the new tolerance states that whatever an individual believes or says is equally true and equally valid."

I'd have to agree that it's a pretty odd notion that we can all simply make up our own truth. But I'd call that idea "relativism," not "tolerance." And confusing tolerance with relativism risks besmirching the reputation of a core American political value.

"Tolerance" has a non-political definition, derived from the verb "tolerate," as in: "I can't tolerate that preacher's sermons, but I love the soloist, so I keep coming back every Sunday." Or, "I can't tolerate my mother-in-law's politics, but she does make a fine apple pie."

Sometimes "tolerance" in that sense is mostly just about good manners. For example, you might tolerate a customer's unkind references to the current President, even though you don't share his political views, just to be polite. Or you might tolerate someone handing you a Christian tract on the street, even if you're Jewish, because refusing it would be bad manners.

But there is a far more important use of "tolerance" in the American political context. And it is not just about putting up with folks you don't agree with.

It is instead about a political

commitment to avoid any attempt to use the law to force our beliefs on others — even if we are convinced that those beliefs are, in fact, not just beliefs, but rather absolute truth.

ability to impose their own beliefs and practices as a matter of law on the remainder of the populace.

It is against this "tyranny over the mind of man" that Jefferson and the rest of the founders turned instead to tolerance — and to "tolerance" in its most important sense.

Tolerance, in that most important sense, is my willingness — even though I know that I am right, even though I know that I have a

direct pipeline to absolute truth — my willingness to stop short of imposing that truth on you, through the force of law.

I may argue with you, I may try to persuade you how wrong you are; but I'm not going to try to pass some law or change some constitution to impose my truth on you.

That kind of tolerance is not new at all, but historic. And the enshrining of that tolerance in the US Constitution and our political system is the greatest gift that Jefferson, Madison, and their fellow Republicans among the founders bestowed upon us.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



If you journey to Washington DC, it is worth setting aside an hour or two to visit the Lincoln and Jefferson Monuments, and taking the time to read the words carved into the walls. The Jefferson is capped with a dome, and around the inside of that dome is inscribed my favorite of all the great Virginian's quotes:

"...I have sworn upon the altar of god eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

Jefferson knew only too well the human drive to impose our own "truth" upon others. He made this favorite statement of mine in a letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush, a fellow signatory to the Declaration of Independence. The context was religion. Jefferson warned that "the clergy [had] a very favorite hope of obtaining an establishment of a particular form of Christianity thro' the U.S.; and as every sect believes its own form the true one, every one perhaps hoped for his own, but especially the Episcopalians & Congregationalists."

In other words, folks from the various denominations hoped that their denomination would be declared the state church of the United States, like the Church of England in Great Britain, the Episcopal Church in colonial Georgia, or the Congregational Church in colonial Connecticut. As a state church, they would benefit not only from government support, but also from the

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Safety class offered for Westside boaters

Seven Lakes West Residents are invited to a boat safety class with the Raleigh Sail and Power Squadron on Wednesday, June 27 at the West Side Community Center at 6:30 pm.

This class will discuss the "rules of the road" for safe boating and other important issues that all boaters should be familiar with.

This class is suggested for power boaters, sail boaters,

those new to boating as well as those who want a refresher in the rules of the road, as well as young boaters who are not all that familiar with boating rules and regulations.

1. Required Equipment; life jackets, fire extinguishers, distress signals, etc.
2. Recommended Equipment; fenders, dock lines, anchors, first aid kits, etc.
3. Rules of the Road; right of way rules for power boats, sail boats.
4. Regulations; danger, no wake, swimming area, etc.
5. Water Sports Safety; skiing, tubing, etc.
6. Trailing; basics on launch and retrieve.
7. Knots and Lines; basics on how to secure boat to dock.

If you plan to attend, please have your name put on the list by contacting the West

Side Community Center at 673-5314 or emailing Rosemary Weber at Rosemaryw@7lakeswest.com

Scouts

(Continued from page 11)

Now properly attired as Boy Scouts, the troop proudly marches in formation to their weekly meeting.

"A lot of the boys have transportation issues, so, to facilitate that, I have them come to my house first for dinner," she said. "A lot of these kids don't have two cents to rub together and neither do their parents. We [Mike and Charlene], as grandparents and leaders, support the troop in many ways. I can feed kids and make a dollar go a long way."

