

# The Seven Lakes TIMES

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Volume 28 Number 8

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 22, 2013

## Pool fees again on SLLA agenda

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



If \$5 is too much for a swim, maybe \$3 is a bargain.

After recently rejecting a proposed \$5 per day fee for guest use of the Northside swimming pool, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors agreed during their Monday, February 11 Work Session to put a \$3 per day fee to a vote.

In previous years, SLLA members have been able to purchase four guest passes

for a \$25 annual fee that allowed their guests access to any of the Association's amenities. Over the past year, a number of Board members have expressed concerns about a large number of guests using the stables and the pool.

A \$5 per day guest fee was proposed but rejected during the Wednesday, January 30 SLLA Open Meeting. That vote left guest use of the pool in limbo, Treasurer Conrad Meyer explained: "There is no charge for the pool right now. Stables are covered,

(See "SLLA," p. 36)

## Panel proposes water system sale

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Foxfire Village's water system could be absorbed into the countywide system

operated by Moore County Public Utilities [MCPU], if the Village Council approves a recommendation made by the Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee.

But any such approval is likely to come only after a substantial period of public discussion.

After almost two years of research and study, the Committee presented its recommendation during the Council's Tuesday, February 12 regular meeting.

LRP's water infrastructure sub-committee conducted a needs assessment of the Vil-

(See "Water," p. 34)

## Pancake Breakfast Winner



The Seven Lakes Kiwanis had an enormously successful 30th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 9. Jason Cox, congratulated by Kiwanis President John Clohessy was the winner of a 42-inch HDTV. [See letter on page 29.]

## County's move to VIPER system may be delayed

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter



A communication problem may delay implementation of Moore County's new VIPER-based emergency communications system. Forced to abandon its current VHF-based radio system by federal mandate, the County elected to join the State Highway Patrol's VIPER narrowband system.

During the Moore County Board of Commissioners' Tuesday, February 19 meeting, VIPER representative Mike Hunch told the Com-

missioners that he had misunderstood the time frame to implement the system in the County.

With the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Building scheduled to be occupied this Spring, including the new 911 Communications Center, there is an urgent need to get the VIPER system up and running.

Currently, the County needs 1050 identification codes in order to implement the VIPER system, but not all of these can be given at once, Hunch explained.

But Moore County Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips told the Commissioners that

all of those IDs must be available in order to transition to the new 911 Center — which is currently scheduled for March.

"My frustration is you are just finding this out tonight; that this is our issue," said Chairman Nick Picerno to Hunch. "Someone dropped the ball somewhere."

Commissioner Larry Cadell told Hunch that, if the County were not moving into a new 911 center, the delay this would not be an issue. However, the County is moving into a new center, and the delay in obtaining IDs may delay that transition.

(See "Commissioners," p. 22)

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# League hosts 'Lunch with Legends'

League of Women Voters Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of "Lunch With Legends"

In celebration of Women's History Month, the League of Women Voters of Moore County is presenting its fifth annual "Lunch With Legends: An Afternoon with Historic Women" on Tuesday, March 12, at The Carolina Hotel.

"We are so pleased and proud to be celebrating our fifth year of presenting this wonderful and informative program" says local League President Carolyn Mealing.

"The many great women that gave so much to the fight for suffrage and women's rights should never be forgotten for their many efforts and sacrifices"

Lunch With Legends features stunning, live portrayals of two great women in America's history. The "special guests" for the 2013 luncheon will be Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the most influential and powerful early leaders in the women's rights

movement and Mary Eliza Church Terrell, the daughter of slaves who went on to become a charter member of the NAACP and a leader in the desegregation movement.

The actors portraying the legends are dressed in authentic period costumes and provide an in-character presence during lunch and social hour. But more importantly, during the program they deliver the moving and often emotional words actu-

ally written and spoken by the women whose parts they are playing. Local musician, singer, and producer Tom Bennett will act as Master of Ceremonies, narrate the program, and provide a patriotic musical finale.

Doors and cash bar open at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. Tickets are \$30 per person. Group reservations are available and encouraged. For ticket information, call Ginger Finney at 673-1330.

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# Hold your meeting at the Chapel

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Mar 1	Fri, Mar 8
Fri, Mar 15	Fri, Mar 22
Thu, Mar 28*	Fri, Apr 5
Fri, Apr 12	Fri, Apr 19
Fri, Apr 26	Fri, May 3
Fri, May 10	Fri, May 17
Thu, May 23*	Fri, May 31
Fri, Jun 7	Fri, Jun 14
Fri, Jun 21	Fri, Jun 28
Fri, Jul 5	Fri, Jul 12
Fri, Jul 19	Fri, Jul 26
Fri, Aug 2	Fri, Aug 9
Fri, Aug 16	Fri, Aug 23
Fri, Aug 30	Fri, Sep 6
Fri, Sep 13	Fri, Sep 20
Fri, Sep 27	Fri, Oct 4
Fri, Oct 11	Fri, Oct 18
Fri, Oct 25	Fri, Nov 1
Fri, Nov 8	Fri, Nov 15
Thu, Nov 21*	Fri, Nov 29
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

When the Chapel in the Pines built its new building, the church was careful to call it a Community Building. Its purpose is not just to provide space for Chapel activities, but also to serve the community at large. Any non-profit organization in Seven Lakes may reserve a room or rooms in the Chapel's new building by contacting Dot McDonald, the Chapel administrator Monday, Wednesday or

Thursday from 9 am until 1 pm.

Except for weddings and wedding receptions there is no charge. Those who meet in the rooms are responsible for leaving them in the same condition they found them.

Several organizations have already used the facilities including the Women of Seven Lakes, the Seven Lakes Lion's Club, the Garden Club, Book Clubs and the Seven Lakes Scrappers.

Donations for the cost of utilities and maintenance are accepted, but not solicited or required.

It should be understood by everyone that allowing community meetings and events in the Chapel in no way implies or denotes that the Chapel endorses the

organization or its mission and activities — and the Chapel reserves the right to usurp a reservation for any critical Chapel service or activity.

Dot McDonald can be reached at 910-673-2156 or by email at: citp@centurylink.net

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# Foxtail Circle residents protest unfinished homes

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Old neighbors met for the first time during the Public Comment portion of the Foxfire Village February Meeting. Several residents of Foxtail Circle finally had a chance to meet and speak directly to Foxtail developer and home owners association president Ron Jackson.

Unaware that Jackson was sitting directly behind her, Foxfire Village resident and local realtor Beckie Pahner spoke on behalf of her neighbors, several of whom were in attendance.

"I am here tonight to express concern regarding Foxtail Circle, a huge cul-de-sac that has fifteen to seventeen homes there," Pahner said. "It was originally a planned community presented by Ron Jackson. He built it in stages, and did not finish several lots. He is the home owners association of origin — presently and always will be president of that community — and that will never change."

Addressing the unfinished foundations and unkempt grounds, Pahner said: "A group of local residents have formed their own way to take care of common grounds, separate from the home owners association. They have the goal of maintaining their

grounds to preserve their property values."

Pahner said that it was her understanding that Jackson has been protected from the consequences of failing to finish the development by a state moratorium — and it was her understanding that the moratorium as ended.

"He should have finished by 2005, going into 2006," said Pahner. "The moratorium protected many builders in North Carolina. The state didn't want to see these builders go under. So they didn't have to finish these homes that they started."

## Safety and Aesthetic Issues

Pahner said the bare unfinished foundations on Foxtail Circle are both a safety hazard and an eyesore.

"It is safety issue," she said. "There are open solid cement pits. There are young children riding bicycles around the circle. I have been told that kids have even played in the pits."

"Aesthetically, it does not add to the property value of their homes," Pahner continued.

"We want you to look at it and help us," Pahner told the Council members. "Give us some assistance with the situation that we are in. Press him to finish — or fill these things, so that it is not safety hazard."

Responding to the concerns of residents represented by

Pahner, Mayor Pro Tem Steve Durham said: "The council has taken this up in previous meetings. We are aware and in tune to what you are saying. We have to follow the process which we have already initiated."

"We are well aware of it," Durham continued. "We share your issues. We have met with the village attorney, and he has proposed a course of action. We have attempted to be in touch with him [Jackson] to try and encourage him to handle this himself. He is fully aware of the situation. In our last meeting with our attorney, we discussed methods to remedy the situation."

## Nice to Meet You

There was a moment of awkward silence when Durham pointed out that Jackson was actually in the room.

"I am willing to do what ever you think is right," Jackson said. "I will give you deeds to the foundations. I will turn

them right over to you."

That offer was not appreciated by several of the Foxtail Circle residents, who began to talk among themselves until Durham picked up his gavel and asked for silence. Durham stressed that the meeting was not the place for private conversations.

Jackson said that he had been encouraged to come by Councilman Mick McCue: "I talked to Mr. McCue; he told me to come in here and talk to you guys — that you could give me give suggestions of what you may like me to do."

## Developer Blames Economy, Banks

Several in the audience interrupted and said they would like to see Jackson fill in the pits.

"Do you think I built those foundations and want them to sit there?" the developer asked. "Wells Fargo bought out Wachovia and shut off our construction funds. You can't borrow money to finish a half-built house. I am trying

to get myself in a position to have enough money to not only finish these — but others as well."

Jackson then offered to put up fences around the properties and asked the residents sitting in front of him if they would be happy with that. They quickly expressed their disapproval, saying that a fence would not be enough and that the "pits" were still a hazard.

Jackson said, "I am open for suggestions." Pointing to Councilman McCue, Jackson said, "He said I should come here, and here I am."

## Discussion Terminated

But Durham, moderating the meeting in the absence of Mayor George Erickson, reined in the discussion.

"I don't think it's the right time to get into a dialog with you," Durham told Jackson. "You have been invited to previous meetings, and you have not been able to come. We can put it on the next

(See "Foxfire," p. 35)



## Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Feb 26 Tomato Basil Soup ♥  Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	Feb 27 Chicken Florentine Soup  Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	Feb 28 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥  Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner ♥	1 New England Clam Chowder  Beef Burgundy Dinner
4	5 Mushroom Wild Rice Soup  Italian Meatloaf Dinner	6 Southwest Bean Soup ♥  Chicken Marsala Dinner	7 French Onion Soup  Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	8 Shrimp with Tomato & Rice Soup  Peachy Pork Tenderloin Dinner ♥
11	12 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥  Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	13 Goldie's Chili  Eggplant Parmesan Dinner	14 Asparagus Vichyssoise  Herb Crusted Salmon Dinner ♥	15 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥  Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
18	19 Navy Bean Soup ♥  Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	20 Chicken & Dumpling Soup  Pot Roast Dinner	21 Beef Barley Soup ♥  Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	22 Crab & Shrimp Bisque  Pork & Green Chili Enchiladas Dinner
25	26 Split Pea with Ham Soup  Shepherd's Pie Dinner	27 Vegetable Soup ♥  Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥	28 Curried Carrot Soup ♥  Basil Shrimp with Orzo Dinner	29  <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Happy Easter!</b>

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# WEPC mission trip to Mexico changes lives

by Rev. Larry Lyon

West End Presbyterian Church

West End Presbyterian sent ten young people and seven adults last Summer on a "life-changing" mission trip experience to Chetumal, Mexico.

The West End church has a long sister church relationship with the Ichthus Presbyterian Church in Chetumal, which is in the state of Quintana Roo, along the border of Mexico and Belize. The relationship goes back almost a decade.

"Our mission trip to Mexico changed my life by creating a stronger bond between God and myself," said Doug Clark, a recent Pinecrest Senior High School graduate who is now a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. "It also opened my eyes to how fortunate we are here in America and how much we take for granted. I hope all youth are given the opportunity to partake in this extraordinary event in the future."

The 10 youth and seven adults spent each morning at the church, building a ramp. This involved mixing concrete by hand, pouring a foundation of rock and dirt, and building walls of concrete block and cement filler. The ramp will provide access to a second story sanctuary.

Members of the Ichthus church worked alongside the West End Presbyterian group, which also led a Bible School for approximately 90 children each evening. The WEPC youth led games, taught handbells, put on a puppet show, and led on arts and crafts during the Bible School.

"Simply put, mission trips are life changing," said John Wilson, of Seven Lakes West, who was one of the adult participants on the trip. "They give us countless opportunities to see and experience things in a way that we could never have imagined."

"One short week in Mexico equals ramps built, crafts created, lots of wonderful Mexican food, much laughter, many tears, lots of games, worship services," Wilson

added. "All of these were amazing, but the relationships formed between the team members and the people of Chetumal – that's priceless."

West End Presbyterian Associate Pastor Chip Pope

said "the youth and adults on this mission team worked extremely hard all week, from building the ramp to leading Vacation Bible School each evening. However, just as important as the construction, the teaching and the

singing, was the amazing relationship our youth built with the youth from Chetumal. Along with the new relationships, was a new understanding of what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ."

Those who went on the trip prepared for months in advance of the July trip. Beside preparation meetings and orientation sessions, the WEPC youth held a yard sale and spaghetti dinner and silent auction, which was


supported by the church's congregation and the local community.

The youth who participated in the trip were Doug Clark, Wes Huddleston, Emily Kline, Charlotte McDonald, Logan McDonald, Ali Miriello, Michael Pigg, Sienna Shute, Karen Smith and Allie Van Vliet.

Adults included Holton Easter, Sandra Easter, Chip Pope, Noreen Sawyer, Anna Stevens, Archie Stevens and John Wilson.



Young folks joining the WEPC Mission trip to Mexico this Summer are: Mackenzie Lewis, Tristyn Murphy, and Karen Smith; and Neil Clark, Avery Schaefer, Stephen Sawyer and Zack Smith.

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# Board Considers \$10,000 Project to Refill Echo

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Lake Echo residents concerned about the persistently low water level in the lake filled the room at the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board Work Session on Monday morning, February 11, prompting President Bob Darr to move that discussion up on the agenda.

Echo was lowered three feet last Fall in order to repair a valve, and the lake has yet to return to its former level. It is projected to take ten full days of pumping to move enough water from Lake Sequoia to refill Echo.

SLLA Manager Ray Sohl presented a \$10,542 bid for the pumping job, received from one firm on Friday, that he said was the most cost-effective solution to restoring twenty inches of water to Lake Echo. But Board Member Don Fentzlaff said the Lakes and Dams Committee had not had a chance to review that proposal.

"\$10,000 is a pretty healthy sum," Fentzlaff said. "A lot is involved: pump and hoses,

closing off the dam for the time period that the pump is running — and it will have to run 24/27."

Noting the safety hazard posed by having vehicles drive over the hoses, President Darr said: "I am in support of closing off the dam. I have to come across the dam all the time. It would be somewhat of an inconvenience, but my recommendation is to close the road anyway. In my estimation it is only a small inconvenience."

"The goal is to get it back to the level it was when we first started draining it," said Fentzlaff. "Raising Echo twenty inches will lower Sequoia seven inches. It will bring the lakes to the same level. We cannot take one lake down further than the one you are pumping into."

## Putting It Back Like It Was

Board Member Chuck Leach agreed with Fentzlaff: "When we chose to lower the entire lake to fix the valve, that was only half the project. We need to finish the job."

Currently, docks on Echo are sitting in dry ground and the boat ramp is out of the water. The irrigation pipes

of lakefront property owners are also above the current water level.

"Once Echo is raised, we need to encourage people to be prudent when irrigating," said Fentzlaff.

Taking into consideration the likelihood of late Winter and early Spring rains, Treasurer Conrad Meyer encouraged the Board to chose a company quickly. If Lake Sequoia is lowered before the Spring rains, he said, it will have a chance to refill.

