

Support voiced for SLLA's proposed \$100 dues hike

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors might have expected to face an unhappy crowd of landowners in a Town Hall Meeting called to explain a proposed \$100 increase in annual dues.

But most who spoke at a Thursday, February 21 Town Hall on the SLLA Budget were instead full of praise for the Board — and, in particular, Board efforts to increase transparency, while promot-

ing member involvement.

"I have lived here over 25 years with my beautiful wife," said Dave Davies. "I want to commend this board for the most transparency I have seen in that 25 years."

Bill Hirsch also offered high praise for the "hard working and well-intentioned" board. "I would like to thank the board," Hirsch said. "I am really impressed how responsible they have been. No one likes the prospect of giving more money. But sooner or later you have to maintain the things you have."

The board is recommending \$100 annual increase in

dues, with \$50 to be restricted to road and dam repairs, and the other \$50 going to unrestricted reserves. The increase would apply equally to developed and undeveloped lots.

Association members will be asked to approve the proposed dues increase at the Annual Meeting in March.

New Candidate Drafted

Without the suggested dues increase, Hirsch asked the audience, what they would be willing to give up.

"I support every amenity we have here and want to (See "SLLA Town Hall," p. 25)

Mailhouse opens March 11

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The new Seven Lakes West mailhouse is scheduled to begin operation on Monday, March 11, Community Manager Jeanette Mendence announced during the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association's [SLWLA] Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 26.

The last day to receive mail at the old mailhouse is on Saturday, March 9. Mendence asked that residents leave their mail box key in their old mail box after collecting mail on that day. On March 18, US Postal Service employees will go through the boxes in the old mailhouse and return any uncollected mail to the senders.

Residents will be issued two keys for their new mailbox by CAS staff in the

landowners office, beginning Wednesday, February 27. Additional keys will be available upon request.

Posting items on the walls of the new mailhouse will be prohibited, but two cork boards have been installed on which items may be posted for up to two weeks.

An electronic message board in the new mailhouse will be used to announce community activities, post weather alerts, and highlight other Association information.

Mendence thanked the volunteers who helped with the mailhouse project, including John Hoffmann, who served as manager for the \$350,000 project.

Walking Trails Proposed for West Side Park

In response to resident requests, Mendence and Jeremy Rust, a member of the Long Range Planning Com- (See "West Side," p. 28)

Purim Carnival



Royal costumes, groggers, and hamantaschen were only part of the fun at Temple Beth Shalom's Purim Carnival. See page 9 for the story.

Grand Pines remains an annexation puzzle

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The mixed zoning in the gated community of Grande Pines continues to vex the Foxfire Village Council's ability to offer voluntary annexation to landowners in the subdivision.

Lots in Grande Pines range from one or two acres to ten acres, with some zoned Residential Agricultural [RA] and some zoned Equestrian [EU]. The RA and EU lots are intermingled — and what the Village's Zoning Ordinance allows in each district is dif-

ferent. Portions of Grande Pines have already been annexed by the Village, while the remainder lies within the Village's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ].

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco reviewed the history of the problem during the Council's Thursday, February 28 Work Session

"Start with the fact that, back in August, we received a recommendation from the Village's Planning and Zoning Committee to rezone a number of properties within Grande Pines as Equestrian," Frusco said.

Frusco went on to explain (See "Foxfire," p. 27)

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7 Lakes Business Guild sets goals for 2013

by Cheryl Darwell

Secretary, SL Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild met on Monday, February 25, at Sandhills Winery to discuss plans for 2013. Business owners commented that many of their customers told them that they made a conscious effort to dine and shop locally last year.

The Seven Lakes Guild goals for 2013 are twofold: to Build Brand Loyalty and to Give Back to the Seven Lakes Community.

Guild members discussed several exciting ideas including:

- A Spring Concert Series.
- Spring and Fall Festivals.
- Outdoor summer movies on a giant screen.
- A "Wine Crawl" event.
- A Scavenger Hunt — a fun mystery hunt involving Seven Lakes businesses and points of interest culminating in a party and awards presentation at the end.
- A Safari card that customers would have punched by local merchants. The completed cards would be entered into a drawing and awarded prizes, including the grand

prize for a free cruise.

Business owners also brought coupons, flyers, freebies and other promotional items to place into the Seven Lakes Newcomer bags.

The advertising budget was reviewed to explore print and radio advertising opportunities.

Contact Cheryl Darwell at 910-673-7245, CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com or SevenLakesBusinessGuild@gmail.com, if you would like to join the Business Guild, or if you have any ideas to contribute for the Guild 2013 calendar of events.

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 to

1955. For 32 years, he worked for Sears, Roebuck and Co. as a senior attorney.

Mr. Jacobson will present a lecture with slides regarding 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. This lecture has been presented to schools, 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.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be e-mailed to mail@sevenlaketimes.net, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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.

Spring Flower Sale

The Mission Outreach Committee at West End United Methodist Church is having a Spring Flower Sale to support their next Mission Trip to Peru.

Spring flowers that will be available are: Flats of Begonias, Vinca, and Impatiens or 6 inch potted Geraniums. Flats contain 36 plants and are \$13 each. Geraniums are \$6.50 per

plant. To place an order, please contact Mary Anne Lauer at 281-0353 or lauere@hotmail.com or Jennifer Forsman at 673-3409 or rjforsman2@aol.com.

All orders are due by Monday, April 1 and payment is due upon pickup.

Delivery of flats will be on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13 at the church.



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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.

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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?

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County wins grant for Edgewood Terrace water

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Residents on Edgewood Terrace and Stanley Street in West End are a step closer to having their water supplied by Moore County Public Utilities.

The County has been awarded a \$41,000 grant by the NC Rural Economic Development Center, Interim County Manager Wayne Vest reported during the Tuesday, March 5 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

The grant will cover half the expected \$82,000 cost of laying water mains to bring County water to the small West End neighborhood, which has been plagued by failing wells.

It will not cover the cost of tap-on fees or regular water bills, both of which will be the responsibility of individual homeowners. The tap fee for a standard three-quarter inch meter is \$1,950.

If the project moves forward, it will be the first application of a new policy the Commissioners approved in January, which allows Public Utilities to extend water to unserved areas within the current footprint of the Coun-

ty water system, based on a return-on-investment calculation.

Public Works Director Randy Gould told *The Times* that the cost of a system extension is laid against the expected revenue that will be generated by new customers in the target area, including income from tap-on fees and ten years worth of water bills at the base rate. If the projected revenue exceeds the expected cost, the project can move forward.

Girl Scouts Recognized

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution applauding "the commitment Girl Scouting has made to support the leadership development of girls" and proclaiming the week of March 11 as "Girl Scout Week" in Moore County.

The Proclamation was read by Seven Lakes resident [and former Times Reporter] Laura Douglass, who serves as Membership Director for Moore and Harnett Counties for the Girl Scouts - North Carolina Coastal Pines Council.

Douglass was accompanied by Brownies from Troop 1118 in Cameron, and made a point of acknowledging Com-

missioner Randy Saunders as a Girl Scout Dad. In February, Saunders provided a warehouse for the annual distribution of Girl Scout Cookies to area troops.

Douglass said more than 700 Moore County girls are involved in Girl Scouting, supported by more than 300 volunteers. And more volunteers are needed.

"Our biggest challenge is not in finding girls," Douglass explained. "We have more girls who want to join troops than troops that can accommodate them."

Juvenile Justice Grant Application Authorized

The Commissioners authorized the Youth Services Department to apply for a \$100,832 FY 2013-2014 grant from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety that will be used to support programs aimed at young people in trouble with the law.

Youth Services Direct Janet Parris explained that the

funds will support programs including juvenile restitution, teen court, and psychological evaluation programs. The County will contribute a cash match of \$5,348 and in-kind contributions of \$39,328.

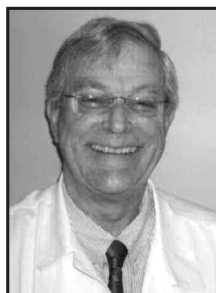
Responding to a question

from Commissioner Saunders, Parris said those in-kind contributions include the value of a variety of volunteer services, as well as custodial services performed by County staff.

(See "Commissioners," p. 12)



Members of Cameron's Brownie Troop 1118 attended the March 5 Board of Commissioners meeting, accompanied by (at far left) Sue McClain, Service Unit Manager for Moore County and Troop Leader Bonnie Roberts, as well as (at far right) Membership Director Laura Douglass.



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Pumping from Sequoia to Echo approved

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It was a sincere but brief farewell that outgoing President Bob Darr gave concluding his last Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting on Wednesday, February 27.

"It's been a real ride with this group in front," Darr said, referring to his fellow Directors. "What I have accomplished I did because of these gentleman sitting here at this table."

Resident Bob Stephan did not let Darr fade quietly into the sunset, but stood up and

said, "I think we owe a great deal of thanks to Bob Darr for a hell of a job that he has done — and to this board."

Full Pond for Lakes Longleaf and Sequoia

Mother Nature is finally cooperating with ample rainfall and helping to refill Lake Echo. The SLLA Board dis-

cussed ways to take advantage of the steady rainfall and reduce the expense of pumping water from Lake Sequoia into Lake Echo.

Community Manager Ray Sohl proposed "as an alternate plan" the following: The first phase of pumping from Sequoia to Echo will begin the week of March 3 and last

for seven days. After seven days, the Board will access the levels and decide then whether to continue pumping. If the rain continues and Lake Echo reaches a reasonable level, the pumping may then be discontinued, realizing a savings of about forty percent of the nearly \$10,000 projected cost of the pumping

project.

"I think it is important to get on with this as soon as possible," Director Conrad Meter said. "Longleaf is above full pond and overflowing into Sequoia. Sequoia is over full-level by two inches. If we can immediately pump from Sequoia to Echo, we

(See "SLLA Meeting," p. 13)

Two offer to serve on SLLA Board

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The perennially short-staffed Seven Lakes Landowners Association (SLLA) Board of Directors may reach its full complement of seven members shortly after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 24.

Northsider Bill Hirsch volunteered to serve on the Board during the SLLA's Thursday, February 21 Town Hall meeting on the FY 2013-2014 budget.