Scouting is a family affair for the Wallaces, with Assistant Scoutmasters Penny Wallace and David Wallace, in addition to Charlene and her husband. The family's rural home in Candor frequently serves as Troop Central, with the boys occasionally camping in their

backyard or learning a skill, like fire building, on the family property. In addition, Wallace takes care of the Troop's adopted mascot, a mixed breed dog named "Betty," that is being trained and fostered by the boys.

"We meet every week, but our goal is also to go camping at least once a month," she explained. "One Saturday a month is devoted to skills and community service, with most of that service being done with the Richmond County Humane Society." The scouts walk and brush the dogs, tend to the cats, sanitize feeding bowls, and pick up trash on the property. It was during these service visits that "Betty" endeared herself to the boys.

Looking ahead, Wallace said their next big Troop goal is to raise funds to purchase supplies and materials to

build a large cat house, which will shelter neutered, feral cats on the Humane Society property.

"We don't yet have the resources for that project, so it is on hold, but we are committed. When we have the funding, the boys will begin building," Wallace said.

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MCS

(Continued from page 14)

this year in Moore County. Of those, 254 received \$14 million in scholarships.

• The Superintendent's Salute for June went to Southern Pines Elementary Principal Mary Scott Harrison.

• Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy gave a presentation on the NC Ready program, which will take effect next school year. The program will focus on national testing such as ACT and Work Keys and the NC Ready Assessment, offering teachers pre-designed lesson plans, so they can focus more on delivering the information instead of creating it. "This will mark the first time in thirty years that all curriculum standards are being

replaced in each subject and each grade at the same time," said Kennedy.

• The Board reappointed Linda McCaskill as the Sandhills Community College Trustee.

• The Board approved the continuation budget for MCS until the state adopts its budget at the end of June.

• The Board approved a request for Robbins to drill a test well next to Elise Middle School so they can determine if a purchase of the .39 acre of land for additional water would be necessary.

• The Board approved a Technology Plan Update as presented by Kendt Eklund.

• Dr. Lorna Clack gave out Growing to Greatness Awards.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 7)

erty.

"This language will allow us to deal with those issues — those folks, whether it is six or ten or twenty-five acres, if they are not taking care of the animals," Erickson said. "I hope this will meet some of the concerns expressed."

Satisfied that a six acre minimum would not negatively impact the care of the animals or aesthetics, the Council let the long term financial impact guide their decision.

"The sale of more property in Foxfire is a valid consideration to increase our tax base," McCue said. "Our interests with developers and Realtors are not always aligned, but here they are."

Frusco agreed. "I think six acres makes sense for this particular village. It makes sense in terms of trying to grow the village," she said.

Installation of Private Wells

In response to a new state law enacted last Summer, the Foxfire Village Council begrudgingly repealed a 2007 ban on private water wells within the municipal limits.

"Some municipal water systems get their water from above ground but here, in Foxfire, all of our water comes from below ground," said Mayor George Erickson. "I don't think the General Assembly thought this through for communities like ours. If a whole bunch of people decide they want to put in wells, then we may have a real problem."

Presently, Foxfire Village remains under Phase 1 Mandatory Water Restrictions, and a complicating factor is that the Council has no means to enforce this type of water restrictions over private wells. However, they have retained the right to oversee the installation of such wells and can also disconnect that property from the public system if there is a potential for cross-contamination.

"We can exercise our responsibility," explained Councilman Steve Durham.

"If you have a well, and you hook it to your house, we will disconnect you."

During a public hearing on the issue, resident Steve Gonzalez argued that residents should be able to irrigate as desired.

"The biggest thing that we can do to help Foxfire grow is to beautify the city," he said. "One way to do that is not hinder property owners from beautifying their yards. I want city water for my house, but I disagree that I should be disconnected if I install a well [for irrigation only]. I would not connect a private well to my house. The only reason I want a well is to beautify my yard to beautify the city."

His comments prompted a terse rebuttal from former Councilman Ed Lauer, who drafted the original ban policy and has long-advocated for water conservation practices in the Village.

"The average well in Foxfire, right now, is three to four inches lower than it was a number of years ago," Lauer

said. "Think about what you're saying! If you want your yard to look great, then plant plants that don't need watering."

"This is the Sandhills," Lauer continued. "We are a unique place. Please be careful with the water you use. You need to think about it before you go and put in an acre of grass. And then think what your house will be worth if this Village doesn't have any water running into it."

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee is working on specific objectives contained in the Long Range Plan and developing detailed plans to achieve those goals, reported Councilman Mick McCue.

In addition, the Committee is creating a tri-fold marketing brochure for Foxfire, investigating better ways to communicate with residents, gathering input for both short and long term options for the pool house facility, and looking at long range water

needs.