Several Lake Echo residents offered pledges toward the expense. "Pumping should begin as soon as possible," said resident Bill Hirsch. "We have a reasonable shot at rain replenishing the bulk of what's left."

Fentzlaff agreed that it was time to act. Although he was impressed that some of the residents offered pledges, he said the Board could not factor in that income.

"We can't delay the process waiting to see how much the residents are going to give," Fentzlaff said. "I don't think we can postpone it any longer."

"We are an Association, and we pay dues," Director

Leach noted. "This is what we are supposed to do. I am opposed to accepting money [from residents]. This is the Association's responsibility."

"I think Chuck [Leach] made an important point," Meyer said. "When we take on these projects in the future, we need to budget for the expense it will take to restore it back to its original state. That cost needs to be added in."

## Decision expected soon

SLLA policy requires that any expense in excess of \$5,000 be sent out for bids. Director Bob Racine moved and the Board agreed to vote on the proposed pumping

contract in the February 27 Open Meeting. The approved contract would not exceed the \$10,542 bid already in hand; and, in the meantime, the Association will solicit other bids. All bids will be presented at the Open Meeting.

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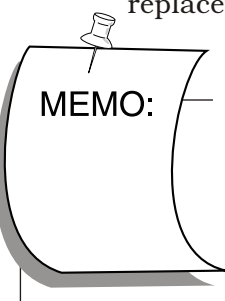
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# Darr: SLLA Budget has reached 'crunch time'

The 2009-2010 Seven Lakes Landowner Association Board of Directors commissioned a study of the community. The result is referred to as The Reserve Study. The purpose of this study was to identify projected future capital needs of the community and the method by which the Association might meet those needs.

The focus of the study was our infrastructure. Included was the analysis of the roads, buildings, lakes, stables, pool, beaches, playgrounds, shelters, etc., and the subsequent costs associated with their

replacement or refurbishment. Additionally, the analysis provided time frames for those major activities and replacements. In



## Board Notes

*Bob Darr, President  
Seven Lakes  
Landowners Board*

order to accomplish the recommendations, they advised dues increases of \$100 for each of the years 2010, 2011,

and 2012, for a total of \$300.

Each Board, since receiving the Reserve Study, has spent hours upon hours discussing its implications to the future of this community.

The recent history shows that the first priority was to reduce costs wherever possible.

We have, subsequently, significantly reduced costs for the management company, security, the debris site, and

landscaping. Analysis of all expenditures will continue. The fact of the matter, however, is that we will not be able to "cut our way to prosperity" without drastically changing our community. We have reached "crunch time."

It should be noted that the Association has not had a dues increase since May 2005. The \$50 increases in 2010 and 2011 were set aside for roads. While the cost of living has risen nearly 14% since 2006, the Association has had to endure the operating increases without an

increase in revenue to offset them.

Our community is now over 30 years old and no appreciable work has been done on our infrastructure. We cannot continue in this manner.

The Board of Directors is placing a \$100 increase on the ballot for your consideration, \$50 to be placed in restricted reserves to fund the roads and state mandated dam repairs and \$50 to fund major capital needs of the community.

## Hams assist with Uwharrie Mountain Run

by Jim Johnson  
MOCARS

How do you keep track of 500 runners, traversing 40 miles of National Forest trails on a cold, cloudy Saturday and keep them from getting lost? You ask your local amateur radio clubs to man strategic locations providing essential communications where cell phone communications may be questionable or non-existent due to the terrain.

On Saturday, February 2, that is exactly what happened.

The 17th running of the Uwharrie Mountain Run and first area ultra marathon of 2013 was hosted by the Bull City Runners in the Uwharrie National Forest. Runners from North Carolina and several surrounding states participated. A sizeable contingent of experienced amateur

radio operators from Stanley, Montgomery and Moore County Amateur Radio Societies spent a long day keeping track of the runners. In the end no one got lost though several had cuts, bruises and sprains to show for their efforts and many were moving a little slower at the end. Unfortunately, a runner was injured during the race and ham radio operators were instrumental in notifying emergency services personnel in getting him out of the woods.

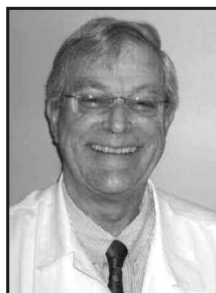
Hams used the Stanly County repeater and personal 2 meter portable and mobile radios, some with creative antenna arrangements, to communicate with each other, the aid stations, transportation hub at the Eldorado outpost and with the start-finish. Hams handled calls ranging from simple things

like more drinks for runners to injuries that required coordination of Emergency Rescue. Finally, hams and family volunteers tracked the runners on the 8, 20 and 40 mile races so that start-finish could provide the race officials with an accurate accounting

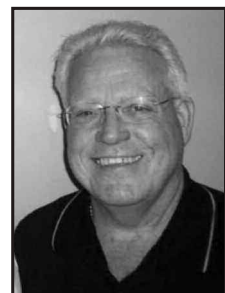
of all runners.

Mark Wehner (KJ4ZEK) walked the entire 8 mile course to sweep for runners. Wehner's walk came in handy when 50 of the 8 mile runners got off the trail and he was able to guide them back onto the trail.

Amateur radio enthusiasts are federally licensed volunteers who provide communications skills to a myriad of community activities including parades, athletic activities and disaster recovery.



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# School Board celebrates School Bus Week

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



For forty-two years, Southern Pines native Carolyn

Penland has transported Moore County's most precious cargo. She began driving her school bus route for Moore County Schools [MCS] in 1970, with a starting pay of \$2.70/hour. She supplemented her income working as a substitute teacher and as a mentor for the district's younger bus drivers.

On the first day of school each year, Penland makes a simple yet effective request to the students on her bus: "Talk and laugh quietly, show respect to each other, and keep your hands and feet to yourself."

"When I show respect to the children, they in return give me respect," she told members of the Moore County Board of Education during their Monday, February 11 regular meeting.

Charles McDowell, Executive Supervisor for the MCS Transportation Department, introduced Penland during a presentation that kicked off School Bus Driver's Appreciation Week.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to come before you and show appreciation for our wonderful school bus

drivers," said McDowell. "The 'Love the Bus' campaign was founded in 2007. It's the only way to recognize the hundreds of thousands of drivers across the nation. Our purpose in being here is to bring you up to date on state of transportation as it is today."

Transportation Specialist Steven Saunders stepped up to report on 2013 transportation service, beginning with a quick introduction to "Buster," a three-foot-tall, yellow, remote controlled school bus that was maneuvered into the crowded room. "Buster" is on loan to Moore County and touring the elementary schools for the next week.

Saunders asked the questions, and Buster provided the data on the MCS transportation program. Moore County's school buses drive 1.7 million miles each year, using 250,000 gallons of fuel. "Moore County Busses save 15,464,522 miles for parents," Saunders said. "That certainly adds up."

"In Moore County each car averages about 1.5 children per vehicle," he explained. "Could you imagine adding those cars to that traffic we already have? Our kids would never get to school. One bus equals 35 cars. We serve a great service in the county and help reduce traffic."

"For the very first time in history, we have reached a height that we have never reached before," Saunders said. "The board supported us in our transportation effort. Under the leadership of Charles McDowell and the forethought of the board, for the very first time, we are funding one hundred percent of our transportation cost with state funds. This year we are on track to save over \$180,000."

Board chairwoman Enola Lineberger complimented the transportation staff. "I got to see Buster at Aberdeen Primary," she said. "I was really touched at how many students Mr. Saunders knew by name. I really appreciated that."

On Saunderson's command, Buster made a 90 degree turn and wheeled out, bringing the presentation to an end.

## Recognizing Nationally Certified Teachers

Board members applauded eighteen nationally certified teachers during the meeting, ten who had just achieved their certification, and eight who had renewed theirs.

It takes commitment and hard work to become nationally certified, Board member Laura Lang explained, meeting "professional teaching

standards dedicated to advancing quality in teaching and learning."

"It's a voluntarily process and takes one to three years to complete," she said. "Educators that complete the accreditation earn a twelve percent salary increase and a one time, one percent raise from the county. It is renewable every ten years."

## Teaching to Greatness

One of the newly certified teachers, Kimberly Phelps-Deaton of Pinehurst Elementary, was named as one of

the evenings Growing to Greatness award recipients for what Lang called her "innovative and engaging instruction."

"She encourages her students to take responsibility for their own learning," Lang said. "She has her Masters in math education, and this year initiated a school-wide behavioral program at Pinehurst Elementary."

## First Year Anniversary

The Board congratulated Superintendent Dr. Aaron (See "School Board," p. 24)

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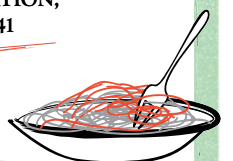
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# Legislation would allow County to own schools

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Legislation wending its way through the NC General Assembly would give county boards of commissioners the option of taking over ownership of schools from local school boards. Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence has encouraged the Moore County Board of Education to adopt a resolution opposing the move.

"We would contend that school property, where to put schools, and how to manage schools is a school board issue," Spence told *The Times*. "The school board would most likely be opposed to county ownership of school property. Our board would want to work with the Moore County Board of Commissioners on this issue."

The legislative effort came as something of a surprise to Moore County Commissioners Chairman Nick Picino, who told *The Times* that he was not familiar with the proposed legislation and that taking control of MCS real estate is "not something on our plate."

## A Wake County Feud with Statewide Implications

Exactly why counties would want to take over ownership of schools is a complicated question — one that most county commissioners have likely never asked.

But the Wake County Board of Commissioners did ask that question, voting on January 22 to seek legislation that would allow counties the option of owning school property, as well as allowing counties to build facilities for charter schools, and changing the way in which members are elected to the Wake County School Board.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners is under Republican control; the School Board is controlled by Democrats. And regardless of the party in charge, the two Boards have consistently butted heads over policies

affecting the state's largest school district.

One member of the Wake County Board carried the notion of county's owning schools to a meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners [NCACC], where the option was quickly added to the Association's legislative agenda.

## A Balance Sheet Issue or Red Herring?

The NCACC's new Public Education Goal PE-5 reads in part as follows: "Authorize the option for counties to acquire, own, and construct traditional public school sites and facilities."

The rationale: Unlike many other states, North Carolina does not give local school boards taxing authority; that is reserved for the county

commissioners. Because counties are required under state law to build and maintain schools — and often borrow money to do so — but the school board retains the title to the properties, the county's balance sheet has an odd imbalance between assets and debt.

It's a bookkeeping problem. But it's a bookkeeping problem that even the NCACC admits has no real-world impact.

"All of our bonding agencies know and understand that this is unique to our state," Rebecca Troutman, Intergovernmental Relations Director for NCACC, told *The Times*.

"I think that it [the asset to debt issue] is a red herring, Superintendent Spence told *The Times*. "The larger counties (Wake) have the most debt service. The truth of the

matter is they are all triple A-rated."

## Legislation on a fast track

Despite the apparently thin rationale, the goal was presented one day and voted into the NCACC's legislative agenda the next, with little time for discussion and debate.

Granting approval of newly introduced goals is not uncommon at the NCACC annual meeting, Troutman told *The Times*. "It's a process that has long been in place. We have a number of new commissioners that took office in December and we allow for new goals to be introduced. They are discussed, screened and vetted and if favorable it is brought back to the floor the next day."

With the favorable vote,

the option of counties to take over ownership of school property has become one of 60 goals in a 14-page document that has been forwarded to county Boards of Commissioners across the state so that they can endorse it. How much attention goal PE-5 will receive from individual commissioners is an open question.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina School Board Association has prepared a draft resolution in opposition to the proposed legislation, arguing that the NC General Statutes prescribe that the powers of general control and supervision of school systems are to be vested in local boards of education. Superintendent Spence has urged the Moore County Board of Education to approve that resolution.

(See "Legislation," p. 25)



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# In memory of . . .

**Jean MacLehose Locke**, formerly of Seven Lakes, 97, died Tuesday, February 12, at St. Joseph of the Pines Health Center.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 pm, on Wednesday, March 6, at the Chapel at Pine Knoll, in Southern Pines.

Mrs. Locke was born in Glasgow, Scotland. She had lived in Montreal, Detroit, Seven Lakes and Pinehurst.

She is survived by nephews Bill Burkett and Jackie Broadwrich; nieces Audrey Cassidy, Doreen Hornby and Kathleen Callery.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Boles Funeral Home is assisting the family.

**Donna Carlson Olson**, 85, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, February 9, at FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care, Pinehurst.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, February 16, at her home in Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Olson was born in Winnebago County, Ill.,

daughter to the late Milton H. Carlson and Lillian Larson Carlson.

She was a devoted teacher of music who taught at her home for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Olson and her son, Jeffrey Olson.

She is survived by a daughter, Kris Smith, of Southern Pines; sister, Betty L. July, of Tulsa, OK; four grandchildren, Nathan Olson, Justin Olson, Carrie Olson and Jordan Olson; and two great-granddaughters, Presley Olson and Lily Olson.

Services were provided by Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service and Crematory, of Fayetteville.

**Milton Dwight Saxmann**, 76, of Seagrove, and Edgewood, MD, died Wednesday,

February 6.

He was the son of the late H. Dwight and Alma [Shaffer] Saxmann in Baltimore County, MD.

Mr. Saxmann served his country as a member of the Signal Corps with the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1958, before graduating with an Associate's degree in Marketing Management from Catonsville Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the University of Baltimore.

He retired from Northrup Grumman and Westinghouse after a 31 year career as a field and project engineer, primarily working with satellite, antenna and radar installations around the world. He spent much of his time abroad working in Australia, Madagascar, Ecuador, and long-term tours in Iran and

Morocco. In his earlier years, he also worked for Lockheed Electronics and was assigned to Project Mercury at Wallops Station in Virginia.

Mr. Saxmann was an avid reader and a lifelong amateur radio operator with the call-sign KB3GIR, loved the outdoors, played guitar professionally in his youth, was a Civil War and American history buff, and was devoted to his companion animals – most recently his dog, Foxy.

In addition to his parents, Milt was preceded in death by an infant brother and his brother-in-law, Henry Zink.

Survivors include his children: Derek Saxmann and his wife, Heather, of Salisbury, MD; Laura and her husband, Jim Douglass, of Seven Lakes North; and his

grandchildren, Bryce, Jack, Lindsay, Lauren, and Jenna; sisters, Gloria Zink of Ft. Morgan, CO; and Andrea Cox and her husband, Tom, of Conway, SC; his brothers, Thomas Saxmann and his wife, Debbie, of Seven Valleys, PA; and Stephen Saxmann and his wife, Shelia, of Shrewsbury, PA; and many beloved nieces and nephews. His marriage to Dorothy Carol [Rice] Smith ended in divorce but their friendship endured.

A funeral service was held on Monday, February 11, with burial immediately following at National Memorial Park in Laurel, MD.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1143 Seven Lakes Dr., West End, NC 27376.

## SLLA Citizen of The Year Nominations

SLLA Citizen Of The Year nominations are now being accepted.

We are looking for that special person who goes above and beyond to support Seven Lakes, the community and Moore County.

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Nominations must be received no later than February 27.

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# As field dwindles, SLLA hosts Candidates' Night

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



So who is actually running for the Seven Lakes Land Association [SLLA] Board? The number of candidates vying for one of four available seats had climbed as high as six, but had dropped back to only three for a Candidates' Night held in the North Clubhouse on Thursday, February 7.