During a Special Meeting of the Board on Friday, February 22, Current Treasurer Conrad Meyer volunteered to serve out the year left in the unexpired term of David Buckingham, who resigned in September.

Rather than immediately appoint Meyer and add Hirsch to the list of candidates up for election at the Annual Meeting, the SLLA decided during the February 22 Special Meeting, to allow

the newly-elected Board to make both appointments after the Annual Meeting.

"Last night, we had someone come forward said they would agree to be on the board," said President Bob Darr during the Special Meeting. "Current Board Member Conrad Meyer has also

agreed to fill the Buckingham opening for one year. My feeling is it is something we need to fill very quickly to help with continuity of the Board."

Meyer recused himself from further discussion concerning the Buckingham position.

"I do not believe it should happen before the Annual

Meeting," Director Bob Racine said. "We can get the continuity that Bob (Darr) is referring to at the end of Annual Meeting and meet with all regulations and rules."

"I agree with Bob [Racine]," said Director Steve Ritter. "I don't think the present board

(See "SLLA Board," p. 14)

Orchestra Scholarships Available

Last concert season, the Orchestra awarded over \$1500 to deserving music students in Moore County to help them develop their skills. Past recipients have applied for scholarships to pay for private lessons, attend summer music camps and purchase higher quality instruments.

Applicants must be current students in public, private, or accredited home schools in Moore County or be an active member of the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra and must not have reached the age of 21 by December 31, 2012. Completed applications must be received by the Orchestra no later than March 21, 2013. Candidates will be required to prepare a short audition piece of their choice on April 11, 2013 (candidates will be notified of audition times).

Scholarships will be announced at the Spring Concert at Sandhills Community College on April 21, 2013.

Applications and more information are available on the Orchestra's website, www.mporchestra.com.

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673-6789

Panel okays second design for Vets' Memorial

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



In a three-to-one vote, the Veterans' Memorial Design Subcommittee approved a second concept for an expansion of the the Moore County Veteran's Memorial in Carthage. Casting the dissenting vote, during the Subcommittee's Monday, February 25 meeting, was Ruby Hendricks, a member of the original Veteran's Memorial Committee.

The Design Subcommittee had earlier approved a design prepared by Southern Pines-based landscape architect Vince Zucchini. Both that design and the newly-approved design will be presented to the Veteran's Memorial Advisory Committee, a group created by the Moore County Board of Commissioners in the wake of controversy surrounding an offer by Bojangles' Restaurants to purchase an acre of County-owned land near the Memorial.

The second approved design was presented by County Planner Jeremy Rust and includes a number of features that were present in the Zucchini design, including restrooms, a kitchen, a dry goods storage area, a platform for presentations, amphitheater type seating, and a walking path around a "lawn of reflection."

"We attempted to add as many of the elements from the [first] design in this footprint as possible," said Rust.

A key difference in the two designs is size. Zucchini's design occupies the entire 3.5 acre county-owned parcel that lies between the Memorial and an existing Hardee's restaurant at the corner of NC Highway 24-27 and NC Highway 15-501. Rust's design has a much smaller footprint, leaving 2.5 acres available for potential commercial development.

"If I voted in favor of this plan I would not be true to myself," said Hendricks, who has been a strong proponent

of Zucchini's design.

"I just think we owe an awful lot to our Veterans," said Hendricks. "I don't want us to lose site of that."

Hendricks expressed concern over parking, if the Carriage Oaks land adjacent to the Memorial is commercially developed, explaining that many of the veterans' events held at the Memorial take place on the weekends.

Moore County Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter, who is a voting member of the Subcommittee, said the Memorial was initially placed in a bad location,

so issues such as a parking shortage will inevitably arise.

"Given good planning, it [the Memorial] would have never been put there," said Hayter.

In addition to Hayter, Design Subcommittee members Raymond Doby, chairman of the original Moore County Veteran's Memorial Committee, and Department of Social Services Director John Benton voted in favor of Rust's design.

A date has not been set to present the two designs to the full Veteran's Memorial Advisory Committee.



A second design for a park around the Veterans' Memorial leaves room for nearby commercial expansion.

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In memory of . . .

William Thomas "Bill" Niven, 84, of Seven Lakes died Sunday, March 3, at ManorCare Health Services, Pinehurst following an illness.

He was born in Raeford, the son of Julius Frank Niven and Minnie Mae McGill Niven.

He served his country for 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, and primarily flew fighter-interceptor aircraft including tours in Korea and Vietnam, before retiring as a major.

Following his retirement he was appointed Civil Defense director for Hoke County, a job that grew and changed during another career that ended with his retirement as emergency management director. During that time, he established Hoke County's first EMS ambulance system.

He was a Mason and Past Master of both the Raeford and West End lodges. He was a member of West End United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Robin Keith Niven; five brothers; four sisters; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth "Tommie" Niven; son, William Thomas "Deuce" Niven II of Tabor City; daughter, Lori "Gert" Wilder Niven, of Murrell's Inlet, SC; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at 1 pm, on Thursday, March 7, in the fellowship hall at West End United Methodist Church, with a memorial service to follow at 2 pm in the sanctuary, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Won S. Namkoong. A committal service, with full military honors, will be held, at 4:30 pm at Raeford Cemetery in Raeford.

Memorials may be made to: Masonic Home for Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565; Seven Lakes Emergency Med Services, 9697 Lakes North, West End, NC 27376; or the charity of your choice.

Major General Manila G. (Bud) Shaver, Jr. (Retired) USA, reported for celestial duty on Saturday, March 2.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Shaver was the son of Irene and Manila (Bud)

Shaver, Sr.

After graduation from Cooley High School in June 1946 Mr. Shaver enrolled in Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. Drafted in 1950, he served in the 675th

Airborne Field Artillery Battalion during the Korean War. Released from active duty in 1953, he returned to Michigan Tech, graduated in 1955 with a BS Degree in Chemical Engineering and was com-

missioned a 2nd Lieutenant, Artillery.

He was employed as a chemical engineer, salesman, and marketing manager by the 3M Company.

(Continued on page 7)

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141 WERTZ • LAKE AUMAN!



2 KITCHENS, MANY UPGRADES • \$550,000

113 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



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240 FIRETREE LANE • 7LN



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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*

In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. Shaver retired in 1983, he was the Commanding General, 88th ARCOM, Fort Snelling, MN.

In 1990, he and his wife Do, moved to Seven Lakes.

Mr. Shaver volunteered his time as a former president of the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care, a coalition of churches providing emergency care to those in need, and was the former president of the local Sandhills Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

In 2009, he was elected to serve as Director to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board and was reelected in 2011. For two years, he was Director of Maintenance. During his last two years he served as Director of Long Range Planning.

Shaver's life can best be summarized as one of service to his country, community and fellow citizens.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Elizabeth McCain and sister, Sally Mathias.

Major General Shaver is survived by his wife of 30 years, Dolores (Do) J. Shaver, Seven Lakes, NC; brother, Alan M. Shaver, Harpswell, ME; three daughters, Kathleen Amrom, Philadelphia, PA; Susan Davis, Carlisle, IA; and Claudia Colleran, Burnsville, MN; one son, Manila G. (Buddy) Shaver, III, Hudson, WI; thirteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

A viewing will be held at the Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes on Saturday, March 9, from 1pm to 3 pm where family and friends are invited to call. Services will be held at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines at 2 pm on Sunday, March 10, followed by interment at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care, 1500 W. Indiana Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387 (910.693.1600).

Rufus Allen Livingston, 88, of Seven Lakes, died March 1, after a brief illness, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Livingston was the son of Hugh and Clara Livingston of McFarland.

He was an active member and regular attendee of The Village Chapel in Pinehurst.

Mr. Livingston attended North Carolina State University, and served twenty-three years in the US armed forces, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

He received numerous ribbons and awards. He was a veteran of World War II, where he was a B-29 pilot and a B-47 pilot for the Strategic Air Command until his retirement in 1964.

Mr. Livingston sold insurance to Service Members in Germany and Tucson, Arizona for twenty-three years.

He was active member of Lions International for more than 50 years; a recipient of the John L. Stickley Award as well as the Melvin Jones Award.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Shirley Gipe Livingston; daughter, Sandy Myers, of Okinawa, Japan; and two grandchildren, Denise Thomas of Marshall, TX, and Rufus Allen Stover, of Baltimore, MD; four great-grandchildren, Candice Powell, Brian Stover, all of Marshall, Texas; Catherine Stover and Jacqueline Stover both of Baltimore, MD; brothers, John R. Livingston, of Wadesboro; Henry Livingston of Marvin; sister Clara Ann Gathings, of Wadesboro.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, March 5, at The Village Chapel. Donations may be made to: Lions Foundation, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523.

Elizabeth Anne "Libby" Kuhn, 90, formerly of Seven Lakes, died away on March 1, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Kuhn was born in Delaware, Ohio daughter to the late George and Geneva Hoffman.

She worked for National

Trotting Association, Boy Scouts of America and at the family restaurant in Delaware, Ohio. Mrs. Kuhn attended Ward Belmont and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and was a member of the Tri Delt Sorority. She enjoyed volunteering for Meals on Wheels.

The family moved to Seven Lakes, fifteen years ago and recently moved to Penick Village, Southern Pines.

Surviving are her husband

of 58 years, Dennis Kuhn; son, Jeff Kuhn and his wife Leslie of San Antonio, TX; daughter, Molly Kuhn of Jacksonville, FL; brothers, Dick Kuhn and his wife Rita, George Hoffman and his wife Marilyn; and grandchildren.

Services were held at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines on Wednesday, March 6. Rev. Don Welch and Rev. Fran Stark officiated.

Contributions may be made to Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines - Building Fund.

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Personal service is key at Prescription Shoppe

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

"The number one thing that customers want is a personal relationship with their pharmacist," Rob Barrett, pharmacist and new sole owner of The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe told *The Times*.

And that personal touch is the key competitive advantage of an independent pharmacy, he added: "The independent pharmacy can offer the exact same services as the chains — and put their personal touch into building that relationship with the customer."

Barrett was hired as Pharmacist Manager of the Seven Lakes store in July of 2008. He bought into the business two years later; and, as of December 31, he's now the sole owner.