"This is an important thing and, from tonight's discussion, you can see we're not too early in studying options for our future," he said.

Erickson recommended that marketing efforts should include advertisements in glossy magazines that will be distributed at the 2014 US Open.

Finance

As of May 31, the General Fund balance stood at \$878,863, including restricted amounts of \$12,117 in Powell Bill funds, \$20,995 in the Stonehill Pines fund, and \$75,080 held in capital reserve, reported Finance Director Frusco.

The Water Fund stood at \$351,634, with an additional \$135,673 held in a restricted escrow account for a new water well.

Annual bank loan payments for the new fiscal year include a July payment of

\$29,966 toward the Village Green Park, a July payment of \$41,144 toward water improvements, and April 2013 payments of \$173,300 from the General Fund and \$13,929 from the Water Fund toward the Woodland Circle loan.

Continuing the Financial report, Frusco expressed her appreciation for a successful tax year.

"One hundred percent of our budgeted property taxes have been collected, due in great deal to the diligence of our tax collector [Deputy Finance Officer Sharon Sanchez]," Frusco said.

"We are very serious about collecting funds that are owed to the Village and we will use every legal means to do so," she cautioned. "We want to be friendly, a great place to live, and for everybody to work together. And that means working with us."

(See "Foxfire," p. 32)

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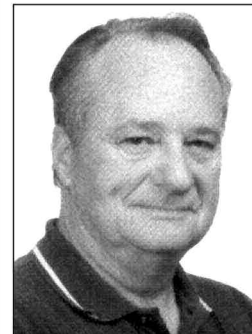
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Foxfire

(Continued from page 31)

Fishing Tournament

The Foxfire Police Department will honor the late Rick Rhyne with a Memorial Fishing Tournament and other activities, scheduled for Saturday, August 11, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, at the Village Green Park and Lake McKenzie in Foxfire.

Together with his wife, Wanda, Rhyne started this annual tradition during his twenty-five year career serving as Chief of Police for the Village. The retired Chief was killed in the line of duty last year, while serving with the Moore County Sheriff's Office.

Co-sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills, Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills, and the Parks and Recreation Departments of Aberdeen and Southern Pines, the day's activities will begin at the Village Green Park with a tribute to Rhyne. The fishing tournament is open to children, and other activities include the NC Wildlife Sensory Safari Trailer & Mobile Aquarium, featuring live fish native to the state, a local fire truck, the Foxfire Police Humvee, and a smoke trailer to demonstrate fire safety.

Come out and enjoy a picnic lunch. Talbert Catering will be on-site with food available for purchase.

The event is free for children ages three to sixteen years. Bait for fishing and children's lunch is provided. You may pre-register for the tournament — and be eligible to win a \$50 Savings Bond — by calling the Boys & Girls Club at 910-692-0777. Deadline for pre-registration is July 30.

Public Safety

Security cameras have been installed at the pool and will soon be active at Village Green Park, reported McCue. The cameras can provide a live video feed to the Foxfire Police offices and vehicles.

The Senior Touch program is going well, he said, with seven residents signed up and receiving regular monthly visits from members of the police department.

Watershed expanded

Foxfire's Public Water Supply Watershed Area was determined in 1993, by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; however, extra-territorial jurisdiction [ETJ] areas were not included in the original calculation. Since that time, many municipalities — including Foxfire — have expanded their limits through annexation and ETJ expansions.

A review by the Moore County Planning Department that compared the current town boundary to the 1993 map resulted in a recommendation to substantially increase the Public Water Supply Watershed area allocated to Foxfire Village.

Under the Drowning Creek Watershed map of 1993, Foxfire was granted 1,644 acres. As approved by a resolution of the Council, and based on the new size calculation, Foxfire has now been granted 10,678 acres of total watershed area.

Erickson explained that the Village will assume greater financial responsibilities, based on this change, if they decide to develop more land. But the increase will also add more leeway and flexibility for the Village to grow in the future.

Land Use Plan update

The Land Use Plan for Foxfire was developed thirty years ago, reported McCue.

"We need an update!" he said. "This plan dates from a time when the Village and the club [Foxfire Resort & Golf] were virtually the same."

McCue said the project could be completed in house by the Planning & Zoning Committee or by the LRP Committee.

Erickson said, while outdated, the original plan was very well-written and had been complimented two years ago during a related project with Moore County.