Director Steve Ritter, heading up the Nominating Committee worked hard to recruit candidates throughout the Fall, but, by the final meeting in December, he had only one candidate who might be willing to run. So, he asked the current board if any were willing to run again.

Current SLLA President Bob Darr and Director Don Fentzloff reluctantly agreed to put their names back in the hat, and the Board, during the January 30 Open Meeting, waived a Bylaw requirement that they amass the signatures of fifty landowners in support of their candidacy. Meanwhile, four other candidates stepped up, including incumbent Director Bob Racine.

But Darr and Fentzloff withdrew within a week of the January Open Meeting, and newcomer Mark Steele withdrew his name on the day of the forum for family medical reasons.

That left three candidates to compete for four open seats in the elections that will be concluded at the Annual

Meeting on March 24: newcomer Richard Faraci, current Director Bob Racine, and former SLLA Treasurer Steve Hudson.

The forum, moderated by *Seven Lakes Times* Publisher Greg Hankins, attracted a few dozen Association members. Candidates were given six minutes to respond to a set of questions on community priorities and their skills and background. Then written questions were taken from the audience. The order in which candidates answered each question was rotated by the moderator. However, each candidate's answers have been consolidated here for easier reading.

## Richard Faraci

*What do you believe to be the highest priority issues that must be addressed by the Board of Directors? How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experience) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited.*

"I was raised in Great Neck, Long Island," Faraci said. "I had come down here to vacation since 2000, and I fell in love with Seven Lakes. The area is just how I remember my home town back as a kid growing up. I felt this was a great community to retire to with my wife MaryAnn."

The Faracis retired to Seven Lakes North in 2004. "I came down here to fish and ride a motorcycle," he said. "I crashed my motorcycle on

US 1, and the speed boats make it too hard to fish."

Among Faraci's concerns are the number of cars roaming the community late at night. "The last four months, I haven't been sleeping much at night because of leg pain. I am up and hear at least forty cars going over the dam at 3:00 am," said Faraci. "That's a lot of cars riding up and down the dam. By the speed they are going, they are not seniors. They can't all be our residents, and something needs to be done about that."

"I also see maintenance problems. I don't know if it's being caused by the present company we have here. In the past, things might have been done slower, but at least it was done," said Faraci.

Faraci also expressed his dissatisfaction with the height of grass on the dam. "I live by the dam and pay a lot of money for a landscaper to come in and mow it and

make it look nice," he said. "The grass behind me is a foot high. My dog gets lost in it. The Army Corps of Engineers says mowing will erode the hillside. I say baloney. If they are eroding the hillside then they are doing it wrong."

*How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experiences) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited.*

Upon completion of high school Faraci joined the Alert Volunteer Fire Department in October of 1969. He worked his way up to the rank of Chief of Department and served until 1992.

"After serving my term as Chief for the Alert Volunteer Fire Department, I was elected and served on the Board of Trustees for the next six years," said Faraci. "I was elected and given the honor of Lifetime Membership in the department in 2005."

"I was employed full time with the Department of Public Works for the Village of Great Neck and oversaw snow plowing and removal, managing recycling, establishing and maintaining drainage, and various types of road work," said Faraci.

Faraci said he was then promoted to superintendent of public works in 1990 for the Village of Lake Success, overseeing 2 million dollars in budgets and supervising road work, parks and sewer departments, and all building maintenance.

"I will be active on the board," he promised. "I will find where you get your money and how you spend it. If I am needed here I will be here. I won't go up north for extended periods."

*The Board has been trying to cut expenses and raise revenues in a variety of ways: they proposed eliminating life-*  
(Continued on page 13)



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## SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 11)

*guards at the pool and raising the guest fee for swimmers, as well as at the stables. What is your opinion of these strategies?*

"If not having lifeguards is going to increase our liability or cause us a safety issue," Faraci said, "then close the pool down before that happens. If we can only afford two lifeguards, then we lessen the hours of the pool. We still need to provide lifeguards. Same with the stables. I don't have an answer now, but will the next time I speak with you."

*The Board plans to ask landowners to approve a dues increase at the Annual Meeting. Do you support a dues increase?*

"I don't want to increase the dues," Faraci said. "I am not in favor unless we absolute need it. I've got to go a long way down the road, before I go along with a dues increase. The amenities in this place are fantastic. I don't want to see them go away; but, if we have to close something because we can't afford it, then we close it."

"These committees seem like they are taking freehand over what is being brought before the board," said Faraci. "They shouldn't be throwing all the ideas out there, unless they can back them up."

*An audience member asks how each you feel about access control and the quality of security at the gates. Is gate security adequate?*

"I don't have too many issues with gate," Faraci said. "I have a cleaning service that comes each week, and they have to be called in every time. Fine, if we have to do it. If I could buy them a pass for \$10 then I would. I don't think we have a problem with workers coming in here — I think it's the guests."

*There have been a number of complaints about the lack of striping in SLLA roads. The Association has a plan for repaving the streets in stages over a number of years, as reserves are available to pay*

*for the work. Do you support that plan?*

"I am not a one hundred percent familiar with the road plan, so I am not going to comment on it," Faraci said. "But I think striping the roads right now [before paving them] would be a waste of money."

*What do you as prospective board members think about how the two Seven Lakes landowners associations should relate with one another?*

"It is always good to be in good contact with our neighbors," Faraci said. "The West Side had been the source of a lot of issues. [In terms of gate access,] If they want us to do something special over there, then they should have to do something special over here. Otherwise, it's not fair that they get to use their passes on our gates to come here and play pinochle."

*Why can the SLLA not get seven members to step up and lead the community?*

"We as a community should pay more attention to what's going on," Faraci said. "I am fault for not being active as much as I should be. Hopefully, I will be here and can benefit community. As far as the Board goes, everybody has got to get along. As long as majority prevails the board has done its job."

### Steve Hudson

*What do you believe to be the highest priority issues that must be addressed by the Board of Directors? How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experience) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited?*

"My wife Mary and I live on the North Side," Hudson said. "We were both born and raised in Greensboro. We have been residents for 26 years. We owned seafood restaurants in Greensboro for a number of years. I also worked in sales and marketing."

Several years ago, I decided to change professions. I work at FirstHealth Moore Regional and am a nationally certified phlebotomist.

*How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experiences) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited.*

Hudson is a past board member and served for two years a treasurer of SLLA. "My past experience as a board member would serve Seven Lakes well," he said

*The Board has been trying to cut expenses and raise revenues in a variety of ways: they proposed eliminating lifeguards at the pool and raising the guest fee for swimmers, as well as at the stables. What is your opinion of these strategies?*

"I don't see any need to get rid of them [the horses] at this point," said Hudson. "I grew up with horses and

showed them. They were a pleasure. I also know horses can be very expensive. We need to start looking at how many of our landowners are riding. If you want your friends or grandkids to come and ride, then they need to pay. They are not a landowner."

*The Board plans to ask landowners to approve a dues increase at the Annual Meeting. Do you support a dues increase?*

"I am not in favor of dues increase," Hudson said. "Dues are like taxes: they go up, but don't go down."

*An audience member asks how each you feel about access control and the quality of security at the gates. Is gate security adequate?*

"I have noticed a number of service people coming in," said Hudson. "If a landscaper is working in your yard, I think they need some type

(Continued on page 14)

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## SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 13)

of identification to let the rest of us know who they are."

*There have been a number of complaints about the lack of striping in SLLA roads. The Association has a plan for repaving the streets in stages over a number of years, as reserves are available to pay for the work. Do you support that plan?*

"I feel that you are wasting money by striping something that we are going to repave in the near future," said Hudson. "It may be nice to see that tonight as we go home, but I think it is a waste of money."

"In 2005 we put \$50,000 aside for paving," Hudson explained. "After that we had a \$50 dues increase and the following year another," said Hudson. "I think we need to hold on to the money for the striping. We have had to live with it for this many years; we can wait a few more."

*What do you as prospective board members think about how the two Seven Lakes landowners associations should relate with one another.*

Hudson said he favored restrictions at the SLLA gates for Westsiders that replicated those imposed on SLLA members at the gates of Seven Lakes West. "The clique they have on board has put in lot of restrictions," said Hudson. "I don't see bending over backwards for someone that keeps restricting us."

*Why can the SLLA not get seven members to step up and lead the community?*

"I have no earthy idea, why," Hudson said. "When I was on board, I was in charge of the Nominating Committee and we got members very readily to run for board. I don't know what the problem is. Maybe it is the present board members."

### Bob Racine

*What do you believe to be the highest priority issues that must be addressed by*

*the Board of Directors? How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experience) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited.*

"Why would I want to seek a second term?" Racine said in good humor: "The present board in their infinite wisdom gave all the board members a one hundred percent raise."

Racine graduated from law school in 1960 and worked for many years in a small town practice. "We moved here five years ago, and we enjoy our grandchildren," said Racine. "This is a beautiful place to raise children, and we are fortunate enough to be able live here."

Reflecting on the current board's accomplishments Racine said, "transparency" has been the Board's most noted accomplishment when compared to past boards. "We have been the most transparent," he said. "You know that President Bob Darr always opens the meeting to questions from the audience and invites them to speak."

"We also established much needed committees," he continued. "Prior boards had abolished all committees. We reestablished these committees. There is a move underfoot to limit the effectiveness of these committees, by taking away the jurisdiction of

what they can do, but not abolishing them."

"When I go to a committee, I go and listen to them," said Racine. "We need residents to get involved in our committees." Directing his question to SLLA residents, he asked "Why don't you come? I would like to see you get involved. I would like to see the younger people involved."

*How does your background (schooling, skills acquired, work experiences) relate to the expertise you described as relevant to the issues you cited.*

"I was a town moderator for 10 years. I learned that you get more with compromise and cooperation than with belligerence and confrontation," Racine said.

"A moderator brings people together with different opinions to form a uniform, cohe-

sive plan of action. You can accomplish more through negotiation — taking time to go to a meeting and discuss, listen and then come to a decision."

*The Board plans to ask landowners to approve a dues increase at the Annual Meeting. Do you support a dues increase?*

"Let's not price ourselves out of living here," said Racine. "We have to balance the right hand with the left. Those are going to be tough decisions. Personally, many of us cannot afford a dues increase. We are on a fixed income, yet everything continues to go up in price."

Speaking of possible budget savings, Racine said, "Anything over \$5,000 goes to a competitive bid. There are many things that are being

(Continued on page 15)

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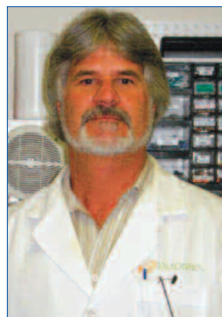
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## SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 14)

done in-house. These could go to competitive bid. Submit items and have the board itself determine if it goes to bid."

"There are too many questions in the finance report," he continued. "One is the amount of monies that are being budgeted. I think we can do a little more cutting in certain areas to save money. Everything is going up — gas, groceries — we need to hold off."

*The Board has been trying to cut expenses and raise revenues in a variety of ways: they proposed eliminating life-guards at the pool and raising the guest fee for swimmers, as well as at the stables. What is your opinion of these strategies?*

"The thing that bothered me the most was the Recreation Committee was asked to come up with a fee schedule," Racine said. "In two weeks, we were supposed to come up with an answer. We needed time to investigate this thoroughly before we come up with a decision."

"This last set of proposed fees was given directly to the board at our work session. We were told we needed to vote to take it to the Open Meeting," said Racine. "The recreation committee was completely bypassed."

*An audience member asks how each you feel about access control and the quality of security at the gates. Is gate security adequate?*

"I am the most qualified to answer this one," laughed Racine. "I was the access control officer for six years in one community."

"We had twenty five security officers on the force. It's impossible to be one hundred percent safe. If I go to Kiwanis, I climb over the fence to get to the meeting."

"A gated community in Florida had eight-foot concrete walls, and they still had problems. I think our gate security is doing a great job. If there are problems, then we address them as

they arise," Racine said.

*There have been a number of complaints about the lack of striping in SLLA roads. The Association has a plan for repaving the streets in stages over a number of years, as reserves are available to pay for the work. Do you support that plan?*

"I support the plan that we have," Racine said. "If we are going to be paving in the next couple of years why stripe the old pavement then have to pay to restripe it?"

When an audience member spoke up to say that driving at night was difficult without stripes, Racine replied, "Come to our Work Session. Your input is always needed. We would like to have some input on it. I have enough problems driving during the day. I would like some input from the community. I am open minded."

*What do you as prospective board members think about how the two Seven Lakes landowners associations should relate with one another.*

"I think the press made a big issue out of this when there wasn't one there," Racine said. "I don't know where the people are that are creating the problems. I can't see hurting everyone because of the actions of few," said Racine.

"Let's meet them [the West-side Board] for lunch. Sometimes a lot more things can be done with a positive approach."

*Why can the SLLA not get seven members to step up and lead the community?*

"It's no different than every other blasted organization," Racine replied. "When it comes to the women's club putting up decorations, where is everybody? When we have a swim meet, then where are the volunteers? If you don't like how things are being run then get involved. Go to your neighbors. It's universal: people want 'give me' but don't want 'give back'."

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# Blake's Restaurant – Serious Southern Vittles

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

There are very few legends in old time diners. The few still operating are noted for their consistency, true Southern cuisine and longevity. Blake's Restaurant in Candor might just be the rarest of gems.

It has never changed ownership, its name, or its Sunday menu. It is not prissy, gourmet, or a flash in the pan.

It is a true cultural Southern experience for anyone north of the Mason-Dixon. It is as good as a Sunday dinner at grannies for anyone born and raised below. Blake's is a sit as long as you like, friendly smart service with a twang, sweet iced tea with a thick wedge of lemon, crispy fried chicken and sinful chocolate pie, 'we don't take credit cards but we will take a personal check,' bona-fide old-school restaurant.

## Inez Blake

You will never find petite Inez Allen Blake with out a brooch. Today, a dainty bejeweled turtle is pinned to her jacket's collar. She shares

a wise tip she received many years ago: "Wear a pin and take the eyes off the hips."

Before Inez married, she grew up with her brother and five

with a house full of children. We owned our farm, so we made it all right."

"So, we took our honeymoon, opened a business, and went to work. We started out in barbecue and had sandwiches and curbside services. We did that until 1955,

four boys; Gary, Jimmy, Greg and Tommy. All four sons married school teachers.

"There is family joke that we could start our own school," Jimmy Blake said. "We have physical education, agriculture, home economics, business, and exceptional education teachers — along with a principal in the family."

In the South, barbecue often comes served with a healthy helping of politicking. Colon Blake served three terms in the North Carolina House. He also sold real estate. But, when he retired, he came back to his first love — the restaurant.

"Before he passed away, this was his hobby," Jimmy Blake explained. "He made more money selling houses than selling hamburgers. He stilled loved just being here and meeting people. He was here until the last few days of his life. He died of lung

(See "Blake's," p. 31)



sisters a

mile from Star. "I lived on the farm and had a brother two years older than me. We would go check the rabbit traps. I went hunting with him, and I road a horse," she said.

She preferred the outdoors. "That's another reason I enjoyed those four boys [her sons]," Inez said. "I loved it on the farm. I wish my boys could have spent time on the farm."

She regrets her sons never knew her father.

"My father died too young, before they were born. He passed when I was eighteen," she said. "He had stomach cancer. He left my mother

Inez's mother lived to be 95; she is a young 86. Her husband Colon passed away five years ago on February 18.