"I take my Mother-in-Law as an example," Barrett said. "She wants to know that the pharmacist knows her — knows what drugs she's taking. She wants to know that her pharmacist can point out possible interactions."

"It's all about building relationships; that's why the independents are thriving."

"And the independents are offering more niches and

more service," Barrett continued, using The Prescription Shoppe's wide range of offerings as his prime example.

For instance, Barrett's shop offers durable medical equipment — wheelchairs, canes, walkers, diabetic testing supplies, and a wide range of other equipment. And, again, the difference is the personal touch.

"You can go into a chain store and buy those," Barrett explained, "but an independent pharmacist is going to teach you how they work. He's going to help with billing your insurance or Medicare. We'll even go to your house — and we might find out that this wheelchair isn't going to work for you, because your doorways are too narrow."

Making the medicine suit the patient

Compounding is a key offering at The Prescription Shoppe. It's how medicines are tailored to meet the needs of particular patient.

For example, using the FlavoRx process, a child's prescription antibiotic can have cherry, watermelon, or some other flavor added to it, to make it more palatable — and make it more likely that

the little patient will actually take the medicine.

"The number one problem with medication is adherence," Barrett said. "If kids don't like the taste, that's a problem."

In some cases, they can convert a hard-to-take pill into an easier to take liquid — or turn it into a lollipop. They can even add tuna or chicken flavor to your pet's medication.

Form and flavor aren't the only advantages of compounding. The Prescription Shoppe can compound bioidentical hormones to treat the effects of menopause.

Free Kids Vitamins

Barrett initiated a program in 2012 that enrolls community children to receive a free supply of multivitamins each month.

"Right now we are giving out vitamins to more than 100 kids each month," Barrett said. "I think this is very important for our community, because the healthier we keep our kids, the better off we will be."

These are great, flavored, chewable tablets for kids under 12," he explained. "I think the parents love it more

than the kids."

Medication Therapy Management — MTM

A new service that Barrett will be adding to The Prescription Shoppe is Medication Therapy Management — or "MTM," for short.

"This is where we, as a pharmacist, talk one on one with the patient about the complete course of therapy," he explained.

The patient brings in all their prescriptions for a consult with the pharmacist, who can then uncover any potential drug interactions, make sure that dosages are correct — and even look for ways to save patients money on their prescriptions.

"It's another way that we can help people understand their medicines and stay compliant with their treatment,"

(See "Barrett," p. 14)



Pharmacist Rob Barrett is now sole owner of Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe

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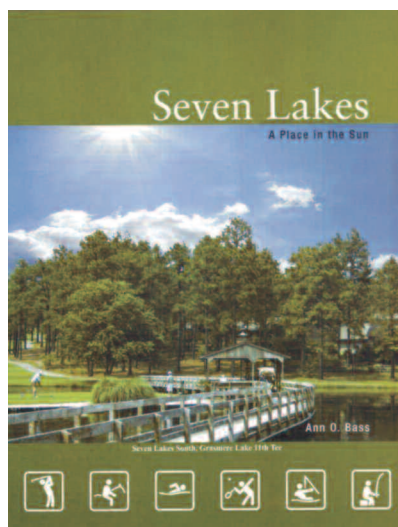
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Temple Beth Shalom celebrates Purim

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

The Purim [פּוּרִים] carnival is an annual highlight for many Jewish children. Purim celebrates the story of how Queen Esther saved her people from the evil Haman. In fact, he was and is still known as Haman the Evil [הָרָשָׁע]. During the Fifth Century BCE the nobleman Haman was the political advisor to King Ahasuerus. Haman sought to have the Jews destroyed. Jewish Queen Esther used her intelligence, the council of her Uncle Mordechai, and a little feminine charm to outsmart Haman and send him to the gallows.

Haman is known for the three cornered hat that he wore. Purim is celebrated with little girls dressing as princesses and boys wearing funny hats. The story of Esther is read and children shake their groggers (noise makers) to drown out the

name of Haman whenever it is spoken.

Jewish holidays are often recognized by the food that is served. On Purim the delicacy is hamantaschen, a three-sided sweet pastry filled with jellied fruit, poppy seeds, or custard. The cookie most often is thought to represent Haman's hat. In early times, it represented his ears, or lack thereof, as it was customary to cut off the ears prior to hanging.

Temple Beth Shalom in Foxfire is a progressive and welcoming congregation. Like Queen Esther and King Ahasuerus, there are quite a few blended-faith families in the membership. Julia and Mark Epstein and their two young sons attend Temple Beth Shalom and celebrate the Jewish holidays.

"We also celebrate Easter and Christmas," Julia explained. "My personal celebration of those holidays is religiously-based and my

husband and kids are more secular-based. We always tell the boys that, when they grow up, they will have the freedom to decide for themselves."

Reflecting on the story of Queen Esther, found in the Torah and Old Testament, Julia said, "I think it's pretty wonderful to have a religious celebration that honors a woman and her courage."

Come as you are, in costume, or with a funny hat is encouraged at the Temple Beth Shalom Purim celebration.

"We would go to temple and have a big Purim carnival," Michelle Goetzl said. Goetzl's two little girls sport gold tiaras. "The joke at my temple was that my father would dress up like Queen Esther."

"I don't remember dressing up," Jennifer Fox-Furrie said. "My mom wasn't very crafty, and I was more a tomboy than girly. Probably what my

mom did was put a funny hat on me. Growing up, our temple had a big carnival with lots of games, good food, and prizes. I remember loving the Purim carnival."

Jennifer appreciates the intimacy of Temple Beth

Shalom. "Here there is a lot of parent involvement," Jennifer said. "Our kids are growing up with more Judaism than I did living in a big city. We have to make a big deal out of coming to

(See "Purim," p. 14)



Making the Hamantaschen — two young members of Temple Beth Shalom make the three-cornered pastries that represent the hat of Purim's villain, Haman the Evil.



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On a mission to Peru

by Mary Anne Lauer
West End United Methodist

From June 20 to July 2 of 2012, five church members from West End United Methodist Church went to Peru to lend a hand in the small villages they visited in 2011.

The team consisted of Mandy Allen, Youth Minister; Jennifer Forsman; Ron Baker; Gladys Knight and Mary Anne Lauer. Esther Namkoong, daughter of Pastor Dr. Won Namkoong was already there. Esther is a member of Moche, Inc., who sponsors the undertaking in Ciudad de Dios and Bello Horizonte. The focus of this visit was a bit different and the volunteers were able to spend more time with the children and the community. (In 2011, the volunteers spent most of their time working on building latrines, working on the clinic building, helping at the health clinics and other small construction projects.)

Money was raised for the 2012 trip through a flower sale, a Taste of Peru Dinner which included a silent auction and two spring roll sales (under the tutelage of MeeYoung Namkoong).

Grateful appreciation is given to church members and the community who donated time and labor toward these efforts, donating items, purchasing pansies and spring rolls.

Special thanks to Dr. Cameron Monroe and Dr. Clement Monroe who donated tooth paste and tooth brushes for the dental clinics and to Harris Teeter for the gift certificates to purchase items for the children.

Projects on the 2012 trip included creating a community center from an unused school room. After a thorough cleaning, scraping and painting the group put glass in the windows. On the inside, they scrubbed and cleaned again, then painted the room a lively green with black trim. The volunteers purchased 30 sturdy plastic stools and six wooden tables, bookcases and books, and used the community center for crafts

while there and now it will be used by the children all year. The room will also be used store the sports equipment left behind for the children.

Another project the church was involved in was to start the MOCHE Women's Artisan Co-op. MOCHE stands for Mujeres Organizados Caminando Hacia la Esperanza which translated means "Organized Women Walking towards Hope," a name they created.

At the first meeting, there were 27 women in attendance. With \$275 seed money, the women crocheted, embroidered, knitted and stitched bags, ponchos, hats, and etc. They were so cre-

ative. At an auction among the college students, they made \$777. The success of the auction led to even more women joining the co-op. This was a huge boost to this poor community. The co-op uses the community center as its focal point.

Plastering and painting a house belonging to a single mother was another job for some of the group. They were particularly attentive to Aidelia, a young mother who was left a paraplegic in a bus accident shortly before the groups first visit. They cleaned her house, scrubbed her dishes, and rid her yard of excess junk. Members of the church are sponsoring

(See "Peru," p. 12)



Members of West End United Methodist Church's Mission Team in Peru.

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Sports Club plants fish habitat in Auman

by Don Smith
Lake Auman Sports Club

The annual shallow water Christmas tree drop and placement under participating lakefront homeowner docks was completed on February 18 and 20 through the efforts of Lake Auman Sports Club volunteers. A total of forty-five trees were used to create habitats at twenty-five dock locations around Lake Auman.

Last year, there was an initial shortfall of trees and bricks to meet the needs of this project. This year, new sources of trees and bricks were found. Special thanks go out to BVH Construction in West End for their generosity in donating a large

quantity of bricks that were used to sink this year's trees, with enough bricks remaining for another major habitat project. Mistletoe Meadows in Olmstead Village and Seven Lakes North supplied more than enough trees for the docks. The extra trees will also be used for another habitat project.

While some minor schedule changes were made to work around inclement weather conditions, enough volunteers were available to complete the habitats in time for an upcoming fish stocking.

Don Smith organized this year's project, with the following Sports Club members delivering the trees and preparing them at the docks:

Bob Strehle, Jim Beck, Ron Shepard, George Butt, Ron McGaughey, Steve Czupryna, and Ed Cockman. A four-member team worked together to place the trees in the water. They included: Dan

Pieroni, who spent the day actually in the cold fifty degree water; Bill LeGars; and, serving double duty working both days to deliver as well as placing the trees, were Bob Steahle and Ron

McGaughey.

Thanks to all the volunteers for a job well done and to the lakefront homeowners who participated to make this program possible.

Foxfire Ladies Golf Officers

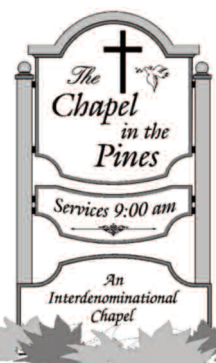


The Foxfire Ladies' Golf Association recently elected new board members and officers for 2013. They are Debby McGovern, Vice Chair; Rita Ward, Board Member; Ginny Siedler, Chair; Debby McGovern, Vice-Chair; Marilyn Grady, Treasurer; and Gail Ruppert, Secretary. In back of the group is Anita Clapp, Board Member. Leslie Frusco also serves as a Board member.