"We know the basic document is not terrible, so that should make the task more a tweaking than a complete redoing," he said.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, June 12, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Eliminated an ordinance banning outdoor washing and drying clothes on a line; however, the change will have no impact because the ban on was added to a more appropriate section of the Village Ordinances.
- Considered three bids for roadside mowing. By unanimous approval, the Village renewed the contract with Gilbert Brown, which also includes hauling services from the Yard Waste site.
- Unanimously approved a proposal, recommended by Moore County, to partici-

pate in developing a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. "Moore County believes, in the long range, this will be less expensive, with four counties involved, and will give the plan more clout," explained Erickson.

- Heard from Erickson that the Triangle J Council of

Government is working on a plan to improve four key areas of concern within the seven-county region. "We hope to develop a strategic plan to work cooperatively to improve the whole area," he explained.

- Heard from Councilman

(See "Foxfire," p. 33)

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Budget

(Continued from page 6)

said the total budget of \$949,125 assumes a collection rate of 97 percent on real and personal property taxes and 100 percent of motor vehicle tax — which, taken together, represent 59 percent of revenues. Additionally, Foxfire Village will receive \$150,000 in local option sales tax, plus unrestricted state revenues of \$56,000 and an estimated \$39,000 in Powell Bill funds, which are restricted to road maintenance projects. Woodland Circle assessments are anticipated to bring in \$94,500, and \$39,500 will be appropriated from the fund balance.

Projected expenses include an overall five percent reduc-

tion, primarily due to a major decrease in the streets budget.

The salaries budget also shows an overall decrease of \$11,292, based on a decrease in the required retirement contribution rate; however, Village employees will receive a two percent salary increase.

Administration costs, anticipated at \$176,395 and representing nineteen percent of total expenses, are also expected to decrease by five percent, primarily, Frusco explained, because there is no unemployment insurance or election expenses in the new fiscal year. Planning and zoning services have been contracted to the Village of Pinehurst with pass-thru costs paid by building permit

fees.

Public safety expenses — representing the bulk of the projected total budget at 34 percent — includes \$214,900 for the police department, with a twelve percent increase for the purchase of a new police vehicle. The cost of contracted fire service with West End Fire & Rescue remains the same, at \$102,000.

An eighteen percent decrease is anticipated in the streets and roads budget, estimated at \$143,650. However, Powell Bill funding will be used toward the first phase of crack sealing, asphalt repair, installation of new traffic control signs, and regularly scheduled mowing and roadside maintenance.

At \$61,200, the pool and park budget shows a fifteen percent increase, which includes \$5,000 to demolish the unplayable tennis courts, and increased funding toward pool maintenance and the purchase of a new pool cleaning machine.

Debt service of \$203,350 is nineteen percent less than the current fiscal year, primarily because of the modi-

fication to the loan agreement, which reduced the fixed interest rate from 3.97 percent to 3.19 percent but extended the loan term by five years.

The Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget also includes \$25,000 set aside in capital reserve as a contingency fund.

Following the public hear-

ing, Mayor George Erickson thanked Frusco for her efforts in leading two meetings inviting citizen input on the budget, as well as three marathon-length work sessions by the Council.

"We have worked very hard and diligently, and Leslie led us through," he said.

Manager

(Continued from page 10)

a sense of ownership.

"This is their barn. I don't live in this community, but they do," she said. "This is their barn, and I want them to be involved in it."

But the stables aren't just for kids, she is quick to point out, noting that trail rides often double as an enjoyable nature excursion — with deer, turtles, and rabbits spotted out on the trail.

"This is a great activity to do with your family or spouse; and this is a great way to see another side of your community," she said. "If you don't know how to ride, come out and take a

lesson. We have great horses that will take good care of you."

A "trail clearing" event is tentatively scheduled for early July, and Pennington is looking for volunteers. Most of the hard work will be done in the morning, with a pizza party at the stables to follow.

Seven Lakes Stables offers trail rides and pony rides six days a week, and lessons in English or Western riding may be scheduled for an additional fee. For more information or to schedule a trail ride or lesson, contact the Seven Lakes Stables at 673-4738.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 32)

Steve Durham that the developer of Pineland Preserve has asked to run a waterline under the roadway into the main line. "I have to believe that means there is some building going on over there, so that

is good news," he said.

- Reappointed, by a vote of acclamation, Nick Xanders to serve a three year term on the Appearance Committee. Xanders has been a member of this committee since October 2003.

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Land Use

(Continued from page 18)

and developing overarching policies within the plan but that, personally, his own interest in the project was “to get the Agenda 21 language out of it.”