"We got married June 7th 1947, and opened our business on July 4th," she said.

and that's when we went into full service."

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Colon and Inez Blake raised



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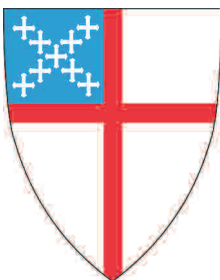
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# Chris Christiansen – one of the Greatest

by Ray Pardue  
Seven Lakes South

He is the last of his B-29 crew of eleven young men. They flew three dozen combat missions over mainland Japan from Saipan in 1944 and 1945. Miraculously, all came through unharmed, surviving nine months of fighter attacks and anti-aircraft artillery fire during bombing missions.

The Marianas are a long way from little Shelton, Connecticut, where Chris Christiansen made his first appearance on March 9, 1920. He wasn't there long; his father, a barber, was restless and dissatisfied. He packed the family into a windowless Ford Model T, and steered west in the mid-1920s, a thirty-day trip ending in Los Angeles. They camped in farm fields along the way.

His father immediately started building them a house, doing his own work, in the Griffith Park area. The family lived there for about five years, during which time he built them another house, where Chris and his family were living when he went into service.

Chris graduated from John Marshall High School in 1937, then briefly worked at a gas station in nearby Hollywood before being hired by North American Aviation. He also worked for a time burning re-growth on cleared lots, a common practice then. In the Fall, he enrolled in UCLA, balancing academic demands with work at North American Aviation.

Chris held a draft deferment owing to pursuit of a degree at UCLA studying physics (the Engineering Department at Berkeley, his choice, was too far away) and employment at North American Aviation on a production line and as an inspector. But Chris nonetheless volunteered for the draft in late 1942.

"I wanted to be in the action," he said.

He reported to the Draft Board in Los Angeles in January the following year and went to Camp Hahn, California, which later became a part of March Air Force Base, for induction and processing.

## Basic Training

Basic training in the Army

Air Force in Boca Raton, Florida, required about twelve weeks, after which he went to Yale University for three months of aeronautical engineering studies. Chris recalls the leader of a new military band stationed there: Captain Glenn Miller. A featured vocalist: Private Tony Martin. Miller would later form the Army Air Force Band.

Commissioned a second lieutenant after studies at Yale, Chris volunteered for a program featuring the new B-29 bomber. He was assigned to the Boeing Aircraft assembly plant in Seattle, Washington, to learn the technical ins and outs of the B-29, just then coming off the assembly line. A total of 3,970 B-29's would be built, most of them by Boeing, and another 1,200 by Bell and by Martin. After three months in Seattle, Chris and eleven others went to Wright Field, Ohio, to hone their skills.

Assignment to Pratt, Kansas, and the 497th Bombardment Group followed, ostensibly for flight training in the B-29. However, because the Group's B-29s

(See "Christiansen," p. 18)



Chris Christiansen in his woodworking shop.

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# Christiansen

(Continued from page 17)

had not been delivered, flight training — with Chris as flight engineer — was conducted in “war weary” B-17s. Some of the delay in delivery resulted from problems with the engines. They were good for only ten hours, before overheating and requiring replacement. Finally, one B-29 was delivered.

Chris was getting ample hours in the B-17, although that aircraft did not require a flight engineer. He had little to do in flight, so, “I got to do a little of everything, including flying the plane.”

To sharpen skills, crew members could check out a B-17 for training missions. The intended flights had to exceed 1,000 miles, ideal for Chris, as then-girlfriend-later-wife June lived in Los Angeles, and the other members of the crew enjoyed leisure time there. On other occasions, the crews would fly round-trip training missions — eventually in a B-29 — to a bomb range in Cuba. On the return flights to Kansas, Chris recalls, “We sometimes had aircraft flying all over the southeastern US.”

June and Chris married in Pratt in 1944, shortly before his crew was sent to Saipan. June moved back to Los Angeles to live with her new in-laws; Chris went to war at 24.

## Saipan

Saipan had fallen to the Allies in July, 1944, with unimaginable losses on both sides. Important because it straddled Japanese supply routes and was a staging area for their air activities, Saipan was also needed for air attacks on the Japanese mainland. Another of those 14 Marianas Islands is nearby Tinian, from which the Enola Gay — a B-29 — carried the atomic bomb Little Boy, that obliterated Hiroshima and forced the Japanese surrender following a second drop, Fat Man, over Nagasaki. It is a relatively small place, Saipan, 12.5 miles long and, at places, only 5.5 miles wide. It lies 100 miles north of

Guam, and, importantly, only 1500 miles from Tokyo, enabling the new B-29s to strike the Japanese mainland and (hopefully) recover on Saipan after a 13-15 hour mission.

Ground echelon troops arrived on Saipan in mid-September, 1944. The first B-29, “Joltin’ Jolie,” followed in October. That aircraft would make twenty-four bombing runs over Japan. It crashed into the sea on takeoff from Saipan the following Spring, with loss of all lives.

Chris and his crews, both air and ground, arrived on Saipan in late October. He describes the island as a “mess,” following the month-long battle there. His crew, all in their 20s and considered an older bunch, was given little time for familiarization, which consisted of navigational flights around the Marianas.

He recalls the massive damage from Allied shelling, the numerous prisoners, and the holdouts in surrounding jungle areas, who came at night from the hills to harass the new occupiers and to scavenge. Twenty four hour a day restoration of the air strips began immediately after the Allied victory, enabling combat missions over Japanese occupied Truk and Iwo Jima, mostly for training. Attacks over the Japanese mainland began on November 24, 1944.

The 73rd Bomb Wing of the 20th Bomber Command comprised on Saipan the 497th, 498th, 499th, and 500th Bombardment Groups, along with numerous support elements. 15,000 troops would pass through the island by the end of the war.

48,532 tons of bombs were dropped by planes flying from Saipan, with sixty-five percent of those being incendiary bombs. The average bomb load on a mission was 14,810 pounds.

## More statistics

Combat sorties	9,894
Aircraft lost	182
Aircraft damaged	1,044
Personnel killed	69
Personnel missing	964

Personnel wounded 138

Chris’ crew flew its first mission, over Tokyo, on November 27 in their B-29, “New Glory.” What were his thoughts and emotions on that first mission?

“I honestly don’t remember,” he said. “It has been so long, and we were too busy launching and reaching the target, that we didn’t have time to reflect. Always in the same plane, we had a first-rate crew of eleven: pilot, co-pilot, navigator, engineer, radio operator, bombardier, and gunners.”

“Our first tail gunner, because of the aircraft design, was physically isolated from the rest of the crew. He couldn’t handle the separation, so we replaced him after the second mission with a man

we recruited from the kitchen! The new man performed superbly, as did the others, who flew together until the end.”

## Tight Quarters

“As flight engineer, I was responsible for the mechanical well-being of the aircraft and, most importantly, our fuel supply. Needing to watch instrumentation, I faced to the rear, as did the tail gunner.”








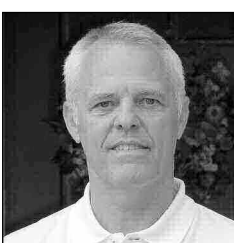
In Chris’ view, plane losses mostly occurred, “because they (some crews) didn’t know what the hell they were doing, by not conserving fuel.”

A 3,000 mile round trip mission, usually targeting mainland industrial and military facilities, required 13-15 hours from launch to recovery. The route took air-

craft, without fighter escorts, near Iwo Jima, lying 600 miles north of Saipan and still occupied by Japanese forces. Chris recalls flying about 100 feet over the Pacific until past Iwo Jima to reduce the possibility of detection, then climbing to cruising altitude. Strong tropospheric winds were encountered by the B-29’s, significantly increasing fuel consumption. We know those winds today as the Jet Stream.

On board, there was room to move about while in flight to and from the target area. Crew members could get up for a stretch, get something to eat, even take a nap in an area known as “the tunnel” over the bomb bays. Because the aircraft was pressurized, it was not nec-

(See “Christiansen,” p. 19)

 <p><b>104 FOGLEMAN COURT</b> 3BD, 2BA on a private cul de sac near the back gate in SLW <b>\$224,900</b></p>	 <p><b>102 THOMAS POINT</b> 3 BD, 2 BA, screened porch close to Johnson Pt and BR Country Club. <b>\$175,000</b></p>	 <p><b>106 PINENEEDLE</b> 3 bedroom 2 bath with large Carolina Room &amp; fenced yard in SL North. <b>\$178,500</b></p>					
 <p><b>177 MORRIS DRIVE</b> 3BD, 3.5 all brick, lake front home. Perfect for evening outdoor living. <b>\$595,000</b></p>	 <p><b>114 OWENS CIRCLE</b> Immaculate and recently-updated 3BR, 2 BA Split Plan. <b>\$225,000</b></p>	 <p><b>147 EDGEWATER</b> 3 bedroom 3 bath w/walk out, move in ready on Echo in SLN <b>\$299,900</b></p>					
<p><b>AVAILABLE MORGANWOOD LOTS</b></p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p><b>LOT 51, PHASE IV - \$74,900</b> ATTENTION INVESTORS! ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED! <b>SOLD!</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>LOT 10, PHASE II - \$125,000</b> BEAUTIFUL HOME SITE ON SCENIC ACREAGE  <b>WE HAVE GOLF FRONT, LAKE FRONT AND LAKE VIEW LOTS AVAILABLE!</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>LOT 52, PHASE IV - \$100,000</b> BEAUTIFUL LAKE FRONT LOT <b>UNDER CONTRACT!</b></p> </td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<p><b>LOT 51, PHASE IV - \$74,900</b> ATTENTION INVESTORS! ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED! <b>SOLD!</b></p>	<p><b>LOT 10, PHASE II - \$125,000</b> BEAUTIFUL HOME SITE ON SCENIC ACREAGE  <b>WE HAVE GOLF FRONT, LAKE FRONT AND LAKE VIEW LOTS AVAILABLE!</b></p>	<p><b>LOT 52, PHASE IV - \$100,000</b> BEAUTIFUL LAKE FRONT LOT <b>UNDER CONTRACT!</b></p>		 <p><b>103 STANDISH POINT</b> Outstanding like new one acre Lake Auman Waterfront. Call Tom - <b>\$749,000</b></p>
<p><b>LOT 51, PHASE IV - \$74,900</b> ATTENTION INVESTORS! ALL REASONABLE OFFERS CONSIDERED! <b>SOLD!</b></p>	<p><b>LOT 10, PHASE II - \$125,000</b> BEAUTIFUL HOME SITE ON SCENIC ACREAGE  <b>WE HAVE GOLF FRONT, LAKE FRONT AND LAKE VIEW LOTS AVAILABLE!</b></p>						
<p><b>LOT 52, PHASE IV - \$100,000</b> BEAUTIFUL LAKE FRONT LOT <b>UNDER CONTRACT!</b></p>							
<p><b>TPC The Property Center</b></p> <p><b>TOM MCGINNIS, BROKER/REALTOR®</b> 673-1724 • 315-9127 (c) • 673-3676 (h) E-mail: <a href="mailto:tmcginnis1948@earthlink.net">tmcginnis1948@earthlink.net</a> • <a href="http://www.propertyctr.com">www.propertyctr.com</a> Please take time to visit our new website!</p>							
							

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TO SHOW!**103 STANDISH POINT**Outstanding like new one acre  
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## Christiansen

(Continued from page 18)

essary to wear an oxygen mask on the way to and from the Japanese mainland. Masks would be donned only over the target area. Each crew member had a parachute. Because of the bulkiness of the 'chutes,' crew members usually sat on them in flight. They wore uninflated life vests, since missions to Japan from Saipan were carried out mostly over water.

Eventually, the missions switched to dropping incendiary bombs from altitudes below those of conventional bombing runs, between 5,000 and 7,000 feet. He describes these nighttime raids as "... like a huge Fourth of July display. The fire bombs would spread out and ignite while falling, looking like a lighted football field. We would see huge burning areas and smell the smoke. Enemy searchlights illuminated our planes, and we usually could spot about a half-dozen of our B-29s at one time, which had taken off about two minutes apart from Saipan."

Crews were given alternative recovery areas, if they could not get back to Saipan: China or the sea. Chris recalls the crews were briefed on the locations where Navy vessels, usually submarines, might be available for rescue operations. His crew never had to abort or ditch at sea. He does recall sea-air operations mounted to find and

rescue crews in distress at sea. Sadly, they seldom were successful.

As a part of a psychological ploy, B-29s often would drop leaflets over Japan, sometimes printed on facsimiles of Japanese currency, announcing forthcoming incendiary raids on specified towns and cities, leading to panicked evacuations by the citizenry. If three towns were identified, the B-29s would usually have two as targets, adding to the confusion, uncertainty, and panic of the Japanese.

Combat Mission Number 35 was of immense importance to each aviators. That number entitled a flyer to return to the States. Chris' combat record lists 37 missions. He and his crew flew their last mission, still unscathed and unbelievably fortunate, on August 5, 1945, one day before the obliteration of Hiroshima, four days before Nagasaki met its same fate. The crew had logged 521 hours, 35 minutes of combat flight time. Emperor Hirohito announced surrender on

(See "Christiansen," p. 22)

NOTE June 26 - Day Twins were born  
COMBAT RECORD

NAME	RANK	ASN	MOS	CREW NO.			
CHRISTIANSEN, CLARENCE A.	1st Lt.	0-866817	1028				
DATE	MISSION	HOURS	DUTY	WSM	PHOTO	DUMBO	SEARCH
11-27-44	TOKYO	13:35	F/E				
12-18-44	NAGOYA	13:30	F/E	✓			
12-24-44	IWO JIMA	8:10	F/E				
1-3-45	NAGOYA	13:55	F/E				
1-28-45		13:25	F/E				✓
2-9-45	OSAKA	13:35	F/E	✓			
2-15-45	NAGOYA	14:10	F/E				
2-25-45	TOKYO	14:00	F/E				
3-4-45	TOKYO	15:00	F/E				
3-9-45	TOKYO	15:00	F/E				
3-11-45	NAGOYA	15:35	F/E				
3-15-45	OSAKA	14:30	F/E				
3-16-45	KORE	14:40	F/E				
3-24-45	NAGOYA	14:00	F/E				
3-27-45	TACHIKAWA	15:00	F/E				
4-1-45	TOKYO	14:10	F/E				
4-7-45	TOKYO	15:35	F/E				
4-12-45	TOKYO	15:35	F/E				
4-16-45	KVUSHU	14:20	F/E	✓			
6-10-45	TOKYO	14:00	F/E				
6-15-45	OSAKA	14:15	F/E				
6-17-45	HAMAMATSU	13:10	F/E				
6-17-45	FUKUOKA	14:10	F/E				
6-22-45	KURE	13:45	F/E				
6-26-45	OSAKA	13:55	F/E				
6-28-45	SASEBO	13:45	F/E				
7-1-45	KUMAMOTO	14:20	F/E				
7-3-45	KOCHI	13:25	F/E				
7-6-45	OKASHI	14:35	F/E				
7-12-45	ICHINGMIYA	13:40	F/E				
7-16-45	OLTA	13:50	F/E				
7-19-45	HITACHI	14:00	F/E				
7-24-45	OSAKA	14:25	F/E				
7-26-45	MATSUBAYAMA	16:20	F/E				
7-28-45	ICHINGMIYA	14:00	F/E				
8-1-45	TOYAMA	14:10	F/E				
8-5-45	NISHINOMIYA	13:45	F/E				
TOTAL TIME		521:35					

D.F.C.