Planting habitat for fish — Dan Pieroni (in water), Bob Strehle and Bill LeGars position trees under docks.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

Sewer Project Approved

The Board approved project ordinance for a \$1.3 million sewer interceptor repair at the traffic circle in Pinehurst. The cost will be covered by zero-interest loan from the NC State Emergency Revolving Loan Account.

Commissioner Larry Caddell told *The Times* that the affected portion of the County's wastewater network is a major collection point that absorbs pressure from the entire system. Already slated for replacement, the inter-

ceptor recently malfunctioned, necessitating the repair.

"Rather than putting a \$200,000 band aid on the problem," Caddell said, "we decided to borrow the money at no interest so we can go in and fix it right."

Communications Projects Okayed

At the Request of Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips, the Commissioners approved Radio Communications Company [RCC] of Cary as the sole source vendor for work completing the County's new emergency communications network, as well as projects related to moving the 911 Emergency Call Center into the new Rick Rhyme Public Safety Center.

Under a federal mandate, the County is converting its emergency communications network to the VIPER system maintained by the State Highway Patrol. RCC will handle \$455,000 in projects that include installing a microwave

network to link all of the county's towers sites together, as well as moving two towers and associated infrastructure.

In addition, RCC was approved as the sole source vendor for 911 call center projects totaling \$21,376.

Lottery Funds for School Technology

Interim County Manager Vest reported on a number of bills moving through the NC General Assembly that could impact Moore County, including House Bill 97, which would allow funds from the NC Education Lottery to be used to acquire technology to support digital learning in local schools.

Vest noted that the legislation had already passed the House and, as currently written, would give the Board of Commissioners rather than the School Board the responsibility to approve the use of lottery funds to pay for digital devices, internet connectivity, and digital textbooks.

Commissioner Saunders said he has already been in touch with representatives of the Moore County Board of Education to understand the size of the County's allocation from lottery funds.

In the absence of Chairman Nick Picerno, Vice Chairman

Craig Kenndy presided over Tuesday's meeting.

Appointments

In other business during their March 5 meeting, the Commissioners appointed Beulah Warren to the Aging Advisory Council.

Peru

(Continued from page 10)

her physical therapy and the results are amazing.

The welcoming by the villagers was heartwarming to everyone in the group. This visit instead of kicking empty plastic bottles in the street the group now had balls and Frisbees, purchased with gift certificates from Harris Teeters.

Allen led crafts with the children and even some of the adults joined in the activity. The group took pictures of each child and helped them make frames to keep. Duplicates grace WEUMC bulletin board.

At the end of the visit the villagers were given a baggie with school supplies; a virtual treasure to them.

West End United Methodist Church members looks forward to their next trip.

7 Lakes EMS Chicken Dinner

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. will hold their annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, April 5. The meal will be served from 11:00 am, and until they run out of chicken.

The dinner will consist of a choice of chicken breast or drumstick & thigh and include coleslaw, baked beans, roll, desert, and beverage. You can dine at the EMS building while visiting with your friends and neighbors or purchase take-out dinners. The price is only \$8 per dinner. There will be a 50/50 raffle this year.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

could take advantage of that water going over the dam."

A resident in the audience brought to the Board attention smaller lakes Ramapo and Timber. "You are still not addressing the problem of the other two lakes that are also below level," she said.

"If we were to raise Lake Echo ten inches and see what kind of rain we will get, we would then have the opportunity to attend Ramapo and Timber," said Director Don Fentzlaff. "We haven't forgotten you."

Resident George Temple also urged the Board to begin pumping as soon as possible. "The important thing is to do it. Go ahead and approve the whole works. Look at the first stage and if we have to go forward then we can go forward."

A motion was made by Racine to begin pumping and reassess after the first week. The Board would then decide whether to continue pumping. The total cost would not exceed \$10,500.

[In fact, pumping from Lake Sequoia to Lake Echo began on Tuesday, March 5. — GH.]

In other lake level news, Director Fentzlaff told the Board: "I want to let everybody know that Little Juniper Lake is probably seeing a milestone here. For the first time in its history, it is less than 2 inches below full. When it is full, we will shut

off that pump. It has done a yeoman's job and didn't break down once."

New Visible Signs

Visitors and first responders will soon find it easier to navigate within Seven Lakes North and South; the SLLA plans to replace all street signs over a two year period.

Resident Donna Stephan informed the board that Devonshire Avenue did not register on GPS systems. Guests relying on GPS to find Devonshire Ave had already brought it to Moore County's attention.

"That was the trigger that caused them to come see us," SLLA President Darr explained. "They said that we had to get this straightened out, especially for first responders."

Darr added that his nephew recently got lost trying to read the signs at night. "It's tough," he said. "This is a thing that we really need to do."

The most obvious and egregious errors are in spelling.

"Moore County advised us we needed to replace twenty-four misspelled or hard-to-read street signs," Director Chuck Leach said. "When they came out, we discovered forty-six more signs that also need to be replaced."

Leach began inspecting signs during his daily walks and recommended the board should consider replacing all

signs. "There are many other signs that are rotting and have deteriorated," he explained.

Agreeing with Leach, Darr confirmed the condition of the signs. "Some are really old, and some are relatively new," he said. "But most of them are old. They were maintained for many years by the Kiwanis. Some have been repainted many times. This will be a nice step forward."

The sign replacement would be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 would prioritize signs that were recommended by the County for replacement on the North Side and replace all signs on the South Side, at an expected cost not to exceed \$9,000.

The second phase would be conducted the following year, replacing the remainder of signs on the North Side. All work would be conducted by the SLLA maintenance crew.

Board Member Bob Racine asked whether this would put an undue burden on the staff.

"Do they have enough time?" asked Racine. "They are already stretched so thin."

SLLA Manager Ray Sohl was encouraging. "We are projecting one-half hour per sign," he said. "That's 30 hours per side, and that is very doable."

Before the Association purchases any signs, a mock up of all signs will go to Moore County for approval. Once the signs are compliant they will be maintained by the County.

The signs will conform to signs in neighboring towns.

"It is my understanding we are not going to replace them with 4x4 vertical [wooden post]," Director Meyer said. "But they will be replaced with a standard galvanized pole and with a horizontal standard sign."

"I think it will be a big improvement," said Leach.

The Board will vote on the sign replacement program at the March Open Meeting.

Pool Guest Fees

Also during the February 27 Open Meeting, the Directors unanimously approved new fees for guest use of the Northside pool.

The fee will be \$3.00 per guest to use the pool. A package of ten passes can be purchased for \$25. The passes can be purchased only by resident at the office with cash or check or at the pool with check. A resident is required to stay with their guests at the pool.

Moving Forward

Slow economic growth at the national level is being

(See "Meeting," p. 15)

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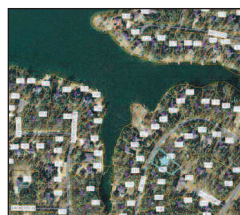
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SLLA Board

(Continued from page 13)

can do anything under the purview of the future board. We should wait until that meeting is held and wait for new board."

"First of all, I think the present board has authority to fill the Buckingham position if we want to do so," Darr argued.

"Since this vacancy hap-

pened on your turf aren't you the ones that are suppose to fill it?" asked resident Donna Fentzlaff.

"We have waited so many months that, if we were going to fill it, then we should have filled it months ago," said Racine.

Laying out a suggested procedure for the new Board's organizational meeting, he

said: "No names go in until the Board is up to full strength. Once the President is chosen he makes motion to fill the two openings before other officers are elected," Racine said. "We are not hand tying the future board's actions. It is made immediately after the President has been elected. The two vacancies are filled and then the

board is elected."

To bring clarity over who should act as chairman at the organizational meeting, Meyer interjected himself briefly into the discussion, "It's my understanding that we changed one thing during last year's Annual Meeting. The person who chairs the meeting would be the person who heads the election com-

mittee," said Meyer. "In this case, it would be Steve Ritter."

"It would make sense it follows that order and be a logical progression," said Community Manager Sohl. "So we will write that in the agenda."

"I am very comfortable with that," said Darr.

Barrett

(Continued from page 8)

Barrett explained.

Other Services

An expansion on the horizon for The Prescription Shoppe will be to add diabetic shoes to their offerings.

And, to make sure that every staff member has a thorough understanding of the product, "I'm going to put my whole staff in diabetic shoes," Barrett said.

Among their standard services are free delivery anywhere in Moore County and free blood pressure checks in the shop.

The Prescription Shoppe has recently implemented an Rx Price Match program, pledging to match any other retail pharmacy's price.

They carry a full line of top-quality pharmaceutical-grade vitamins and supplements — just like those you

find in health-food stores.

A Fan of Seven Lakes

An active member of both the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs in Seven Lakes, Barrett says he truly enjoys the community.

"These people are the nicest people you will ever come into contact with," he said. "They are so easy to work with. And they love personal interaction with their pharmacist."

Barrett's wife Katie teaches English at Pinecrest High School; they have two daughters, aged two and four.

"The three things we looked at before moving to Moore County," Barrett said, were jobs, health care, and education for our kids."

"Seven Lakes has the most potential out of any community in Moore County to grow," he added. "It is a very well-established, attractive neighborhood."

Barrett said he is proud

to be a member of the Seven Lakes business community. "The businesses here have such a great entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

"And, when you spend a dollar with a local Seven Lakes business, eighty percent of that dollar is staying in the local community," he added.

The Prescription Shoppe

employs five full-time and five part-time staffers.

"I try to make it that all of those people love coming to work," Barrett said. "Employees have to feel like their job is appreciated and respected. That's my job as owner, and doing that well will help patients tremendously."

Purim

(Continued from page 9)

the temple. This is the only place for them to feel a part of a Jewish community."

Purim is the most fun, kid-friendly holiday — not necessarily the most religious, according to Mollie Hipp. "At my temple we always had a talent show," she said. "My dad wrote a play, and my whole family dressed up."