A twenty-year old United Nations planning document, produced in 1992 by 178 member nations, Agenda 21's stated purpose is to create a “global partnership for sustainable development.” Recently the document, and its language about “sustainability” have become a lightning rod for attacks from the political right, who argue that it undermines private property values and capitalism. In response, last February, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved a formal resolution opposing United Nations Agenda 21.

Hayter seemed doubtful that the 1999 Land Use Plan was tainted with “agenda 21” ideas but encouraged Committee members to do their own research on the issue, noting that some of the buzzwords “have conjured up meanings that have become un-meaningful.”

Cochrane replied that those words carry a lot of baggage.

Mike Wilson, who owns an expansive farm and wooded property in West End, said the forestry industry “runs on the word sustainability.”

Cochrane said that he does not question Wilson's definition of “sustainability,” but expressed concern about “the other guy's” understanding of what the word means. Other Committee members, including West End farmer Watts Auman and Harry Huberth, president of the Sandhills Area Land Trust, seemed unconvinced there really was an issue with Agenda 21.

Impact of future development

As the conversation among committee members developed, the one uniting factor that emerged was the desire to preserve the rural character of the county.

“A lot of developers would like to use every postage stamp size piece of land to

put a house on,” said Wilson, suggesting that developers should be required to maintain some portion as open space.

David Cummings agreed, but said he did not want there to be a misperception that heavy development was anticipated.

“We need to keep in mind how much open land is still left in the county,” Cummings said. “I don't want us to fool ourselves into thinking Moore County will be developed in five years and completely ruined. I don't want anyone to feel the need to have a wholesale change to the Land Use Plan.”

“But it is coming, and that's why we're here: to get ahead of it,” responded Huberth. “We need to find a happy medium and keep looking to the middle ground.”

Hayter cautioned the group that there are often multiple factors in planning, offering for example that low density residential development is more expensive for the county to service than higher density housing.

“As stewards, we need to be aware of both sides of issues. I just want the board to be aware of the paradigm,” he said.

Private property rights

Goal 2 of the original plan — “Protect Property Rights” — prompted significant discussion. Committee members seemed to agree that protection of private property rights should have a position of more prominence or, perhaps, be upgraded to serve as Goal 1.

“This goal has a different take than it had in 1999,” said Huberth. “The emphasis should be on protecting property rights, and the section does not need to be so detailed. The planning process does a good job with property rights.”

Hayter agreed and said he viewed property rights as an overarching goal and not just an objective.

“If you look at our mission statement, it is already in it to some degree,” he said.

Committee Member Dr.

Susan Purser, who recently retired as superintendent of Moore County Schools, recommended that private property rights should be included “as a foundation point.”

Speaking from the sparsely attended public gallery, Jeff Marcus, a diversity supervisor with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, said the concept of property rights allows reasonable use of one's land — but cautioned that those same rights also extend to neighbors who want to protect their own property.

Hayter said the spirit of that — the Jeffersonian right to use land freely as long as it does not harm to others — was included in the original Land Use Plan.

“I want us to realize that the 1999 document had specific objectives,” Hayer said. “Those are goals we may still agree upon but they may not be mechanically what we need for what we are trying to achieve.”

Protecting water supply

Goal 3 in the Land Use Plan states “Protect the environment, open space and recreation.” The first objective under this goal — protecting Moore County's surface and ground water supply — prompted heavy discussion.

“It is still very valid to protect the watersheds,” he said, taking note of wetlands and riparian land. “You must avoid contamination in these types of areas.”

Committee Member Carolyn Mealing, a resident of Seven Lakes West who is representing the League of Women Voters, asked how fracking — a drilling technique used for natural gas that is being debated at the state level — might impact this goal and objective.

“Is there a way that the county can be more stringent in protecting water, if the state allows this?” she asked.

Hayter responded that the area of Moore County where fracking could have a potential impact had a historical record of very low ground water.

Committee Member Ron Maness, who owns property

in the key areas in Northeast Moore County, agreed, saying his family would be forced to drill deeper today for water on their cattle farm, than the existing wells on the property.

Golf and tourism industries overlooked

Committee Member Pat Corso, executive director of Moore County Partners in Progress and former CEO of Pinehurst Resorts, expressed concern about blanket policies on groundwater issues.

“During the last major drought, [automatic] dishwashers were not allowed to be used in Pinehurst,” he said. “But this was an unnecessary restriction, since the system uses re-circulated water,” he said. “There should

be some philosophical touch point that relates to significant industry.”