Retired

Retired

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

KEITH A. WHITAKER

Capt., Air Corps

Operations Officer

A handwritten log preserves the record of Chris Christiansen's three dozen missions.



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AVS

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- **Washington's Birthday**
- **Guys & Dolls** – SCCs first musical theatre performance! Held on February 23 & February 24 also. Tickets available on the college's website or in the Boyd Library. Sandhills Community College. Owens Auditorium, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- **Faith Baptist Church Impact Ministries** – meet and greet at 6:30 pm and the Service begins at 7 pm, praise and worship service. The service incorporates praise and worship music, drama skits, and focuses on presenting the Gospel in a way that will be easy to understand and apply everyday. The focus is to "IMPACT" the community through the teens and young adults. Faith Baptist Church 2180 Carthage Rd, West End. Join the church for this time of Worship.
- **Turkey Shoot** – Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot at 7 pm, (weather permitting). Win prizes. All proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

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

Lakes 673-3838.

- **WEPC Hosts Silent Auction and Spaghetti Dinner** – 6 pm, Proceeds to provide support for a mission team traveling to Mexico. Cost for the all-you-can-eat dinner is \$5 per person. Many great items will be up for auction! The mission team will travel to



- Chetumal, Mexico in July to assist the IXTUS church in serving their community. (910) 673-4341. West End Presbyterian Church, Hwy 211 and Hwy 73, West End.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest *Jon Shain Trio and Lizzy Ross*. Buy tickets on line, cash at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)944-7502.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- **Prancing Horse Center for Therapeutic Riding** – offering volunteer workshops at Muddy Creek Stables on from 9:30 - 11 am, at even Lakes Stables on February 27, 9:30 - 11 am, and at McLendon Hills Equestrian Center at from 4 - 5:30 pm. Volunteers are needed for the spring

session of classes beginning on March 4 and continuing until June 1. Anyone interested in learning more about the program is invited to attend a workshop. To reserve a space call 246-3202

- **Seven Lakes Business Guild** – meeting 5 pm to 6:30 pm. 5 pm to 5:30 pm, social networking followed by meeting presentation of the Guild agenda, activities, and events for 2013. Guild dues can be paid at the meeting. Meeting will be hosted by Sandhills Winery at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – Fellowship Meal at 6 pm followed by Worship Service at 7 pm. If you have to work on Sundays or travel on the weekends or you are not ready for Sunday morning, please join the church on Monday evening. Come as you are.

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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. Reverend Carol Burgess.
- **Monthly Caregiver Support Group meeting** – 1:30-2:30 pm. The Senior Center is happy to host this support group to those caring for loved ones suffering from dementia and other chronic illnesses. If you are caring for a family member or loved one, meeting other caregivers and sharing emotions and experiences and exchanging practical information with those who are in a similar situation can be extremely beneficial in relieving stress and reducing feelings of isolation. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501 (2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). 215-0900 for information and to reserve a seat.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- **New Art Show at SL Gallery** – Open House and Reception 7 to 9 pm. Two new artists will offer a variety of new works for everyone's enjoyment. The very talented Roy Horton and Susan Thomas, have a broad interest in subjects and mediums in their works. Meet and greet the artists. The Gallery, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Building, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **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 designed for the reverts; who went to the church when they were young and strayed away or were not active in the church, then came back later to know God and seek the purpose of life. WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

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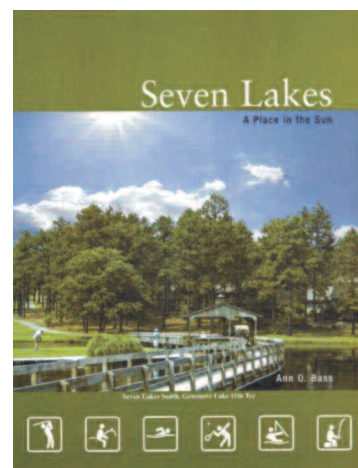
To construct the Seven Lakes Golf Resort Community, he collected the astronomical sum of \$31,665,000 from 2,200 individual investors.

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$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](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "The Green Gold Rush: A Vision for Energy Independency, Jobs, and National Wealth" Co-Sponsored by the Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) Held in Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College Pinehurst. Program is free and open to the public. For additional information call 910-245-3132.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

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

Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight is *John Flynn*. Buy tickets on line, cash at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)944-7502.

**MONDAY, MARCH 4**

- **Moore Republican Women Luncheon** – the guest speaker will be Pat Corso, Executive Director of Moore County Partners in Progress, a public/private partnership promoting economic development in Moore County. Held at the St. Andrews Room Resort Club next to the Pinehurst Members Club. For reservations, e-mail or call Joan Ward [paward@embarq-mail.com](mailto:paward@embarq-mail.com) or 295-6544. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, February 27. Cost: \$17 inclusive; checks payable at the luncheon to Pinehurst LLC. Registration: 11:30 am – Luncheon: 12 pm. Valet parking available.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes

Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – Fellowship Meal at 6 pm followed by Worship Service at 7 pm. Come as you are. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 Highway 73, West End. Church Office 673-1371.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**

- **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. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session. Meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7**

- **Orchids and More** – 10 am, at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens. Don't be put off by exotic names like dendrobium, phalaenopsis, cattleya or oncidium. These are some of the most beautiful flowering plants in the world. Jeff Baldwin from the Orchid Gallery in Pittsboro visits the college. Baldwin will have an interactive presentation and welcomes questions from the audience. Orchids will be available for sale following the presentation. Free at SCC, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Space limited. Contact Tricia Mabe, 695-3882 for reservation.
- **Museum of the Cape Fear Book Club** – meeting at 11:00 am, to host an informational meeting about its new book club, "Don't Know Much About History?" The moderator will be Jauneza Vivian, museum volunteer

and host of the cable access show, "Oasis at Cookies' Corner." Public is invited to attend. The purpose of the book club is to delve into history in an open forum, discussing events and the people that shaped them. More information, call 910-486-1330.

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 1 pm, all interested women of Seven Lakes invited to attend this important round table discussion relating to the future of the Women of Seven Lakes. At the Chapel in the Pines. Free lunch provided to all. Share your thoughts via email, [women7lakes@mind-spring.com](mailto:women7lakes@mind-spring.com), call Laurie 673-if you are coming to lunch.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)



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## Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

"You were standing here a year ago saying this would not be a problem," Caddell told Hunch.

Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey said that, as the County transitions from one radio system to another, there will be some overlap between the current radio system and the VIPER system.

"We can't just transition to one system all at the same time," said Godfrey.

Last year, the County agreed to fund the purchase of VIPER communications equipment needed to integrate county and municipal police, fire, and emergency medical services into the

County's new narrowband emergency communications system — a \$5.1 million project.

The Federal Communications Commission deadline for implementing was January 1, 2013.

Hunch and County staff were charged with finding a solution to the problem and reporting back to the Commissioners in March.

### Eastwood Fire Department takes on EMS duties

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the Commissioners approved an amendment to the Eastwood Volunteer Fire Department contract that would broaden the scope of

departmental operations.

Public Safety Director Phillips requested the change, which allows the Eastwood squad to provide Basic Life Support and Emergency Medical Services.

Funding of \$7,000 will be appropriated for the increased protection services for the remainder of this fiscal year. Next year, an additional \$12,000 will be allocated to Eastwood.

### Contracts approved

In other Public Safety related business, the Commissioners:

- Approved an amendment that increases a contract with the Carolina Recording Sys-

tem, Inc., by no more than \$4,200 for work being done between February 1 and June 30. The company records calls to the 911 Center.

- Awarded a \$245,000 contract for the video visitation and arraignment system installation in the new Public Safety Center to Stanley Convergent Security Solutions of Noblesville, Indiana, at the request of Chief Deputy Godfrey. Originally, \$400,000 was allocated for the project.

- Approved a request for three change orders to the D.H. Griffin project on the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center as requested by Assistant County Manager Ken Larking. The three changes will result in a \$338,000 reduction in the contract amount.

### Public Hearings

After a public hearing, the Board approved an amendment to the Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance which will add five roads and remove one from the County

system as requested by GIS Director Chris Koltyk. Longleaf Court in Seven Lakes West will be added to the system.

After a public hearing, the Board approved a lease agreement between the County and New Cingular Wireless, PCS, LLC to use space on the Short Road water tank located in Pinehurst for communication purposes. County Attorney Misty Leland presented the lease agreement, saying the lease will run through December 31, 2020. The County will receive \$46,800 for the initial year, an amount that will increase by three percent every year thereafter.

### Keep Moore County Beautiful

Reconfiguring the County's relationship with Keep Moore County Beautiful [KMCB], the Commissioners approved a request by Assistant County Manager Larking that will bring the Executive Director's job in-house.

(See "Commissioners," p. 23)

## Christiansen

(Continued from page 19)

August 15. The surrender ceremony followed onboard the USS Missouri on September 2.

Chris returned to the States by ship, arriving in San Francisco in late September, 1945, and took a train to San Pedro, California, where he was separated from military service on September 29, but not before seeing his three-month old twins Jill and Frank for the first time. His reaction: "I thought you told me they had grown."

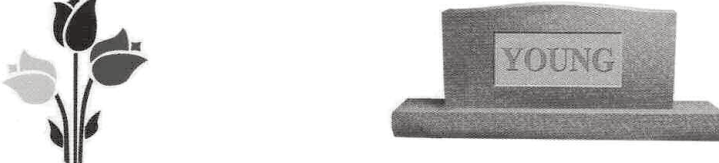
He soon enrolled under the G.I. Bill in University of California, Berkeley's School of Engineering, completing his studies in two years. During those two years, he worked on the famed particle accelerator Cyclotron, invented and built at the university in the 1930s. After graduation, he went to work as a mechanical engineer for the C.F. Braun Company, designers and builders of massive industrial complexes, such as refineries and chemical plants. One assignment took him and his family for two years to Australia, where he oversaw construction of a refinery. He stayed with the Braun Company for thirty-seven years.

Shortly after retirement in 1984 from the company's headquarters in New Jersey,

Chris and June packed up and moved to Seven Lakes South. Now, he plays nine holes of golf regularly, enjoys his woodworking shop, and continues to take prize winning photographs, with emphasis on bird life.

Take pause, and reflect: We live free today in our cher-

ished United States because of the efforts and sacrifices of brave and dedicated people, men and women, like Chris. They shall always be members of The Greatest Generation.



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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 22)

The new KMCB contract will save the County \$45,000 by assigning the Director's responsibilities to Solid Waste Manager Chad Beane. The County will also provide \$10,000 in funding towards the hire of a resource worker to support Beane.

Beane told the Commissioners that many of the objectives of Keep Moore County Beautiful are similar to those of the Solid Waste Program.

## Public Works

At Beane's request, the Commissioners approved the submission of an application to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources for a community waste reduction and recycling grant.

The program will allocate as much as \$30,000 in support of Moore County waste reduction and recycling programs. A local grant match of twenty percent — \$9,500 — is required, and that amount has already been included in this year's Solid Waste Division budget.

At the request of Public Works Director Randy Gould, the Board approved an amendment to the contract with Hydrostructures, P.A., for a sewer interceptor rehabilitation project on Highway 211. This increases the price of the project by \$12,000, bringing the "not-to-exceed" total cost to \$139,700.

## Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, February 19:

- The Board approved a resolution confirming the Commissioners support of the Second Amendment of the US Constitution and Article 1, Section 30, of the NC Constitution. County Attorney Leland explained that this supports the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. Commissioner Larry Caddell requested the resolution. When taking their oath of office, the Commissioners pledge to uphold both the US and state constitutions.

- The Board approved a resolution recommending

that Ashleigh Blvd be added to the North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] state road system, as requested by Planning Director Debra Ensminger. Ashleigh Blvd is located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction

of the Town of Pinebluff.

- The Herbert Stout Award was presented to the County's GIS Department by Tim Johnson. GIS Director Chris Koltyk will be taking a new position in Jacksonville, NC, Picerno announced.

## Appointments

The Board approved the following appointments during their Tuesday, February 19 meeting:

- Jim McNiff as Chairman to the Tax Equalization and Review Board

- Jana Snowball to the Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Dr. John Stacey to the Library Board of Trustees
- Elise McInnis to the Board of Health

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119 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



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163 MORRIS • LK AUMAN WATERFRONT



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141 WERTZ • LAKE AUMAN!



2 KITCHENS, MANY UPGRADES • \$550,000

113 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



4 BED + BONUS! – \$275,000

240 FIRETREE LANE • 7LN



3 BD+ 2.5 BA, ALL BRICK • \$190,000

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We would recommend Shannon to anyone — she was wonderful, and we will never forget her."

— Joe and RoseMarie,  
Seven Lakes West

## School Board

(Continued from page 8)

Spence for completing his first year in Moore County.

"I want to say again how humbled and honored I am to serve here," Spence said. "I love being here. It has been one of the most rewarding years in my professional career."

"I have had the opportunity to meet some hardworking dedicated teachers and the wonderful children who are why we are here. I am as excited and energetic as I was the first day that I came to work here."

### Literacy Takes Off

The MCS Literacy Initiative is showing a marked success in improving students' reading ability and in closing achievement gaps. Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy briefed the Board on the strides the literacy initiatives have made in during the last school year.

The objective is to have all students reading; to challenge average to above average readers to raising their Lexile scores (a measurement of reading achievement), and to motivate and coach below average readers to improve their comprehension.

"It is great to work in a district where our teachers take their jobs seriously," said Kennedy.

"Thank you for your comprehensive presentation of the work that is going on around literacy in Moore County," Spence said after Kennedy finished. "It is phenomenal. It's incredible the results we are seeing in the classroom. We have great hope for literacy in Moore County."

### STEM Grant

Board Members heard a progress report on the the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Infusion grant received in 2011 from the Mebane Foundation. STEM imbeds master and beginning teachers in Aberdeen Primary and Elementary; Southern Middle School; and Pinecrest High School.

The team collaborates with

classroom teachers to develop lesson plans that contain STEM attributes. They then co-teach the lesson and model in the use of any technology that the classroom teacher might not be familiar with. The lesson plan is then available for use by other teachers.

The program has received rave reviews from both students and teachers. One of the most popular lesson plans was a fifth grade unit on genetics and fingerprints. Students learned about specific pattern of finger prints and how to collect fingerprint data.

They looked at the five different types of fingerprints, graphed their data, and discussed how those statistics varied. Southern Middle was able to invite representatives of the Aberdeen Police Department to speak to the class about using fingerprints and DNA to help solve crimes.

Feedback from teachers and students has been positive. Teachers said that it provided novelty and variety to the lesson and students reported that it helped them to understand science better and make it exciting.

### Public Role of Board Members

School Board Chairman Ed Dennison recently attempted to arrange a meeting with several community leaders, in order to share some information on MCS' Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting never happened, but some Board Members had questioned whether such meetings, involving an individual Board Member, were appropriate.

"Since this was a concern," Dennison said during February 11 Board meeting, "I thought this was something we needed to discuss as a board. Should board members be required to notify the entire board and superintendent before they meet with community members? Or should we trust each other that we individually will not represent the entire board except on policy and decisions we have already approved — or by making any decision, statements, or issues that have not already be approved by the board?"

Kathy Farren said it was not a question of trust, but

rather perception. "We understand, because we are on the Board, that we are not going to go out and represent the Board," said Farren. "But I don't think the community necessarily understands that, and that was my concern."

Informing the Superintendent's Office when meeting with a community leader for lunch would be a common courtesy, she suggested. "It's when a board member starts putting multiple community leaders together," Farren said. "I just don't think that's good."