Mollie and Dave Hipp are also a blended-faith family. They are raising their three daughters in the Jewish faith. Their two oldest teenage daughters have already completed their Bat Mitzvahs, and they are helping their youngest daughter prepare for hers in April.

Planning a Bat Mitzvah in Moore County requires a little trouble shooting. "I think it's more of challenge," said Mollie. "You have to do more research, but you also have the freedom to create your own template."

Mollie is working in the kitchen helping little princesses roll out, fold, and bake hamantaschen. Other parents supervise the craft

table, where children make their own groggers. During story time, they shake their groggers at Haman's name. Outside the kids play chase in the warm sunshine. It is loud, chaotic, and sticky — with lots of sparkle. At Temple Beth Shalom everyone is welcome, and, in that simple act, the congregation defines the true meaning of Purim.



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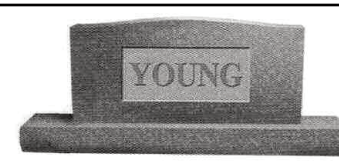
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Meeting

(Continued from page 13)
felt close to home.

"In essence, what is happening in our community is like any other across the nation," said Director Meyer. "There are some homeowners that are in foreclosure or have gone through foreclosure. It makes it nearly impossible to collect any past dues."

Meyer and Sohl recommended and the Board unanimously approved removing two foreclosed properties from the Association's books.

"We don't like doing it but that is the situation we find ourselves in," said Meyer.

In brighter economic news, the Architectural Review Board has recently approved construction of two new houses.

Grounds & Maintenance

Necessary repairs on the pool will need to begin soon to have it ready for the May opening, Director Leach reported. The work will include replacing the decking and repairs to the basin and tile at an expense of \$11,000.

The grounds and maintenance committee has two new members: Archie Stevens and Chuck Stephenson. They have joined just in time to help oversee other immediate and Spring maintenance projects will include:

- Roadway marking will resume as weather permits.
- Barn repairs will begin next week.
- Roofs will be replaced at Sequoia Pavilion, the Pool Pump House, the Landowners Office, and the North Clubhouse, at a total expense of \$30,000.
- The swim platform at Lake Sequoia will be rebuilt.
- Dam repairs at Little Juniper will begin the first of April.

Recreation

Director Bob Racine announced that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is need of volunteers.

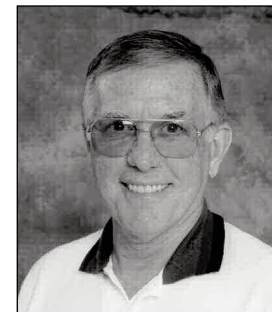
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7Lks North Townhouse
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104 PINWOOD COURT
Lake Sequoia Waterfront
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FRIDAY, MARCH 8

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Amour*, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

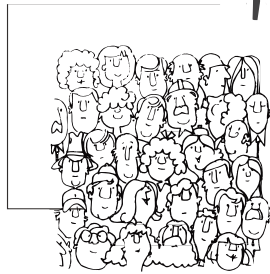
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Amour*, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **WEUMC Youth Group Fund Raiser** – 6:00 – 7:30 pm, fundraiser Dinner with Entertainment. Cost of the dinner is \$10 per person and will include Lasagna (vegetarian or meat), salad, bread, dessert and a drink. The Cameronian Quartet from Rockingham will entertain following the meal. Silent Auction. Proceeds support Youth Group Summer Trip. Tickets at the door. 673-1371.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

- **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Amour*, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight is *Kate McGarry*. *Rooster's Wife*. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room. Open to all landowners.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **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 at 673-1371.
- **Sandhills Area Land Trust 2013 Winter Lecture Series** – 7 pm, "Amphibians and Reptiles of the North Carolina Sandhills" Jeff Beane, Collections Manager for Herpetology North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. Southern Pines Civic Center, 105 S. Ashe Street, Southern Pines. 910-695-4323. sandhillslandtrust.org \$5 Donation at the door.
- **Sandhills Photo Club** – meeting 7 pm, at the Hannah Theater Center, The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Peyton Hale from Raleigh will present a program on Landscape Pho-

tography. Guests welcome. sandhillsphtoclub.org

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Amour*, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)** – 10 am, invites the community to a presentation of "His Little Ones Ministry"

with the author and organizer Lynne O. Quinn. Join the Church in the fellowship Hall, for a continental breakfast and presentation. Call Seven Lakes Baptist Church 673-4656 or Diane Evans 400-5556.

- **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.
- **Lunch With Legends** – 11:30 am, League of Women Voters Celebrates "Lunch With Legends:" at The Carolina Hotel. Doors and cash bar open at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. "Special guests" will be Eliz-

abeth Cady Stanton, and Mary Eliza Church Terrell. Tickets are \$30 per person. Group reservations available. For tickets, Ginger Finney 673-1330.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 12 pm, Special meeting, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. At Foxfire Village Hall. Open to community and public.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **English Speaking Union** – cocktails at 6 pm, dinner to follow. "Our Stories Tell Who We Are" Donald Davis. Held at Country Club of NC. Hope Price 910-215-7727 for information.
- **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, meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (wid-

ows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – meeting at 2 pm. The guest speaker will be Shanna Smith, Master Gardener. She will discuss "Gardening and Cooking with Herbs." Samples, delicious recipes. Door Prize, and Free Raffle! Meet at the SL Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 6 pm, a light Lenten supper will be served, with a Stations of the Cross Devotion to follow. All are welcome. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Quartet*, directed by Dustin Hoffman, starring Maggie Smith, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus a \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Quartet*, directed by Dustin Hoffman, starring Maggie

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Smith, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus a \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

- **Hypertufa Demonstration at SCC** – Join Hilarie Blevins 10 to noon at Sandhills Community College for a demonstration on making cement plant containers (Hypertufa). Space limited. Call Tricia Mabe at 695-3882 to make a reservation. Free for Horticultural Society members and \$5 for non-members.
- **West End Elementary PTA Golf Tournament** – at SL Country Club. Lunch at noon, shotgun start 1:30 pm, Captain's choice format. \$75 per person, \$300 per foursome. Register at the SLCC 673-1092 or Tournament Organizers: Lori Copper 639-7273 or Cristy Hunt 783-7995. Show your Warrior Pride.
- **Opera at the Sunrise** – *Zandonai's Francesca Da Rimini* at 12 pm. Tickets \$25. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Quartet*, directed by Dustin Hoffman, starring Maggie Smith, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus a \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

- **St. Patrick's Day**
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Annual Meeting** – 2 pm,

West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Quartet*, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7 plus a \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight *Ari and Mia open for Howard Levy and Joe Craven*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

- **Orthodox, Lent Begins**
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **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. 673-1371.
- **All Beethoven Concert** – 8 pm, final concert of the Arts Council of Moore County's Classical Concert Series performed by young musicians, Paul Huang on violin and Louis Schwizgebel on piano. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Arts Council of Moore County at 910-692-ARTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Epis-

copal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, luncheon. Guest speaker is Bart Clark of Solace for the Children. Held at Table on the Green. Reservations Charlotte, 944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- **Spring Begins**

- **Chapel In The Pines Lunch Bunch** – 12 pm, All single seniors are invited to attend in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall. No cost. Following lunch Ralph Jacobson, lecturer and holocaust survivor will speak. Fran Stark 673-5493.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Civil War Program** – 2 to 3:30 pm, Civil War buff Matt Farina with one of his increasingly popular Civil War talks. 215-0900 to reserve. Senior Enrichment

Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. For seniors widows, widowers, & elderly a meal at \$5.



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Farewell, good friend

Question: I just heard that General "Bud" Shaver died. What was it like to be his pastor?

Response: I count it an honor and privilege whenever anyone allows me to be their pastor. Bud Shaver had been a member of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines long before I became the minister. Each Sunday, he took his place on the front row of the church and worshipped attentively.

Bud and I often had different views on many subjects. I was a Democrat; he was a Republican. He considered himself a conservative, and I was a little left of center on most issues. But on this one thing we agreed: Christianity was about following Jesus and being faithful to what Jesus taught us in the Gospels.

Once Bud was asked: "How can you attend a church that has such a liberal preacher?" His answer was: "Every good preacher I have known has been liberal. How could they



Ask the
'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

be otherwise and follow Jesus?"

Bud cared about the poor and marginalized people in our society. He was one of the organizers and the first President of the Board for the Moore County Coalition for Human Care. As an officer in The Retired Officers Organization, he was one of the

original proponents of The Empty Stocking Fund that provides Christmas for hundreds of children and adults every year.

As a member of the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association Board, Bud worked incessantly for the good of the community. Often he stood alone against the others to ensure the financial health and the protection of this community's infrastructure.

The growing division between the communities of Seven Lakes West and Seven Lakes North & South was heart breaking for him. In the past several years, Bud became very concerned about

the future of all areas of Seven Lakes.

Bud ran only once for public office, and he lost in the Republican Primary to a person who later embarrassed the county. Although, as a Democrat, I couldn't vote in that primary, I worked as hard as a preacher is allowed to get him elected. If he were our representative now, believe me, bills that drive the poor of our state further into poverty would not be getting his support. Bud was a "compassionate conservative" long before the phrase came into common use.

When I joined several other Christians in objecting to our County Commissioners' proposal to oppose same-sex marriage, Bud stood by us and lent his name to our objections. He loved children and supported the Chapel's

move to erect a building with a special "Kids Zone" for Christian Education.

The Chapel in the Pines embraces people of all denominations and all political persuasions. General Manila "Bud" Shaver helped it become that sort of Church. The Chapel will miss Bud Shaver. Seven Lakes will miss him.

Most of all, I will miss him. His last words to me last Friday were: "We didn't agree on a lot of things, but I counted you as a faithful friend. Now, don't mess up my funeral."

Farewell, good friend.

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

Dues increase is needed, as is incorporation

Dear Editor:

I applaud Director Conrad Meyer's clear and concise presentation for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association residents. at the recent Town Hall on the budget.

At our current level of costs, we have \$203,000 in extra funds per year; barring any unexpected emergency needs

and inflation. Of that \$203,000, \$131,000 is automatically moved into the Road Paving Account, leaving just a \$72,000 reserve.