He argued that the 1999 Plan offers protection for agricultural interests, but that golf and tourism had been overlooked.

“How can you talk about agriculture and not resorts?” he asked. “There is not one word in there about resorts.”

Hayter agreed, and said the committee should consider all of the valid economic industries in the area.

“We should not be just focused on a segment of land use, but the entirety of land use in Moore County,” he said, reminding the room that all residents — whether they live in municipal or rural locations — are taxpaying county citizens.

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Access

(Continued from page 34)

asked to provide the gate with a roster of their non-resident members, so that they could be admitted at the gate.

Darr argued for asking the same of Seven Lakes Country Club, Seven Lakes Health & Fitness, and the Tennis Center, all of which have non-resident members who visit the community on a regular basis. The Security Committee had recommended allowing those entities to issue monthly hangtags to their members and employees — something the Country Club does now. Ritter said the hangtags allow traffic to move through the gate more quickly, since the driver does not have to stop and give a name to the gate guard.

Director Conrad Meyer said he was “intrigued” by the idea, but felt the organizations allowed to distribute hangtags should provide a list of those people who received them. Director Chuck Leach said he felt allowing the Country Club to issue hangtags “is a big hole in the system.”

The Budd Group’s Stickl said some of the larger communities his company serves are relying increasingly on barcodes — even for non-members. He pointed out that the barcode issued to a Country Club employee can be coded to only allow access to the community during that employee’s work hours, rather than at all times. A barcode issued to a construction worker can prevent entry on the weekends — and can be turned off once the job he was working on is finished.

After additional discussion, President Darr asked that Ritter’s Security Committee meet with Budd Group representatives to refine the draft policy.

Lake Security

Darr asked the Board to consider a revision to Rule 8.4.2.2.1, to require that every boat and boat trailer entering the community have an Association sticker. Visitors entering the community towing a boat would be required to park it in an area

near the gate. Those revisions will move to the open meeting on June 21 for a vote.

Lake Director Don Fentzlaff expressed concern that enforcement of rules on the lakes is ineffective at best: “Violations escalate throughout the year. They get written up throughout the year. There is essentially no follow-up on any of our rules and regulations that go beyond registration. There are no penalties. Our rules and regulations are toothless and always have been . . . Yet problems continue to worsen on the lakes.”

Darr added that there is some concern on the Board that the lake security patrol provided by The Budd Group “don’t have a clue what our rules are.”

The Budd Group’s Stickl explained that his company experiences the greatest success in communities that back up their rules with clear and prompt penalties.

“We have two communities in which speeding is an issue,” he said. “In one, speed enforcement will never happen. In the other, the Board will escalate the fines to the point that they will place a lien on your house . . . In POAs that have clear organized rules — with escalating fines — that word is going to spread, and that will make our job easier.”

“I think what happens, is that the word is out that people can ignore you,” Stickl said. “Fines are the unfortunate answer.”

Wake Surfing

Director Fentzlaff briefed the Board on a new water sport — wake surfing — that is beginning to appear on Lake Sequoia. The stern of a boat is weighed down, either through internal ballast tanks that can take on water or by loading down the stern of the boat with passengers. The boat is then driven at nine to twelve miles per hour, and throws a wake that can be four to six feet high. The surfer uses a short ski rope to get up on that wake and then “surfs” it, without the rope.

Fentzlaff expressed concern about the damage that such wakes could cause to bulkheads, docks, and even swimmers in shallow water, as well as the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning to the surfer and passengers sitting in the rear of the boat.

He recommended new rules that would outlaw the ballasting of boats, either with internal water compartments or loading up the stern with people, that would require ski ropes of standard length, and that would ban wake surfing.

After discussion and input from Rodney Godwin, an avid skier, Fentzlaff will consider eliminating the restrictions on the number of people in the stern of the boat and bring a revision of the new rules to the open meeting for approval.

ARB Rules Revisions

Director Fentzlaff presented several rules revisions sug-

gested by the Architectural Review Board [ARB], including adding a rule 13.2.10 that would impose an immediate \$100 fine and a stop work order on any landowner who failed to obtain ARB approval for a project.

Director Racine objected that a fine should not be imposed without due process. He suggested a strong penalty would be to ban offending contractors from working in the community. Manager Cochran confirmed that NC General Statutes require due process before a fine is imposed.

But Fentzlaff and Darr both expressed frustration that the existing “due process” takes too long.