Lang questioned whether Board Members were the best choice to speak at meetings on behalf of the schools. She recommended involving multiple Board members or having a staff member present.

"After giving a talk, when

the floor opens up to questions," Lang said, "I would hate to have the answer be 'We will have to get back to you,' or to give an answer that might not be completely accurate. Policy making is our responsibility; Dr. Spence and the staff is in charge of school system operations."

Several members agreed that the Board should serve in a supporting role by, for example, making sure that a board member would be present to support the Superintendent and his staff when speaking at public functions.

"As a courtesy to each other and Dr. Spence and everyone that works so hard, we need to make sure that we don't interfere or become inadvertently a party to something

(See "Schools," p. 25)

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## Legislation

(Continued from page 9)

The legislation in question doesn't, in fact, exist quite yet. But the *Raleigh News & Observer* reported on February 16 that a group of legislators was putting the finishing touches on the bill.

## Schools

(Continued from page 24)

that we didn't intend," said Enola Lineberger. "Because we never know when we take a first step where that might end up. We need to be as transparent as we can; that is so important."

### Budget Wise

Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin told School Board Members that finances for the current year are right on budget, and demonstrated that point with a detailed report on revenues and expenditures.

"We are on target to where we should be," said Griffin.

### Where Moore County Stands

Making a change in the ownership of school property is not an item on the current agenda of Moore County's Board of Commissioners, Chairman Picerno told *The Times*.

"It's going to be another tough budget year," Picerno said, "and we need to make some decisions about water." The County is also looking for a new manager, and Picerno mentioned the revised land use plan and unified development ordinance as other big items on the Commissioners' to-do list.

Both Spence and Picerno agree that, even if adopted, county ownership of school property might not be an option for Moore County. Picerno said he hoped, if the NCGA does in fact pass the legislation, that it would take the form of offering counties the option to make the decision locally, rather than imposing a state mandate.

"If they did that, then we would want to get the Boards [Commissioners and School Board] together and see what make sense for Moore County," Picerno said.

Noting that he had only recently heard about the possible legislation, Picerno said he had not had time to explore its implications for the County or the Schools. "Off the top of my head," he said, the one possible benefit might be the possibility of cutting costs by combining county and schools maintenance operations.

"When we are trying to scrap for every dollar, we have to look at everything," he said. "But this, like anything else, would have to be discussed and properly vetted."

Spence agreed with Picerno that it would require close scrutiny. "I do understand the thinking about possible efficiencies that could come out of it. But it would most likely cause more problems

than solutions," Spence said. He then went on to give examples of different possible conflicts in the general operations of the school; from supervising custodial needs to how combining staff would affect their retirement plans.

"Even more complex, when you go to build a new school, how would that decision be made?" Spence explained. "The State Constitution includes language that

requires educators to be involved in that decision. The point is: these are just a few examples of the many unresolved issues that this might create. It could cause more problems than solutions."

"I'd say this is way down on the list of Moore County's priorities," Picerno said.

*Times Editor Greg Hankins contributed reporting to this story.*

## Lynne Quinn at OWLS

The Seven Lakes Baptist Church OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors) group, invites the community to a presentation of "His Little Ones Ministry" with the author and organizer Lynne O. Quinn.

Quinn travels the world to bring children the love of Jesus with colorful booklets, translated into their

own languages, called "Sharing Jesus With Children Around The World."

Join Seven Lakes Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 12, at 10 am in the fellowship Hall, for a continental breakfast and the presentation.

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## Why not worship together?

**Question:** I read recently that a minister in Newtown, Connecticut was asked by his denominational leader to apologize for praying in a service commemorating the children and teachers of Sandy Hook Elementary School who were killed in the massacre there. Why do some Christian denominations forbid their ministers and their members to worship and pray with other Christians?

**Response:** I, too, read the story of the minister who was reprimanded because he pronounced the benediction at that service in Newtown. I read it with a deep sense of sorrow for the pastor and for the church.

If the church is symbolically the Body of Christ, then the Body of Christ is badly fractured.

Several fractured parts of

that body refuse to worship with other denominations, because they believe that to do so is to compromise the "true" doctrine and beliefs



### Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

that they alone possess.

I am always fascinated by those who believe that they possess all truth or that their interpretation of scripture is absolutely the only way scripture can be interpreted.

These churches love the words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman at the well when he said to her: "The time is coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in

spirit and in truth." (John 4:23)

They then tend to separate truth from spirit, and by believing that they alone have

the truth, these folks refuse to join with other Christians in prayer and worship.

They are especially exclusive

when it comes to celebrating the Eucharist or Holy Communion, the common meal that should bring all of us together at the Lord's Table.

Robin Meyers in his new and incisive book, *The Underground Church*, stresses that the early church was never based on right belief. In the centuries before Constantine and the Nicene Creed, the church was in no way mono-

lithic in its beliefs. Actually, beliefs were secondary to the churches' desire to follow Jesus and carry out His mission.

The Christian's only creed was "Jesus is Lord" and his or her loyalty was to Jesus — not to the Roman Empire. To become a Christian was to refuse to worship Caesar or to fight Caesar's battles.

Groups of Christians were not bound together by a set of beliefs, but by a love for one another that transcended all differences. The idea of refusing to worship or pray with another Christian was unheard of.

Over the past seventy years, I have worshipped with Christians from every denomination, and I have prayed with Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and pagans. Each time, I was enriched in my faith. Yet even in our own

community of Seven Lakes, a service to pray for the unity of all residents, north, south and west, last Spring was boycotted by some who could not bring themselves to worship with others who believed differently.

In a world filled with hate, prejudice, and violence, I applaud people of any and all faith traditions who choose to pray for both the victims and those who victimize others.

No denominational authority can override the simple commandment of Jesus when he said: "I give you a new commandment, love one another." I choose to follow Jesus; how about you?

*Don Welch, the minister of the Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at: [dwelch1@nc.rr.com](mailto:dwelch1@nc.rr.com)*

## Incorporation skeptic becomes a convert

Dear Editor:

I have followed Dr. Fred Young's articles on the future of Seven Lakes from Day one. My initial response was: "here we go again, another dreamer trying to sell us." I must say, I am very impressed and was blown away by the drawings from Stagaard & Chao Architects.

We have lived in Seven Lakes North since late 2000 and owned lots since 1990 (all three sides!) I have always been in favor of keeping our gates, but warmed slightly toward incorporation during the campaign two years ago.

After careful review of Dr. Young's articles, I fully believe that incorporation is the best

thing for Seven Lakes. I wish he could run a large half page of a current photo and then a half page ad with the drawings from Stagaard & Chao for a few months. I think every Seven Lakes resident would love to live in that drawing!

But the word needs to get out to the majority of resi-

dents. One suggestion would be to go door to door and deliver flyers — with the Stagaard & Chao drawings! This is truly the only way to reach everyone. I would even volunteer to deliver flyers, and I'm sure I can come up with a few others to help.

I can't stress enough one of the selling point for incorporation is the constant juggling of landowners associ-

ation money and our Board's continuous re-evaluations and re-doing everything every year just to try to make ends meet!

I want to thank Fred Young for his efforts. He has converted our household to an incorporation supporter.

*Amanda Keller  
Seven Lakes North*

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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### Letters to the Editor

### Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We prefer letters that are concise and to the point; please make your case in 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters.

We prefer to receive letters via email at [mail@sevenlakes-times.net](mailto:mail@sevenlakes-times.net), but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, The Executive Center.

# Freedom: Religion in the press & public square

**Question:** "I believe that the local community newspaper is no place for these ministers to assert their religious views. I believe that this back and forth only adds to the already contentious feelings which seem to abound in the community. If I want to know what they think, I'll attend one of their churches on Sunday morning."

**Answer:** I am sorry to hear that there are those who believe that the community newspaper is no place for assertion of religious views. It shows me how far we as a nation have moved from the principles on which this great nation was founded. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion are some of the most fundamental liberties that we enjoy as Americans. Our founders were very clear on this. Abraham Baldwin, (a signer of the Constitution and framer of the Bill of Rights in the First Congress) said this:

*"free government . . . can only be happy when the public principle and opinions are properly directed . . . by reli-*

*gion and education. It should therefore be among the first objects of those who wish well to the national prosperity to encourage and support the principles of religion and*

*in this place is that of the New Testament. . . . All its doctrines and precepts are calculated to promote the happiness of society and the safety and well-being of civil government."*



*morality."*

Dr. Benjamin Rush, also a signer of the Declaration and a member of the presidential administrations of Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, said the following while discussing educational policies in public schools.

*"Such is my veneration for every religion that reveals the attributes of the Deity, or a future state of rewards and punishments, that I had rather see the opinions of Confucius or Mohamed inculcated upon our youth than see them grow up wholly devoid of a system of religious principles. But the religion I mean to recommend*

*with the religious tolerance exercised in America. In fact, in his description of the federal parade in Philadelphia following the adoption of the Constitution, Rush happily declared:*

*"The rabbi of the Jews locked in the arms of two ministers of the Gospel was a most delightful sight. There could not have been a more happy emblem!"*

One of the concerns that I have for our nation is that we are raising a generation that does not know how to think independently. What happens if we are not taught to critically think or express

contradictory views? If we accept what is taught without question, or refuse the expression of opposing views in an open forum, then we are moving towards dangerous territory.

A few years ago, I visited the Holocaust museum in Israel. The displays were set up chronologically, beginning years before Hitler came to power. I was overwhelmed at how quickly Hitler was able to sway an entire nation. The use of propaganda coupled with limiting the rights for people to express opposing views transformed an entire nation.

When the media refuses to allow different ideas, we are in danger of following the same path as Nazi Germany. In my estimation, the exchange of ideas is necessary for people to form an objective opinion on any issue. Just because I disagree

with someone, does not mean that I can't be civil or that I must dislike the person.

I want to commend Mr. Hankins for his willingness to allow this open forum in his paper. Mr. Hankins, Rev. Welch, and I don't always see eye to eye; but, hopefully, we all grow from the exchange of ideas.

Hopefully, this exchange of ideas will help you look at this issue from a different perspective. If it doesn't, I hope that you will write a column to disagree with my perspective, so that people will be able to make an informed opinion on this issue.

*Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at [chrabosky@mac.com](mailto:chrabosky@mac.com).*

## Thanks to EMS & 911 Dept

Dear Editor:

My wife and I would like to thank the following EMS personnel for answering our call on January 27, when I suffered a stroke.

Their kindness and quick action in getting me to FirstHealth, has left me with no serve physical disability.

Thank you to Tim Bouchelle, TJ Bouchelle, Caroline Ferrell, Al Jackson, Diane Wilson, Austin Wood; and also our gratitude to the

Emergency 911 Department.

We appreciated friends like you.

Thomas M. Robinson, Sr.

Seven Lakes South

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# Looking for the seashells & balloons

Life is not all seashells and balloons.

As a pastor, I get that. Pastors have front row seats to human suffering. In my daily work, I often hear of dysfunctional families, disease, terminal illnesses, grief, anger, addiction, wayward sons and daughters, and financial hardships.

As a citizen, I get that. It is almost impossible in this day and age not to be bombarded by negativity, thanks to relentless cable news channels that routinely inform us the sky fell yesterday, the sky is falling today, and chances are the sky will fall again tomorrow.

So, I turn off those networks.

In fact, unless the sky really is falling, I seldom, if ever, watch. I do not have to live in the land of negativity, division, and polarization. That is a choice I choose to make.

Still, the negativity bombing continues my way, via the internet and via one of my new loves, Twitter. With Twitter, however, when I identify a tweeter as a nattering nabob of negativity, I usually quickly "unfollow." So long, naysayers and doomsayers. Have a blessed day.

So, yes, life is not all seashells and balloons.

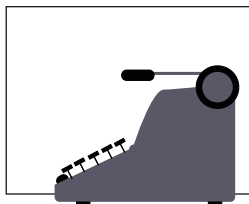
And yet, this essay is. This essay is seashells and balloons.

loons. If you prefer spoilsports and rotten eggs, read elsewhere.

So here are some good things I count as a resident

## Your Turn

Rev. Larry Lyon  
Seven Lakes



of Seven Lakes:

- The way the longleaf pine trees in my yard glisten. Yes, they glisten. Put the rising sun behind them, get a little morning dew going, and these trees, well, they glisten. They sparkle. Nobody is taking their sparkle away from them.
- Other places I have lived, I usually had a lawn. Actually, the lawn had me. I cut it, I edged it, I pulled its weeds, I obsessed that my lawn was not as nice as the neighbor's lawn. When I moved here, I let that burden go. Most of our property is now pine needles. These pine needles are remarkably low maintenance. Pine needles are my friends.
- This part of North Carolina gets more sunshine and blue sky than do the mountains of North Carolina, or

even the central Piedmont of North Carolina. I offer no scientific verification. I have lived in all these places. Trust me, this more blue sky thing here is true. Some people call these skies here Carolina blue. I call them light blue, but regardless, it is the same shade, and I love it.

- I don't live beside one of the Seven (or eight or nine or 10) Lakes, but if I take my canine buddies Simba and Sophie on a short walk, I can see a lake. I can see a beautiful lake. I can see the sun glimmer of it, I can see the waters ripple, I can put my fingers and toes in lake water that refreshes. And every single time I do, life seems better.
- I never have to worry about pulling the trash can to the curbside. I merely put the trash bags and the recycling tubs in my little Honda Fit, and I drive to the West End dumpster, and invariably, right there at the dumpster, I see my friends. Dumpster Visitation, I call this, and something about you and your friends both having empty cans and bottles is remarkably bonding.
- Trains. When I was a little kid, my Dad would ride home on a train. We would

go to the train station and suddenly we could hear Dad's train in the distance. Trains are good. There is a track alongside Highway 211, and every time I see a train on it, I think, whoa, look a there! I don't even mind waiting for the train to pass. If it takes a train to derail momentarily my chaotic life, what is wrong with that?

Seashells and balloons. I may offer more down the road. In the meantime, you, too, count your seashells, and float your balloons.

Seven Lakes resident Larry Lyon is a former newspaper editor and columnist. He now serves as the pastor of West End Presbyterian Church in West End



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#### 225 Windswept Vista Grande Pines

Magnificent home on 1/2 acres in gated subdivision. All Brick, 4 master suites, kitchen with granite countertops, upgraded appliances, 2 fireplaces, crown molding hardwoods, tile baths home theater, in-law suite, 3 car garage. MLS #: 151136.

Call Ann Benton ..... \$895,000



#### 104 Sunset Way, SLN

This well-maintained all brick home has location, quality construction and maintenance-free living plus large rooms throughout with split bedroom plan and 2-car garage. Beautifully updated kitchen with granite countertops and brand new refrigerator. Tile flooring in bathrooms and kitchen and Pergo laminate in Great room and entry. Large 10 X 22 Carolina Room with outside entrance overlooking fenced back yard (MLS# 148527).

Call Elizabeth Childers .... \$169,500

#### 111 Douglas Drive – Seven Lakes West

True water view, great building lot, slopes from back to front, sits above street and easy access to back gate.

Call Ann Benton ..... \$55,000

#### 103 Dennis Circle – Seven Lakes West, Lot 4274R

Near back gate; corner of Dennis and Longleaf. 15 acre flat buildable lot

Call Ann Benton ..... \$119,000

#### 139 Beacon Ridge Drive, Lot 6044, Seven Lakes West

Prime Golf Front Lot on Beacon Ridge 8th Fairway. Flat lot sits above road level. Walking distance to Club House, Tennis Courts and Club Pool.