Clearly, with these numbers, there needs to be a dues increase. The Board is asking us for only \$100 per year. Director Meyer also provided an interesting, more

delicate, and "softer" increase by suggesting we could vote on a yearly dues increase of only \$20 per year over a period of five or more years.

The first phase of paving that was just completed, almost exhausted our paving funds. If we vote for a dues increase, we will be able to pave Phase Two in about six years; and Phase Three in about twelve years. Somehow, I missed our previous board's paving timeline, as I thought we would only wait two to three years in between paving phases.

Seven Lakes North & South are aging fast — faster than we can keep up with routine maintenance and needed improvements. Housing prices are down, making home buyers eager to live in a beautiful home in Seven Lakes that would cost much more elsewhere in Moore County. If they only knew the real story of our budg-

etary concerns and our twelve to fifteen year paving plan, would they continue to buy homes here or would they go elsewhere?

Every Seven Lakes Landowner needs to seriously consider the pros and cons of incorporation. We can keep our guard houses and have a guard at each guard house; just no gates. We owe it to ourselves to find another way

to fund the improvements our community desperately needs. Or are we going to continue to put lipstick on the pig, hoping a minimal effort will hide the obvious?

The \$1.6 Million in state shared tax revenues we're currently giving away annually sure would buy a lot of lipstick.

*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, 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.

Biblical illiteracy

There seems to be an epidemic of illiteracy in our country. I am not talking about those who cannot read and write, but those who are biblically illiterate. This is not just a problem in the secular world, but also within the church. George Gallup and Jim Castelli say, "Americans revere the Bible; but by and large, they don't read it. Because they don't read it, they have become a nation of Biblical illiterates."

How bad is it? In some recent surveys, it was discovered that fewer than half of all adults were able to name the four gospels. Many professing Christians cannot identify more than two or three disciples.

Sixty per cent of Americans

cannot name even five of the Ten Commandments. Eighty-two per cent of Americans believe "God helps those who help themselves," is a Bible verse. Twelve per cent of adults believe that Joan of

A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham.

So why does this matter? It matters because a lack of biblical knowledge has devastating effects on society.

The best societies are those where individuals have high moral principles — a code of conduct by which they regulate themselves. The Bible is a wonderful foundation for developing a moral code. The Bible was written in order to give man instructions for

how to live.

In fact, Western culture has been developed on the moral principles of the Bible that tell us to not lie, steal, cheat on our spouse, or kill. If we don't have a foundation for why something is moral or immoral, then people make wrong choices out of ignorance.

Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you..." Isaiah 5:20 tells us, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." When society has no foundation, everyone does what is right in his own eyes and depravity ensues.

So this is where we are as a society. We reward wickedness and punish goodness. We slaughter the innocent and call it "choice," yet spare the guilty by banning capital punishment.

Pornography, promiscuity and other evils that destroy the family are allowed and even encouraged, all in the name of "freedom," while prayer and Bible reading are forbidden. We legalize drugs, but regulate drinking soda. We reward illegal aliens while punishing legitimate citizens.

It seems to me that we were a much better society when we read the Bible. Scripture is not just a set of rules and regulations. God is not trying to keep us from things. He gave us the Bible to keep us from hurting ourselves and our society. He has our best interest at heart. So, read the Bible from that perspective, and it will help you develop a moral compass so that you can live an abundant life.

Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at chrabosky@mac.com.



Arc was Noah's wife.

It isn't getting better. A survey of graduating high school students found that most thought Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife.

conduct by which they regulate themselves. The Bible is a wonderful foundation for developing a moral code. The Bible was written in order to give man instructions for

The future of Seven Lakes

Dear Editor:

At this week's Town Hall meeting with the Seven Lakes Landowners Board, we were exposed to our fragile financial status. The purpose was to request an understandable \$100 dues increase needed to keep our roads and dams safe.

Seven Lakes does not receive any state or county money for our private roads, yet we generate well over \$1 million in various taxes. There are approximately 6,000 residences in the Seven Lakes area. Our neighboring towns of Robbins, population 1,102; Carthage, 2,219; Cameron, 780; Foxfire, 920; and Whispering Pines, 2,900, do not

worry financially about their roads being paved.

If we were to incorporate, our community could share the tax money with these other towns, plus many other state benefits. We could keep our gatehouses, but not the bars. Our fifty-one miles of interior town roads would be public, the same as Pinehurst, but our lakes, pools, clubhouse, and stables would continue to be private.

The Pinehurst community

was voted one of the safest towns in the USA. They don't have bars or gatehouses, but they do have a fine roving police force. We could too!

We have lived here for twenty-one years and love the place. Let's save the future of this wonderful community of Seven Lakes and bring the tax dollars back home.

We need to incorporate!

*Frank and Lucille Hayes
Seven Lakes South*

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Some suggestions for managing the stables

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the proposal made by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, to board horses at Seven Lakes Stables, which was discussed at the February 11 Work Session.

Setting aside the big issues, such as liability, safety and security, here are a few items the Association needs to consider.

For the stables to have five or six stalls for boarders, SLLA horses will be out always. How do you plan on feeding them? How do you plan on tacking them for their day's work; and, once you do, where are you going to put them? Tie Post? How are pony and pasture riders

going to use the pasture. We will either have "wandering horses" (run-in sheds have no doors) or we will be limiting the area that can be used by residents.

The stables are currently operating without the coverage given by the Equine Liability Act (North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 99E. Just posting signs does not cover the Association. You can read the act at ncleg.net.

SLLA President Bob Darr was mistaken when he stated: "We currently have the right working herd to meet our needs." Maybe if we had 3,000 to 4,000 riders per year, it would justify a herd of 10 horses. We don't. We

may have between 2,000 to 2,500 riders per year.

I have owned and raised horses for sixteen years, have competed at both the National and World levels, and have worked at Seven Lakes stables for six years.

May I make the following suggestions? Cut the herd to eight horses. We only have the rides to justify that many horses. This will save the Association \$10,000 per year.

Horses that are kept must be able to be used for both trail rides and lessons. No horse should be standing idle with only one job.

The Association has already proposed to increase fees for trail rides, lessons and pony rides. You have no idea how

much revenue that will generate, since it has not been put in place yet.

Make these two adjustments, and see how much revenue we generate in a year. If we still are not making ends meet, then other considerations may need to be made, such as limiting the operating hours — or possibly eliminating the stables altogether, if not enough landowners use the amenity.

The stables are one of the primary reasons many families moved to this community. They offer offer oppor-

tunities for the youth and older residents alike: a chance to participate in equine activities. Association members need to voice their concerns regarding all the amenities available to each landowner and offer solutions to issues.

Nancy Paulson
Seven Lakes North

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Call 673-0111

Thanks from mission team

Dear Editor:

The West End United Methodist Church's 2013 mission team to Peru would like to express their thanks to the many who assisted in making this trip possible.

One of our fundraisers was a Taste of Peru dinner which included a silent auction. Among the donors of items to be auctioned were 7 Lakes Pizza Kitchen, Hairplay, Elevation Hair Studio, Comfort Inn, Foxfire Golf Resort, Pinehurst Golf Resort, Cheryl's Creations, Helms Jewelers, Sublime, Pinehurst Patios, Laura Byers and several local talented artists including Ken Cole, Magda Sondervan, and Brenda Scott.

We would also like to thank Dr. Kamron Monroe and Dr. Clement Monroe for donating tooth brushes and toothpaste to be given out at the three day health clinics. The villagers cherish these items and learning good health habits is important. Appreciation also goes to Harris Teeter for the generous gift certificates which allowed the church to buy Frisbees, balls and snacks for the children. So much better than kicking empty plastic bottles as the volunteers did last year and the children were thrilled when they learned how to throw the Frisbees.

To those who purchased pansies and spring rolls from

our other fund raisers, or attended the Taste of Peru Dinner (under the guidance of Carmela Chase) and maybe purchased items there, we thank you.

And to our dedicated church family who prepared the wonderful Peruvian food, toiled for two days on two separate occasions making spring rolls, unloading and helping with 250 flats of pansies, we can't thank you enough. The citizens of Ciudad de Dios and Bello Horizonte saw your goodness through us.

Jennifer Forsman,
Ron Baker, Mandy Allen,
Gladys Knight, and
Mary Anne Lauer

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It's time for Seven Lakes to grow up

Dear Editor:

This year, as the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] decides to vote on another dues increase, I think back a few years ago when the idea of incorporation came up. That time, I thought it was going to be taken seriously by everyone. A petition drive was started and it seemed that it was going well. Then the naysayers started in: "Why do we need to incorporate? I do not want to pay any extra taxes. Why change the way it has always been done?"

Well, the movement fell apart, and here we are again. The SLLA is going to be asking us to vote on another \$100 dues increase. \$1,000 a year in dues — for what?

I look around and say I love this place, but really? \$1,000 in dues.

I pay less than that in Moore County property taxes. If we had incorporated several years ago, we would still be

paying dues and city taxes, but our entire Seven Lakes community would be ours. And our dues would be lower.

If we incorporate, we can control what business comes in and what stays out. We would not have the hideous neon lighted pleasure palace in our main shopping center. We could start the process to laying claim to our rightful place in the county and be the Gateway to Moore County instead of being just a poor begging cousin.

I write this to say that if our elected officials on our SLLA board will stand up as one and support a concentrated effort to incorporate, I will vote for the dues increase — with the caveat that it be for a limited time frame. Two years is all.

In those two years, we can work diligently; and, by the start of 2015, we would be the incorporated Village of Seven Lakes.

By then, the SLLA can make arrangements to finally dismantle our gates and put that money that we spend on them into our community.

The illusion of security that they give us is fleeting at best. The Village will by that time have a professional police staff that can regularly patrol our community. We can still issue our SLLA win-

dow stickers to help identify our residents; and, with our police force only a few minutes away, any those who do not live here who would try and use our lakes as their private playground would soon be chased away.

At that time, we could decrease our dues back to the \$900, that we currently pay. Yes, we will have to decide on a tax rate for our city; but, with our dues dropping back down, the impact of that will be lessened.

I would ask that invitations be sent to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association and McClendon Hills POA, along with the residents of West End to join in with us.

If any group does not want to join in with us, then fine. Stay out. If they want to join in later, we can always annex them in.