“The ARB is a sanctioned committee, and it hasn’t had any teeth since the day it was born,” Fentzlaff said.

He also asked for a revision of Rule 5.1.1.1, which prohibits landowners from parking their commercial vehicles outside their residences, to make clear that the rule also applies to renters.

Other Business

In other Business during the Wednesday, June 11 work session:

- Community Manager Alina Cochran presented quotes for the renewal of the Association’s insurance policy protecting its Directors and Officers. The Board expressed a preference for increasing coverage limits from \$1 million to \$3 million. Cochran indicated that would increase the cost of the policy above the amount budgeted for this year, but did not make public the actual costs. The Board is expected to vote on the change during the June 27 open meeting.
- Director David Buckingham reported that his work moving the current content of the SLLA website into a new hosting software is nearly complete. Once that work is done, he will organize a committee that can suggest enhancements and new features for the site.



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Stables

(Continued from page 4)

Ritter questioned whether a \$300 unlimited membership for Westsiders made economic sense and suggested that a per ride guest fee might be preferable.

"Are you suggesting that the Westsiders pay the same fee as a guest?" Community Manager Cochran asked.

"What's special about the West Side coming over here to ride, when they don't pay any dues for here?" Ritter asked. "I don't know what the fee should be, but I like the concept better as a pay-as-you-go item, rather saying 'You pay us \$X,' and then you can ride unlimited."

Noting that Westsiders — even those who had purchased annual memberships — are to use the facility on a "space-available basis," Meyer asked whether that meant Westsiders with reservations could be bumped at the last minute by SLLA members.

Under- or Over-Utilization

Another question raised in the debate was whether the objective should be to limit use of the stables by members and guests or to actively try to increase the number of folks riding and taking lessons.

"Where are we as it relates to — and I hate the word — abuse?" Darr asked Racine, who replied: "No evidence has been brought to us [the Recreation Committee] about people riding three times or more a week. Perhaps one or two. The sentiment was: If the horses are out in the field, should they be ridden, or standing in the field and eat hay? I'd rather see them ridden by a resident than standing out in the field."

Talking about his own thought process on whether to charge members for stable rides, Racine said: "Originally I was in favor of free rides, then I went against them, then I listened. We don't have the evidence right now that people are abusing free rides . . . The horses are sitting there, and they are not being used . . . As long as we are not putting an undue burden

on the horses, residents should have use of the stables without charge, until it is abused — then we will address each abuse as it comes along."

Racine said he had already observed new stable manager Kate Pennington interacting

with their boat, over and above their dues. I quite frankly look at roads almost as an amenity. Presently, what are we doing as it relates to the roads? Everybody in here pays an additional \$100 over and above their dues to pay for that amenity and

ming pool.

"The problem I have with a whole bunch of stuff here," he said "in the bigger picture of what we are talking about, is that I don't think you get stuff free, and I think if you're going to use it, you ought to pay for it."

Darr said he wasn't talking about using the amenities to create a profit center, but rather about "offsetting costs."

He drew the analogy to health insurance co-pays that require a portion of the cost of care to be covered by the insured.

"The issue for me is that it ought to be pay-for-use . . . and that isn't limited to just the stables," Darr said.

"If we as a Board decide that everything we have in here that 'you bought in here for' is free, we got major, major, major problems."

But Darr said he wasn't sure the Board was ready to move to a pay-as-you-go structure for amenities, and Treasurer Meyer agreed.

"What we are really debating in the bigger scheme of things is what business model we are going to follow here," Meyer said.

"The business model in the past has been that all the amenities are free, for the most part . . . Now, due to economic pressures, we are headed toward some kind of

(See "Stables," p. 37)

"If you want to look at . . . charging for this that and the other, every time a car goes through the gate, let's put a little toll booth out there and throw money in it . . ."

— Kathy Lishawa, Seven Lakes North

with young people, getting them excited about interacting with the horses.

"One of the things is that we are going to try to find ways to promote the stables," Racine said, "and get the public more interested."

The Bigger Question: Pay-As-You-Go?

Lurking underneath the Board's debate about who and what to charge for use of the stables was the larger question of whether the SLLA should move to a "pay-as-you-go" policy for the use of amenities, a radical change from the current system, in which Association members have free access to all amenities.

Echoing and amplifying comments he made in the Wednesday, May 25 open meeting, Darr said: "We charge people who have boats in here a fee to use the lake

keep it up."

"Many people bought into this community because of a really nice golf course," he continued. "Never did they expect to get that for nothing . . . They have yearly dues, and, in addition to that, every time they go out to play golf, they pay an additional fee."