Call Ann Benton ..... PRICE REDUCTION! ..... \$39,000

#### 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 a walk-out lower level.

Call Ann Benton ..... REDUCED to \$32,000

#### 147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173

Nice wooded building lot located across the street from beautiful Lake Auman! The lot has been septic approved, and is in a neighborhood of attractive homes. It is only a short drive to the front and Hwy 73 gates. Seven Lakes West has a 1,000 acre lake that has a beach/wimming area, recreation center, boat access good fishing and is one of the few lakes in the area where gasoline motors are permitted. This is a deal, priced well below tax value!!!

Call Pete Garner ..... \$15,000

#### 124 Vanore Rd – Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West

Across the street from the Lake. Deep lot with a slope towards the road. Many nice trees.

Call Ann Benton ..... \$42,000

— We Sell All of Moore County —

## Zumba is Back!

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Tuesday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 am, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

A Zumba licensed instructor will teach. This is a Free community class.

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

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# Thanks from Kiwanis

Dear Editor:

Seven Lakes Kiwanis is so thankful that our 30th Annual Pancake Breakfast was such a huge success. The money we made will go a long way to benefit the children of Moore County and specifically the students at West End Elementary.

Our success was a team effort and we are very grateful to the greater Seven Lakes/West End community for their support, attendance and raffle ticket purchases. Congratulations to Jason Cox and family of Seven Lakes North, who were the winners of the 42" RCA HDTV.

Our sincere thanks to the *Seven Lakes Times* for all the favorable publicity given our pancake breakfast in the three issues preceding the breakfast.

We also thank Principal, Leigh Ann McClendon and her staff at West End Elementary for all of their help, and our local merchants – The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Quality Care Pharmacy, Sandhills Winery and Lakeside Barber Shop for helping us sell tickets, – thank you. And finally, to our local boy and girls scout troops who provided help all morning to insure that the dining room functioned

smoothly. Great job, kids.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis will continue to support our children in Moore County and, hopefully, we'll see you next year at our 31st Annual Pancake Breakfast.

Finally, if you share our goal of serving the children of the community and area, please consider joining Kiwanis. We need you!

Jerry Buelow  
John Clohessy  
John Shaughnessy  
Bud Sales  
Co-Chairs of SL Kiwanis  
Pancake Breakfast



Kiwanis President John Clohessy and West End Elementary Principal Leigh Ann McClendon draw for prize winners.

## Do you know your ABCs?

Dear Editor:

Do you know the facts?

### The Facts —

The Moore Count Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is a major factor in contributing to County and Town taxes being kept at a minimum.

The Moore County ABC Board disbursed the following funds to the following towns during the last year:

Moore County	\$428,724
Aberdeen	\$50,629
Taylortown	\$479
Foxfire	\$136
Pinehurst	\$83,298
Southern Pines	\$107,707
Carthage	\$565
Whispering Pines	\$221
Vass	\$115
NC Dept. of Revenue	\$2,594,544
<b>Total Distributions</b>	<b>\$3,266,544.00</b>

Where is Seven Lakes on this list? Let's get rid of our gates and incorporate now!

Helen Colvin  
Seven Lakes North



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# Is incorporation next chapter in 7 Lakes history?

In December, I published my book, *Seven Lakes, A Place In The Sun*, telling the story of how Fred Lawrence built Seven Lakes.

Many people have contacted me to express thanks for providing facts and dollar figures (over \$30 million) that went into the development's construction.

Fred Lawrence spent every single penny of that \$30 million building Seven Lakes for you, the residents. It is ironic that as I made available the story of Fred Lawrence

building Seven Lakes dating back to 1972, a man by the name of Fred Young began writing articles in the *Seven Lakes Times* about his vision of Seven Lakes as

Wouldn't you rather have your mailing address as Seven Lakes, NC, rather than West End, NC? Wouldn't you, as a "joined community"

(North, South,

and West),

like to vote

for your

choice of a

mayor? Per-

haps Fred

Lawrence

could be your

first honorary

mayor.

This is my one and only letter to the editor because I no longer have a voting voice for Seven Lakes.

However, I want to deliver one final message to Fred Lawrence, the Godfather of Seven Lakes.

When I was a seventh grader, my teacher, Ms. Thelma Auman Brewer, made me memorize a poem.

I think it is appropriate for Fred Lawrence.

## Invictus

by William Henly

Out of the night that cover me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.  
In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeoning of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

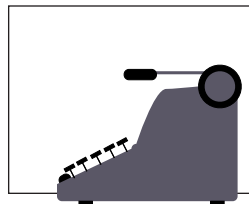
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the horror of the shade.  
And yet the menace of the years

Finds, and shall find, me  
unafraid.

It matters not how straight the gate,  
How charged with punishment the scroll.  
I am the Master of my fate,  
I am the Captain of my soul.

Ironically, my teacher was a sister of Clyde Auman for whom Lake Auman was named.

Here's to you, Fred.  
Remember the last verse before closing your eyes every night.



## Your Turn

Ann O. Bass  
Sanford

an incorporated village.

As an outsider of Seven Lakes, who permanently lived there for ten years, I see Fred Young as a person continuing the Fred Lawrence vision into the future.

When Seven Lakes had only two homes (my vacation home and that of Fred and Mary Edna Lawrence), a private gated community was certainly desirable.

Today, with over 5,000 residents, it appears reasonable to consider incorporation.

## Orchids & More at SCC

Orchids and More will be the subject on Thursday, March 7, at 10 am at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens.

Don't be put off by exotic names like dendrobium, phalaenopsis, cattleya or oncidium. These are some of the most beautiful flowering plants in the world. The Sandhills Horticultural Society and Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs are pleased to have Jeff Baldwin from the Orchid Gallery in Pittsboro visit the college. Baldwin graduated from NCSU's School of Forestry and started growing orchids in 1991.

The Orchid Gallery sells orchids, rents them for special events and even boards orchids for owners who want a guarantee they will bloom again and again. Baldwin will have an interactive presentation and welcomes questions from the audience. He'll discuss what to look for when buying an orchid and how to care for the plant at home. A selection of orchids will be available for sale following the presentation.

The program is free at SCC, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Space is limited. Contact Tricia Mabe, 695-3882 to make a reservation.

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## Help Wanted! Part-Time Reporter

The *Seven Lakes Times*, a community newspaper serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, McLendon Hills, and West End, is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings and write feature stories.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. The *Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The *Times* commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are common.

### Interested?

Please email cover letter, resumé, and any other relevant material to mail@sevenlaketimes.net

## Blake's

(Continued from page 16)  
cancer."

### Working Retirement

Jimmy Blake retired in 2006 after 35 years of teaching.

"My father said come on down," he told *The Times*. "One day I am the busboy, and next day a manager. I have been doing this part time. After his death five years ago, I have been a little more involved," said Jimmy a former mayor and current town councilman in Biscoe, just up the road.

Little brother Gary also takes an active roll in the restaurant's continued success. When not working as the president of his construction company in Greensboro, he is at the restaurant bussing tables on Sunday. He also helps do the weekly ordering.

"Growing up, the restaurant was right across from the house," Jimmy Blake explained. "We ate in the restaurant almost every night for supper. Inez, who split her time working at the restaurant and looking after the boys, found time to cook breakfast each morning.

"We used to get all the players after the ballgames," Jimmy said. "For several years, between Asheboro and Rockingham, we were the only restaurant. Most people in Seven Lakes always head in the other direction. But we are only ten minutes away. We have a quality product that is reasonably priced."

### Waste Not Want Not

If there is ever such a thing as left over fried chicken, then Jimmy is happy to share it with a nearby church or kids out playing ball.

"It's amazing how fast free chicken will disappear," said Jimmy.

### New Chef in Town

After forty years of service, Blake's head cook, James Smith, recently retired. The Blake brothers decided it was time to interview for a chef and were very excited to lure Chef Al Taylor, former executive chef of Pine Needles,

out of partial retirement.

Taylor has been introducing new daily specials during the week, from French onion soup to chicken pot pie. "I did a taco casserole and that went pretty quick," he said. "The other day, I made a peach crême brulee. It's peach, peach, peach out here in peach country. The triple chocolate toffee brownie, now that went over really well."

The brownie received Inez's approval, "That will knock you out," she said. "That was delicious. It is so sweet and

good."

But it is the barbecue and fried chicken that everybody expects — and Taylor doesn't disappoint. He soaks his chicken overnight in a salted brine and fries it crispy. The barbecue is pork shoulder smoked over hickory and served with a vinegar-based sauce.

### Sunday Dinner is Never Lunch

"Sunday after church is our biggest crowd," Jimmy told *The Times*. "It's the only

time you ever have to wait for seating. The Sunday menu is a tradition: turkey and dressing, roast beef, baked ham, and, always, fried chicken, barbecue, and coconut pie."

### Highly Educated Wait Staff

If you have to wait for a seat at Blake's, the waiting is a pleasure when you can chat with Mallory Blake. Sixteen-year-old Mallory is Inez's youngest grandchild and a free thinker. She is at the top of her class and excels in tennis.

"I am either going to Appalachian State, Stetson University in Florida, or UNC in Wilmington. I want to be a psychologist and work with the mentally handicapped," said Mallory. "It has always interested me. Society ignores them, rather than working with them."

All the staff is as equally dedicated and all cheerfully overqualified. On any given

Sunday you may have an art teacher, social service employee, or the town clerk as a waitress.

A lot has changed since 1947, when a barbecue sandwich was 35 cents. But Inez, who has seen a wealth of history, can tell you what hasn't changed. "We've always had just good ol' country cooking and free coffee for truckers," she said.

Good ol' cooking made current with a new chef in the kitchen, where the biggest decision is choosing between the tried and true chocolate pie or a decadent toffee brownie. But, no worries — order it the next time. Blake's is here to stay.

**Blake's Restaurant**  
N.C. Hwy. 211-East  
Candor, NC  
(910) 974-7503  
Monday-Friday 6 am – 9 pm  
Sat.-Sun. 7 am – 2 pm

## Chapel Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch for luncheon at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 20 at 12 pm. There is no cost. Following lunch Ralph Jacobson, lecturer and holocaust survivor will be the presenter.

Ralph Jacobson born 1928 in Osnabrueck Germany, came to the United States in January of 1939. He graduated from Bayside High School in 1945, City College of New York in 1949 and New York University Law School in 1953.

He served in the United State Army from 1953-1955. For 32 years, he worked for Sears, Roebuck and Co. as a senior attorney.

Mr. Jacobson will present a lecture with slides, regard-

ing his childhood in Nazi Germany from the 1930s, including Kristallnacht on November 9, 1938 and the murder of his father by the Nazis in the same year. The election of Hitler in 1933 drastically changed the lives of every Jewish family, with Jewish businesses looted, destruction of synagogues and stores and attendance forbidden in public places for the Jews.

This lecture has been presented to many elementary and high schools, to civic groups and churches in North Carolina and other states.

To make reservations for lunch and if transportation is needed please call Fran Stark 673-5493. Anyone wanting to attend just the program is invited to come at 12:30 pm.

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# The Future of Seven Lakes: Security – A

*This is the fourth in a series of articles on the future of Seven Lakes by Westsider Fred Young, President Emeritus of Elon University and Chair of VIF International Education. He and his wife, Phyllis, built their first house in Seven Lakes North in 1978 and moved to Seven Lakes West in 2006. Contact him at [youngf@mindspring.com](mailto:youngf@mindspring.com).*

## Summary of Previous Articles

**Article 1: A Premier Community.** Those of us who live in the greater Seven Lakes community have it within our grasp to build a premier residential community at little or no increased cost to most residents. Seven Lakes has many of the resources necessary to become such a community, as well as a number of liabilities that detract from this possibility.

**Article 2: Structural Flaws.** Two major structural flaws probably preclude greater Seven Lakes becoming a premier residential community: Lack of Leadership and Lack of Money.

To correct these flaws greater Seven Lakes should incorporate, which will provide the necessary leadership structure. Raising the crossbars and keeping our sales tax money at home will increase annual revenues about fifty-five percent, which will resolve much of the financial problem.

## Approximate Annual Revenues

North/South	\$1,300,000
West	\$1,600,000
Current	
Total	\$2,900,000
Sales Tax	\$1,600,000
New Total	\$4,500,000
	55% increase

**Article 3: Incorporate or Continue the Present Course?** Incorporation and establishing a municipal government offers numerous advantages, whereas maintaining the status quo essentially ensures that Seven Lakes will not have the leadership or the resources to be competitive with newer developments — and may gradually drift toward mediocrity.

## Article 4: Security: Police Department or Crossbars?

### A Police Department Will Improve Security

Visible police presence is the number one deterrent to crime. Currently, there is almost no police visibility in the greater Seven Lakes community. Seven Lakes is one of the largest communities in North Carolina without a police department.

If Seven Lakes had a municipal police department, there would be a police officer within five minutes of over eighty percent of the houses and within 7.5 minutes of all homes — 24/7/365. A police officer in a well-marked car would be on patrol 24/7/365 and would pass every house regularly. These police officers would have the power to pursue, inves-

tigate, and arrest. They would come to know us, our cars, our homes, and perhaps our vacation schedules.

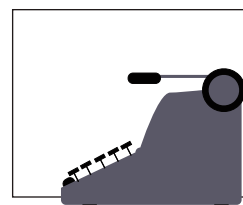
We could keep the gate houses. Each crossbar could be replaced with a substantial speed bump. Each

car that enters and exits Seven Lakes, including a photo of the driver and the license plate. These cameras at the gates and other critical points (Johnson Point, Sequoia Point, back gates,

community buildings, etc.) could be monitored centrally and constantly and a police officer dispatched if a suspicious

## Your Turn

Fred Young  
Seven Lakes West



major gate house could be a police substation with a uniformed presence. This security person would seek to make eye contact and welcome every driver who entered, be available to give directions, and answer questions.

Inasmuch as all major Seven Lakes communities have only one main entrance, visitors have to enter and exit there — a significant security advantage. Back gates can remain as they are — crossbars would remain down with barcodes necessary for both entry and exit.

Cameras could record every

situation developed.

### Crossbars Do Not Reduce the Crime Rate

Most of us are accustomed to the crossbars and are comfortable with them. They provide traffic control and serve as community doormen. They prevent incidental traffic, greet our guests, and give directions. Also, some residents feel that living in a gated community provides social value.

Unfortunately, and contrary to the opinion of many, the crossbars do little or nothing to reduce the crime rate. Seri-

(Continued on page 33)



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# Police Department or Crossbars?

(Continued from page 32)

ous criminals can find a way around or through the gates, come in to play golf, eat at the restaurants, call the gate house posing as a resident requesting a guest pass, or claim to be a contractor.

At the national and regional level, numerous studies conclude that security behind gates is "only insignificantly" better than security outside gates. Crime rates inside gated communities generally reflect crime rates in the surrounding communities.

Moore County crime information confirms these findings. There are twenty listed housing developments in Moore County. Seven of them maintain functioning crossbars; thirteen do not. According to the best information

available, there is no significant difference in the number of crimes inside communities with functioning crossbars compared to those communities without crossbars.

## We Live in One of the Safest Communities in the Country

We are fortunate to live in one of the safest places in the United States. Pinehurst is statistically the safest town in America — and by a wide margin. Southern Pines ranks near the top in these same ratings. Moore County is among the safest counties in North Carolina.

We have no reason to be afraid.