The time for Seven Lakes to grow up is here. If not, then we will continue to be the red-headed stepchild of Moore County just waiting for another municipality to come along and annex us.

We had a chance to do the right thing a few years ago and a few shot down the whole idea. Now is the time for all to act and do the right thing.

Michael Florence
Seven Lakes North

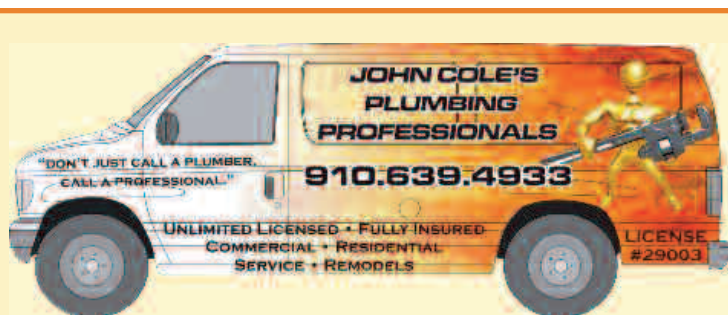
WEUMC Youth Group Fundraiser

The West End United Methodist Church Youth Group will be hosting a Fundraiser on Saturday, March 9 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. This fundraiser is a Dinner with Entertainment.

Cost of the dinner is \$10 per person and will include Lasagna (vegetarian or meat), salad, bread, dessert and a drink.

The Cameronian Quartet from Rockingham will entertain and uplift the audience in song following the meal. A Silent Auction will also be held. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support our Youth Group Summer Trip.

Tickets are available from Youth Group Members, the Church Office and at the door. Please contact the church office at 673-1371 with any questions.



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workshop, office or bedroom, full bath and unfinished family room with wood stove. Walk up attic wired for two additional rooms. Priced below tax value for a quick sale. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Easy to show.

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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.

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103 Dennis Circle – Seven Lakes West, Lot 4274R

Near back gate; corner of Dennis and Longleaf. .25 acre flat buildable lot

Call Ann Benton \$119,000

139 Beacon Ridge Drive, Lot 6044, Seven Lakes West

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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/swimming 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 \$29,500

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 —

Some key questions on 7 Lakes incorporation

Dear Editor:

It has been very interesting reading the articles and letters on incorporation. I helped to gather signatures in favor of incorporating a few years ago, but incorporating while

keeping the gates.

I now have questions about some of the statements made. The first is the \$1.6 million plus \$1.3 million plus another \$1.6 million for a total of 4.5 million dollars. Where does

this come from?

Does this community produce gross revenues large enough to produce this amount of money? I'm not sure how Fred Young got there.

Fred Haeflein writes a letter hoping "that the citizens of the communities to force the boards to collectively pursue incorporation." Incorporation is an individual's choice and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board has no bylaw giving them the power to promote this.

Also, accompanying the February 8 article on the future of Seven Lakes, is a pretty picture of what the business district could look like if we incorporate.

Is this a truth? Of the nearby incorporated small towns, can you name the ones that use tax money to "dress up" business areas? Isn't that what commercial developers do? Our business area has different landowners, not one developer. I feel the pictures are a pipe dream that is not possible.

In the February 22 article, Fred Young advocates getting rid of the gates and putting

police officers in their place. At what cost? How many officers will be needed?

You have three gates to be manned 24/7/365, plus officers for the rest of the area on patrol. Again, at what cost?

Do you really think that the West Side Board would take their gates down when they won't even reciprocate to allow SLLA stickers automatic entry into the west side? I feel Mr. Young is a little out of touch with some of his statements and ideas.

Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes North

PS: With the SLLA vote on a dues increase coming up, please vote. Only the landowners can vote a dues increase, not the Board. Remember, over \$234,00 is needed for office/administration costs and over \$87,000 for the stables.

But how do we get there?

Dear Editor:

I have enjoyed Fred Young's articles on the future of Seven Lakes. We have been coming to Seven Lakes since 1979. We have seen all of the Seven Lakes communities grow since then, but with disappointment at the disarray of the Business Village development.

We currently live in St. Petersburg, FL which I believe is one of the most re-vitalized cities in America. Having a vibrant village that offers conveniences is truly wonderful and also increases property values.

I believe Young is right on point, so the question

becomes how to get there?

Is there leadership in the community that can do this? I have to say, the current business community in Seven Lakes hasn't shown much leadership to date. Just some simple landscaping would have helped dramatically and shown some initiative. Is there any organization or commitment by the current businesses in the Village?

We do feel that the gates do provide a degree of security along with other home security measures, so we aren't in favor of removing any security. However, I don't believe the law states that a community can't have secu-

rity as part of a neighborhood watch program. While the roads may have to be opened to the public, I would think we can still have security at the guardhouses to record and video all vehicles entering and exiting our community and check and record driver's licenses for all non-residents. The lakes are private so that should not be debatable. As I understand the regulations, we just can't deny entry, but it doesn't mean we can't identify who is entering.

If the gates and security remain I think the proposal can gain support and momentum.

A question I have is: How can all of the three Seven Lakes communities come together and work towards encouraging a commercial developer to come into the area? There seems to be enough homes in the area that could support a village community, but it is confusing when an excellent restaurant like the Italian Table struggled.

I would be interested in working with a group of committed people to better the Seven Lakes community.

Tom Blythe
St. Petersburg, FL

Chris Beck
Seven Lakes West

Doing a little math

Dear Editor:

I don't consider myself an intellectual, so let me get this all straight in my mind. According to the article in *The Times* this week, the two Seven Lakes communities have a dues income of \$2,900,000.

Even if we incorporate, that money would still be used by those communities to maintain their present activities and property. Right?


So we would gain \$1,600,000 in tax dollars to use for a mayor and office and staff; a town manager, office, staff, and equipment; a police force and staff; and the the remainder could be used to fix up the downtown shopping district.

Now all we have to do is give up our gates. So, what do we gain?

More bureaucracy — which is the present problem of our state and federal government. There isn't anything

in this for the three gated communities. The remainder of Seven Lakes benefits a great deal. Why would anyone try to sell this to us? Are we that foolish?

When all is said and done, we the taxpayer will probably end up paying more to this new governmental body to maintain it.



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Incorporation will save money & increase services

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.

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 main-

taining 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?

Visible police presence is the greatest deterrent to crime. A police department will provide better security. Crossbars do not reduce the number of crimes. This area is one of the safest places in America. We do not need to fear raising the crossbars.

Article 5: Incorporation Will Increase Services and Save Money for Most Residents

Revenue Sources for the Town/Village

- \$1,600,000 from Sales Tax Revenue refund.
- Town taxes at .05/\$100, the State minimum.

(See "Incorporation," p. 24)

Sports Park to host Flea Market

The first community program to be held at the new park is underway.

Synergy Park will host a Yard Sale/Flea Market and all Seven Lake residents are invited to be included.

This kick off event is will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 8 am to 3 pm with a rain date of Saturday, May 4.

All Seven Lakes residents are invited to clean out their attics and the garages and be part of this event. Local businesses are invited to participate. Food vendors are encouraged to join in the fun.

Reservations for booth spaces are being taken by calling Tammi at 638-3848. Rental spots are available

for \$15 for a 15 x 15 area. Vendor spots will also be available for \$20.

All proceeds will support Synergy Park. Checks are to be made out to Dream Fields. Tents are permitted.

Synergy Park is located on

the Seven Lakes Cemetery Road (from Seven Lakes Drive down MacDougall Street).

All Seven Lakers are encouraged to come on out, meet your neighbors, find some great deals, and have a day of fun.



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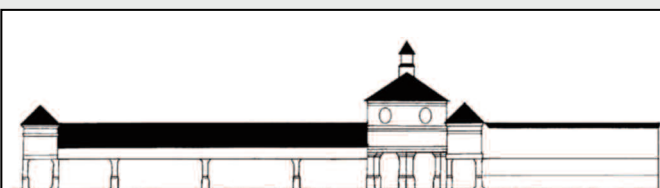
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Incorporation

(Continued from page 23)
How These Revenues
Could be Used?

To pay for the increased town services, which include:

- Police Department that improves security.
- Repaving all roads as they need to be repaved.
- Rebuilding the downtown providing storm drainage, paving, parking, sidewalks, and beautification .
- Community planning, marketing, and promotion.
- Zoning, building, and sign ordinances.
- Upgrading West End, and managing the growth along NC Hwy. 211.
- Recruiting desirable businesses for the community.

- Water and sewer plans and projects.
- Securing community development grants.

To Save Money for Most Residents

- The incorporated town or village would assume responsibility for road maintenance, resurfacing, and security — and pay for these services.
- Without financial or administrative responsibility for road maintenance, resurfacing, and security, the landowners associations will have reduced costs. The associations should be able to decrease landowner fees, mitigate

future increases, build larger reserves, and provide better services.

Any decisions about the use of these savings would be entirely at the discretion of the individual landowners associations.

Your Projected Savings

Your Assessed Valuation	Town Taxes @ .05/\$100	State and Federal Tax Deductions	Net Taxes	Operational Savings per Landowner	Net Annual Savings
\$50,000	\$25	\$7	\$18	\$325	\$307
\$250,000	\$125	\$35	\$90	\$325	\$235
\$500,000	\$250	\$70	\$180	\$325	\$145
\$750,000	\$375	\$105	\$270	\$325	\$55
\$1,000,000	\$500	\$140	\$360	\$325	(\$35)

Notes:

Town taxes .05/\$100 - the State required minimum

State and Federal income taxes Deduction at 28%

Operational savings

Gates	\$417,000 divided by 3,372 landowners	\$124.00
Road maintenance	\$180,000 divided by 3,372 landowners	\$53.00
Repaving Roads	5 miles annually at \$100,000 per mile = \$500,000 divided by 3,372 landowners	\$148.00
Total		\$325.00

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SLLA Town Hall

(Continued from front page)

keep them," he said, "even if I don't personally use them. I am wholeheartedly in favor of keeping it up and the dues increase. We are paying ourselves. This is a really important point: all the money stays with us. It is still in the property that we own."

The History of SLLA Finances

Darr kicked off the meeting with a short presentation of the Association's recent financial history.