"The point being that users of stuff pay for it . . . with the exception of this."

"We have the same issue as it relates to the pool," Darr said. "We have free pool . . . From a business standpoint . . . we are in a situation, coming upon us, in which we are going to have to make decisions about dues increases, or amenities fees, or cutting down expenses to the point that we have to get rid of amenities."

Darr recounted how, as a child in Fremont, OH, he had to pay a small fee to use a taxpayer-supported swim-

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Roads

(Continued from front page)

Restricted reserves will fund the project

Reviewing the history of the SLLA Board's efforts to build a savings account for road repaving, Darr said the first road fund was established in 2006, with the goal of saving \$55,000 each year for that purpose.

In 2009, the \$200,000 then in the road fund was designated a "restricted reserve" that could be used only for roads and state-mandated dam repairs. That same year, the membership approved a

dues increase dedicated to the restricted reserve. Dues increased by \$50 in 2009 and by another \$50 the following year. Each year since, \$100 of each member's annual dues have been deposited in the restricted reserve account.

The Association currently has \$622,000 in the account, enough to cover the anticipated \$567,500 cost of Phase 1 of the road repaving plan.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer said the \$100 in restricted dues adds roughly \$125,000 to the fund each year — hence the four year wait between each phase of the repaving project.

Two types of repaving planned

The plan is to use two different repaving techniques in Phase 1, which will give the Board and the membership an opportunity to determine which is the best option for the remainder of the community's roads.

Providing a primer on road resurfacing techniques, Darr explained that the recent repaving of Seven Lakes Drive used an application called "slurry," in which a liquid asphalt sealer is used to coat the road, providing a surface with a two-to-three year expected life.

An application known as BST — Bituminous Surface Treatment — with a four-to-seven year expected life involves spreading tar, topping that with chips of gravel, rolling it, and then repeating the process. This produces a rougher surface, like that on MacDougall Drive in front of Carolina Car Care.

"Cape Seal" combines the two techniques. Tar is spread, topped with gravel, rolled, and then topped with slurry, producing a smoother surface with a six-to-eight year expected life.

The fourth repaving option process uses an application of BST topped with one-and-one-quarter inches of asphalt, yielding an expected life of eight-to-ten years.

Darr said there is some debate in the paving community about whether Cape

Seal or BST plus asphalt is the better solution. Both options will be used on different sections of SLLA streets in Phase 1 of the repaving project.

"When we get to Phase 2," Darr said, "we will be able to look at four-year-old surfaces that we have and decide which way we want to go. There is no major difference in design life, but there is a difference in rideability — one will be noisier than the other. We don't know which one of those two is the best. This will give us a chance to understand."

Darr indicated that there is a difference in the cost of the various applications, but he declined to address those in a public meeting.

Roads in surprisingly good shape

Darr said the S&ME engineers were very surprised at the relatively good condition

of SLLA roads, given their age and construction.

There is no large gravel providing the standard thick base for the roadways, but rather hard packed soil and sand, with asphalt laid over that. Yet the roads have held up well.

Given that, the Association may be able to get more years of use out of the repaved roads than the standard design life suggests, Darr said, noting that the interior streets are subjected to rel-

atively little heavy truck traffic.

The Board voted unanimously to move approval of Phase 1 to the open meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 27. Darr explained that the current Board cannot dictate the decisions of future Boards, and so will only approve Phase 1 of the plan, though the expectation is that future Boards will carry on the work.

Stables

(Continued from page 36)

modification of that, whether it's pay-as-you-go or co-pay or whatever. That's the kind of over-arching view that we've got to decide here, because it affects the pool, and it can affect the lakes, the debris site, the tennis courts."

"These are all good discussions that help us understand what the temperature of the community is, in terms of implementing some of this," he said, adding, "I agree with you that I think we are still a little too early to pull the trigger on this."

The pay-as-you-go idea fell flat with at least one Association member. Kathy Lishawa, who opposed cuts to the stables in recent meetings, told the Board: "Don't compare the golf course to the stables or the pool. Anyone can join the golf course . . . It's not an amenity, because anyone can join the golf course."

"We do pay our dues for the amenities," she said. "So, if you want to look at the process of charging for this that and the other, you're right, every time a car goes through the gate, let's put a little toll booth out there and throw money in it . . . Every time a boat goes out, put a little toll booth out there."

Racine's draft Stables Proposal was tabled, pending further work by the Recreation Committee.


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