## Crossbars are Prohibitively Expensive

It costs about \$400,000

annually to operate the crossbars, plus the \$1,600,000 in sales tax revenue that we pay each year and forfeit because of the crossbars. Moore County data indicates that Seven Lakes with functioning crossbars has about the same crime rate as other Moore County developments that do not have functioning crossbars.

Those of us who live in Seven Lakes spend or forfeit \$2,000,000 annually for little or no increased security. This makes no sense to me!

## Crossbars Destroy the Opportunity for Progress

Crossbars are a major deterrent to incorporation. Without incorporation, greater Seven Lakes does not have the leadership structure necessary to move into the future successfully. Also, the crossbars preclude Seven Lakes' eligibility for the \$1,600,000 in sales tax revenue that we pay each year and forfeit each year, which means that we do not have the financial resources necessary to become a premier community.

Crossbars discourage real estate prospects. Many visitors to the Sandhills are also searching for a place to retire — and compare the various housing developments before selecting a realtor. Because they cannot get through the crossbars, these real estate prospects leave Seven Lakes without seeing many of our best assets — the lakes, the golf courses, the community

facilities, and the homes. A substantial number of these prospects are lost to Seven Lakes forever.

**The next article** will explain how incorporating will save several hundred dollars annually for almost all residents of greater Seven Lakes.



**Savings: \$2,000,000 Annually**

## Important WSL Meeting

The Women of Seven Lakes is asking all interested women of Seven Lakes to attend this important round table discussion relating to the future of the Women of Seven Lakes to be held at 1:00 pm, on Thursday, March 7, at the Chapel in the Pines.

A free lunch will be provided to all. The Women need help in deciding the direction the group needs to be heading, to become more viable, important, and

active in the future.

If anyone is unable to attend this meeting, please share your thoughts via email, [women7lakes@mindspring.com](mailto:women7lakes@mindspring.com), phone, or with any of the WSL officers, or by mailing your ideas to Laurie Odiorne, 2328 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

If you plan on attending the meeting and lunch, please call Laurie 673-1121, so that there is an approximate count for lunch.

# SMILE!

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# Water

(Continued from front page)

lage's current water sources and also analyzed the Village's current and future ability to operate and maintain its water department.

## Four Options Considered

The committee examined the long-term viability of four options, considering factors including catastrophic events; supply and demand; and operational and maintenance expenses.

The four options were:

- Foxfire Village continuing to own and operate its own water system;
- The Village would continue to own the water system but contract out the day-to-day operations and management of the system;
- Foxfire would sell its water system to a private utility company; or
- Foxfire would interconnect with Moore County water system and purchase its water directly from Moore County.

Councilman Mick McCue presented the the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendation that the Village consider an interconnection with Moore County.

"Moore County was interested in hooking us up to their water system," McCue said. "They would pay for it and construct a water main from Linden Road. The county would absorb the current debt owed and take ownership of our elevated tank and our water delivery system. They are not interested in our wells or well sites."

## The Details

McCue filled in the outlines of a possible deal that would transfer the Village system into County hands:

- Moore County would pay for and construct the water supply water main from the current system to the Foxfire Village elevated tank.
- The County would absorb the current debt owed by the Foxfire Village water system — approximately \$400,000 — and would have the right to refinance current debt.

- MCPU would take ownership of the elevated tank and the distribution system, but not the Village's wells and well sites. Foxfire will be responsible for operation and abandonment of the existing wells after the water supply water main is constructed. The wells must be removed from connection to the distribution system.
- Moore County would take over the operation of the current well-water system until such time as the interconnection is complete, once the agreement with the County is approved.
- Foxfire water rates would remain at present levels until the County recoups the cost of interconnecting the two water systems. Once that cost is covered, the County's rate schedule would apply in Foxfire. At current rates, a Foxfire home using 2,000 gallons of water a month would pay \$22.00 per month; an MCPU customer using the same would pay \$12.20.
- Any retained earnings that the Foxfire Village water system has on hand will remain with the Village.

## Seeking Citizen Input

To better inform Village residents, McCue said, "The recommendation will be put on the website — and other documentation as well."

McCue also said that, during the council's deliberations, public hearings and other public comment opportunities should be made available.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco thanked the committee for the time and effort they put into the report. "It's well prepared and gives the council food for thought and consideration."

## If it's Not Broke . . .

Prior to McCue's presentation, LRP member Mary Anne Lauer spoke in opposition to the water proposal during public comment.

Lauer said that she had missed a few meetings, but wasn't aware that there was a rush to act.

"I am opposed to selling

our water," she said. "However, if we are going to choose an alternative, then I do think Moore County is the best one."

Lauer credited the committee for their thorough work, but did not agree with their reasoning. "We cannot operate on a doomsday approach," she said. "What if it gets contaminated, we run out, or something happens to the aquifer? What is going to happen to the aquifer?" asked Lauer. "No one can decide that."

Referring to the concern that the growth of the Village could outpace the water supply, Lauer said that running out of water wasn't plausible. "One hundred people per year for the next ten years would have to move to Foxfire Village before the water would run out," she argued.

Lauer pointed out that the Village has made a substantial investment in improving the water system over the last several years. "We had the electrical system redone and we just paid to rework the water tower," she said. "It is self supporting."

Lauer also worried that the proposed sale to the County

would only cover the debt owed on the system.

"Our water bills would stay the same," she said. "Currently, we annex people because they want our water. They pay us taxes when we annex them."

"I just don't see any need to do it. And that's the reason I am against selling the water."

## With Careful Deliberation

"We did not undertake this lightly," said Mayor Pro Tem Steve Durham, who also serves on the Long Range

Planning Committee. "This is something that the council will not undertake lightly. Do not leave here and think we are going to have our water system taken over next week. This is a long range plan. We will have public hearings and public comments to allow people to come and give their input."

Reassuring those present, Durham said that the reason for the study was to consider all options. "Our current water system is good, and it works well."

# Spaghetti Supper

West End Presbyterian Church is holding a spaghetti supper and silent auction on Sunday, February 24, at 6 pm in the church's activities building, the Crawford Center.

The all-you-can-eat supper is \$5, and includes spaghetti, bread, dessert and a drink. The silent auction will offer many things for sale that have been donated to the church.

Proceeds from the dinner will help fund the church's mission trip this Summer to Chetumal, Mexico.

If you have questions or would like to make a donation to the silent auction, please call the church office at 673-4341.

West End Presbyterian Church is located on Knox Lane, one block west of Highway 211, in West End.

# Help SARL Help the Animals!



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c/o Lou Atkins, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs, NC 27281

## Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

work session agenda. This is not the protocol for this meeting."

Jackson got up and left, remarking that he hoped he could catch the second half of his son's basketball game.

### McCue Proposes Larger Real Estate Signs

During it's Thursday, January 31 Work Session, the council asked McCue to research and make recommendations concerning the dated sign ordinance and determine a standard sign size for commercial properties.

"Currently, there is no special provision for commercial property signs," McCue said. He then recommended changing the current ordinance to permit signs in commercial zones to be larger than residential for sale signs.

"The commercial zones and properties are different," McCue said. "We treat it differently. In fact, we allow a fairly large business sign. If you are trying to sell commercial properties a larger sign is the general practice."

Frusco worried that the signs might be left up for extended periods of time and fall into disrepair. She suggested a permit for commercial signs with a time limit and recommended discussing it further at the next work session.

Taking in to consideration aesthetics, Councilman Vic Koos agreed that it needed further discussion. "I don't think any sign should be that big," he said. "I don't think a big sign convinces them one way or another to buy the property. It's hideous looking."

### Planning Board Downsized

Turning to other business, the Council held a public hearing on downsizing the Planning and Zoning Board from nine members to five members. McCue said that the board had not had nine board members for years and years.

Under the new ordinance, Board will consist of five

(See "Foxfire," p. 35)



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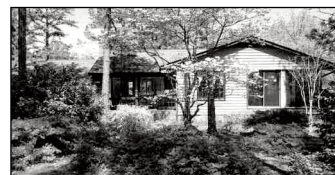
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111 WILDLEAF COURT  
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### FEBRUARY ACTION

118 Shenandoah - Under Contract  
102 Sheffield - Under Contract  
Lot 2369 - SOLD  
208 Firetree - Under Contract  
111 Sandham - New Listing  
155 Hastings - Under Contract

## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

and the guest pass covers everything but the pool. Come May, there will no pool charge for members or non-members."

In addition, some other proposed restrictions on guest use of the pool were left hanging. Recreation Director Bob Racine said, "Two things that we didn't include: A resident sponsor must be present for non-residents to use the pool, and passes can only be purchased by resident."

As the Board discussed what might be an agreeable price for guest use of the pool, resident George Temple offered a suggestion: "The \$20 you approve for trail rides is approximately half of what the association spends for that trail ride. If half is a good number, then might I just recommend you charge \$3 for pool use, and that's half the number."

"I was one of the ones that voted against the \$5 per guest number," Meyer said. "It seemed too high to me. In January, we talked about a number between \$2 and \$3 per visit."

Racine agreed that residents could purchase guests passes at \$3 each — or a package of ten passes for \$25. The board voted three-to-two, with President Bob Darr and Director Chuck Leach in opposition, to take up that proposal at the Wednesday, February 27 Open Meeting.

### Budget Town Hall Thursday, February 21

The Landowners Office will be sending residents a letter this week encouraging them to attend a Thursday, February 21 Town Hall Meeting on the FY 2013-2014 budget, and the proposed dues increase it is expected to con-

tain. The meeting, to be held in the North Clubhouse, will begin at 6:30 pm.

"Obviously, the purpose of the meeting is to make a case for a dues increase based upon our financial status of where we are," President Darr said. "This will be the most important meeting we are going to have in my two years on the board. What is our responsibility in continuing to grow and be financially fit? It's an extremely important meeting. I know from talking to folks that they think that we don't need it [a dues increase] — that they won't vote for it either way. I am encouraging them to come and look and see those numbers, and then make an informed decision."

The budget is nearing completion, with only minor tweaks left, Meyer reported, adding that the budget committee does want to review

the budget one last time, but was ready to proceed to the Open Meeting for approval by the Board. The Directors unanimously approved moving the budget to the February 27 Open Meeting for a vote.

Weighing whether to include a copy of the full budget in the Annual Meeting packet mailed to each member, the board heard from Manager Sohl that it would cost 22 cents per page. That prompted a consensus among Board members that the packets should include only a budget summary.

"I would be in favor of a real condensed version," said Darr. "We have meetings each month where we show it all — and also at the Town Hall meeting." A hard copy of the complete budget will also be made available to any resident upon request.

### Making the Stables Stable

A proposal to construct two run-in sheds at the stables prompted a discussion of whether the Association should use excess stall capacity in the barn to board horses for private owners.

Run-in sheds are three-sided structures set in the pasture to provide horses free access to shelter from the elements. The cost of building two sheds in the SLLA pasture would be offset by the income derived from boarding horses.

"We currently have the right size working herd to meet our needs," Darr explained. "We will have four, five, or six stalls that are available for boarding. One of the concerns that I share with all of you is the liability of those particular animals being on the grounds. We need an

(See "SLLA," p. 37)

## Foxfire

(Continued from page 35)

members and a quorum of at least three members will be required in order for the panel to take action. Due the current population ratio, only one board member will be required to be from the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

"The current seats of those on the board would be terminated, and it would start fresh," said McCue. McCue

encouraged residents to come in and fill out a very short application. The new members will receive a tutorial in zoning from the village attorney. No experience is required.

There was no public comment on the matter, and the amendment passed unanimously.

### Advertising Past Due Taxes Councilwoman Leslie Frus-

co presented the monthly budget report, and noted that the Village would be sending out assessment invoices for property along Woodland Circle. It will be the third installment payment required of those that chose an installment plan.

The board also approved unanimously authorization to post and advertise tax liens for back property taxes.



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## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 36)

agreement that covers all things that are involved with that legally and have our own lawyers check it out."

Darr complimented Stable Manager Kate Pennington on her thorough accounting. "She is a knowledge person," he said. "Her goal is making the stables an institution that is financially secure."

"I think this needs very careful review," Darr said. "If a boarded horse is injured, can the owner sue for negligence? I am not saying it is not a good idea, but it must be investigated completely. I don't think it can be done at the Open Meeting."

Meyer agreed that it was premature to move the proposal to an Open Meeting. "We would have to change the bylaws to board horses," he said. "We need to review everything before we can act. Labor involved in keeping horses needs to be added in. I think there are still a lot of questions."

Racine worried that making room for boarded horses could limit use of the stables by members. "Is this going to reduce riders?" he asked. "You are limiting the number available for residents."

"We created quite a firestorm in the community when we started talking about this," said Ritter, referring to considerable stables-related controversy that rose last year. "We put out to pasture a couple of horses, and then we quickly went out and bought more horses. I don't know what the number should be."

The board decided it would best to have Stable Manager Pennington available to discuss some of the issues.

### Timing of Sign Replacement Debated

Moore County's Public Safety Department has asked the Association to replace nearly eighty street signs that have incorrect names or misspellings, creating problems for emergency responders.

Leach said that, while walking his dog, "I started looking at signs. Many are rotted out from the bottom and in

the middle. The thought came that we ought to replace all these signs. Many are hard to read — especially at night."

Board members discussed replacing the signs and spreading the expense over a two-year period. One unknown variable is how long it will take the SLLA maintenance crew to replace each sign.

"My concern all along has been everything our small maintenance crew has to do," said Leach. "Our maintenance crew is really busy, especially in the Summer."

"I think it would be a mistake to order all the signs," he added. "I think we should order fifty of the signs that the County has recommended replacing, to get the break in price, and figure out how long it takes us to do that."

Meyer said the Finance Committee would need to discuss how to pay for the signs. "We don't have deep pockets," he said. "If we spend all the money, then something else is going to be pushed aside. I like the idea of replacing the ones that need to be replaced this year and start replacing the others

the next year.

### Year-Round Savings

Meyer recommended replacing the manual thermostats that are standard in all the Association's buildings with programmable thermostats, a project estimated to cost \$1,100. The resulting energy savings would cover the cost of the thermostats in two years, Meyer explained.

Leach said, "I come into these buildings in the Summer, no one is in here, and it's freezing. I would be in favor of programmable thermostats."

### Summer Camps

The premature announcement of a Summer Stables Ride Camp prompted a caution from Director Racine that Summer camp proposals must first go to the finance and recreation committees.

He pointed out there were many questions that must be addressed before a camp is approved: "What are they after? Are they going to want to use just the club house? Are they going to charge for the camp? Use our facilities to make money?"

### Roads cracking

Board Member Steve Ritter reported that some of the newly-paved roads are cracking and crumbling. He said that a representative from the paving company came out and looked at the roads.

"She said, structurally, we do not have a problem," Ritter said. "Once Summer comes, the heat and hot weather will take care of itself. The bottom line is: if we can wait until then to see what happens to that, they will stand behind their workmanship."

### Code of Ethics

The Board discussed briefly updating SLLA Board's Code of Ethics, but Director Racine said, "I think we should postpone this. It is nothing that

is urgent that has to go to a meeting right away. We should postpone it and bring it back."

President Darr, who will leave the Board after the Annual Meeting in March, agreed with Racine and, in good humor, said: "Kick this can down the road. I am out of here."

### Bad debts

Community Manager Sohl recommended writing off as bad debt \$3,000 owed on two foreclosed properties. The board approved moving that matter to the February 27 Open Meeting.

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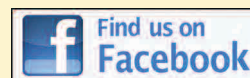


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