The last two dues increases were consecutive \$50 hikes in 2005 and 2006, both reserved exclusively for roads and state-mandated dam repairs.

"The current board has worked hard to cut cost without changing the quality of life," said Darr. The restructuring of the debris site has realized \$10,000 in savings. Hiring a new security company and putting the landscaping maintenance contract out for bids cut costs.

The most significant change SLLA has made, Darr said, is in replacing Talis Management with Community Association Services, Inc. (CAS).

"The total reductions since the board began trimming any excess fat is \$45,000," Darr said.

"We have had much discussion about our amenities," said Darr, laughing. "Some would say we have been arguing about it. The board agrees that the whole community shares in the amenity costs. The stables, pools and other amenities . . . We are happy to have these, and these are the things we want to keep."

Meyer: 'We Cannot Cut Our Way to Prosperity'

Treasurer Conrad Meyer was up next to present the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget.

Meyer said that, during the past two years, the Board has scoured the administrative, maintenance and recreation budgets for cost savings.

"We are always looking for the best deal for the community," Meyer said. "Sev-

enty-nine percent of our operating budget as been looked at in the last two years, and a lot of work went into that, as you can imagine."

"We cannot cut our way to prosperity without impacting services, amenities, or needed repairs, without an increase."

Reserve Study

"There was a Reserve Study done in 2010 that recommended a dues increase of \$100 in May 2011, another increase of \$100 in May 2012, followed by a third increase of \$100 in 2013," Meyer said. "None of those were put in place."

Meyer gave an analysis of the SLLA income stream, expelling that:

- There has been no dues increase for normal operating and capital replacement since May 2005.
- Homeowner dues have lagged inflation.
- Single lot dues have significantly lagged inflation.
- Unimproved lot dues do not contribute to the Restricted Reserves dedicated to paving.
- The SLLA has not implemented dues increases recommended by the Reserve Study

"Single lots with no homes have not had a dues increase since 2005," Meyer said. "Unimproved lot dues have remained at \$570. The other thing to note is that these lots are not contributing

toward the road fund."

Recognizing that dues increases are not popular, Meyer said, the Board explored a range of options for increasing revenue, including increasing fees for guest use of amenities.

Speeding up repaving

Under the current dues structure, it could take more than twenty years for the Association to finish the road repaving project begun last Fall, Meyer said.

"Because of the way the past dues increase was set up, it take \$131,000 right off the top and goes to the Road and Dams Fund," Meyer explained.

"With the current \$100 portion of the dues that has been reserved for road repairs and paving it would take eighteen years to fund one full cycle with no inflation. Assuming three percent inflation, it will take us twenty-two years to complete the roads."

Increasing the road contribution for all lots by \$50 would create a sustainable fourteen-year cycle for road repairs — if there are no major dam repairs. Getting to a ten-year road repair cycle would require an increase of \$75 per lot increase.

The Board is recommending that \$50 of the recommended \$100 dues increase be restricted to road and dams, with the remaining

\$50 increase destined for the Unrestricted Reserve Funds, used for maintenance of other infrastructure and amenities. The increase would apply to both improved and unimproved lots, raising the total annual fee for homeowners to \$1,000; for lot owners, to \$670.

"The increase also assumes that we can offset inflation in our operation budget," Meyer said. "If we can not continue to offset inflation, it would potentially require another dues increase down the road."

The dues increase will be voted on by residents at the Annual Meeting. "It's not my decision; it's yours to make," Meyer said. "A ballot will be included in a mail out next Wednesday. It's your decision."

Surprisingly Positive Feed Back

The dues increase received positive comments from many in the audience, with several residents agreeing that it was necessary both to keep up with inflation and to maintain property values.

Southsider Hal Blake, a retired engineer, said: "I came to the meeting and thought you might be talking about \$25, \$30, or more increase. But, we have to maintain what we have, so I would support what the board is asking for. It's going to pay

(See "SLLA Town Hall," p. 26)

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SLLA Town Hall

(Continued from page 25)

us off in the long run. We are in our thirtieth year here, and you might say we have paid our dues — no pun intended. We have deferred our maintenance a bit too long, longer than we probably should have. Let's get on with it and pay for what we have."

Another retired engineer said: "Our roads are actually in pretty good shape. All in all they are in good shape because our current ground crew sealed them each year. We don't have the trouble that West Side does. Our roads, the water runs off because we sealed them every year. They will probably last 20 or 25 years because there is a good base."

Darr agreed: "Sealing the cracks needs to continue. If we don't do that, we really will have a mess."

Dues Increase on a Fixed Income

Many in the audience had high praise for the newly repaved roads — but not everyone.

"My road was in beautiful shaped before it was repaved," said resident Clau-

dia Aregereow. "It has been damaged, in my opinion." She purchased her home during the peak of the housing boom, and lamented that the value of her property has decreased twenty-five percent since moving to Seven Lakes. "Maybe the dues increase should be reevaluated for those that didn't have the pleasure of buying twenty years ago," she said.

"Gas is going up, taxes are going up, and you are asking people — including my grandmother — to pay for this," said one man whose grandmother is a resident in this community. "Are you taking into consideration where they are going to get the money?"

A Tight Budget

The recommended dues increase is substantially less than was recommended by the professional who assembled the Reserve Study.

"Thank you for what you have done," Dave Delaby said. "I know it's been tough. Conrad, it looks to me that the budget shows that it doesn't have any fluff. We are doing increases to meet needs. What is going to happen if

we do not increase dues? There's a payday coming somewhere, and we are trying to avoid that in a couple years."

"If inflation keeps climbing we would have to do something really drastic," Meyer replied. "We have some years before we do not have enough money to operate, but we do not want to get close to that."

Preparing for the Unexpected

Much of the community's infrastructure is already thirty years old, Darr added. "We are sitting in a building [the North Clubhouse] that needs a new roof. Our thought

process is to start building some funds now to take care of current and future needs," he said. "The [expected] pool life is thirty-five years, and we have a thirty-year old pool. What is the number? What do we do with starting necessary repairs in this aging infrastructure that we have?"

"In life there are surprises," Nancy Weinstroth said. "They are going to come, but right now we are not in a really big panic. But that panic is coming. If we don't take small little steps right now, while it's in our control it is going to be in panic in the future."

Another resident reiterated

that point: "I don't know if you heard what he said earlier: 'If there are no problems with the dam.' Having served on ARB, there are problems that come up periodically. Echo Lake cost a tremendous amount of money to fix. We might want to keep that in mind when thinking about whether or not we should vote against it."

"There are seven dams that go along with Seven Lakes and it is expensive," he continued. "I am all on board recommending for dues increase."

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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

that it is difficult for the Village to enforce the zoning ordinance in Grande Pines, because it is difficult for Village police and other officials to know whether a particular lot is zoned EU or RA.

Grande Pines residents are often unaware of the subtleties of different zoning classifications. Foxfire's RA zoning allows for a properly screened mobile home, while Equestrian zoning does not. Lots zoned RA or EU within the Village's ETJ allow some farm animals that are not allowed on lots zoned RA or EU within the Village's corporate limits. So, annexing those lots, even though it wouldn't change the zoning, would change some permitted uses.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that residents of Grande Pines, whether or not they are annexed by the Village, must adhere not only to the Village's ordinances, but also to the Grande Pines covenants.

"Because this is Grande Pines, they have their own set of covenants," Frusco said, "and, in many cases, they are more restrictive than what we require."

To cut the Gordian's knot of overlapping regulations, Frusco asked whether the Village could zone a lot as Equestrian, even though it is smaller than six acres and thus unsuitable for horses. Under Foxfire's current ordinance, horses may be kept only on lots that are six acres or larger. Councilman Mick McCue suggested that a lot could be zoned Equestrian without being allowed to house a horse, if less than six acres.

"I would make a recommendation at the next Council meeting to set a public hearing for this," Foxfire Mayor George Erickson said. "At the March meeting you will have an item and recommend a public hearing on rezoning."

The Council agreed that input from the public was necessary. "All folks will have to be notified because of the public hearing," Frusco said. "We can't call them until we

set the public hearing. We can deal with annexation and proper zoning at the same time."

Foxtail Circle Foundations

Foxtail Circle residents who have long complained about unfinished building foundations abandoned on their street might finally see some results. A number of residents of that neighborhood attended the February Council meeting to protest — heard from developer Ron Jackson during the meeting that he has not been financially able to finish construction on the foundations after the economy took a hit in 2005.

"I feel horrible for those residents that came to the open meeting last week," said McCue, introducing a proposed ordinance giving the Village the ability to require builders to finish construction or remove the unfinished portions of a building.

The Council discussed the wording of the ordinance in order to understand it better. "Once we adopt this, then we can provide the notice to

them [builders] of any building that has remained unfinished for two years prior," said Frusco.

Erickson noted that Jackson would be given six months from when he is notified to rectify the situation.

"You are going to have a six month waiting period," said Erickson. "He [Village Attorney Michael Brough] has that language in here. I think we still have a six month window."

"Once it has been adopted, we notify him [Jackson], and he has six months after that notification," said McCue.

Commercial For Sale Signs

The Council continued their discussion from a previous meeting about whether to allow larger for sale signs on commercial properties in the Village's business district. McCue had been asked at the previous Council meeting to research the issue.

"In the commercial district only, we can allow for a larger sign (32x48) and limit that to commercial district only," said McCue. Commercial

properties would be allowed only three signs on the lot.

"My feeling is that we should not change the signs in the Village's residential areas," Frusco said, "but strictly do a proposed ordinance for the commercial district only."

"We would need to make it a sign requiring a permit," she said. "We would make the permit apply for a period of twelve months. One of the conditions would be that the signs would need to be kept up and not allowed to deteriorate."

McCue argued that it would be hard to enact a permit for the larger commercial signs when no permit is required for residential real estate signs.

Councilman Koos asked whether signs actually help to sell properties.

But Frusco replied: "I am

looking at doing it to help Realtors® promote the Village business district. This is one thing our residents have said they have wanted: 'It would be nice to have a little store pharmacy or a little shopping area.' If we can do something to help promote that, then it is in the best interest of the Village to do it."

Erickson requested that McCue come up with recommendations for the March meeting.

New Public Comment Rules

Citizens who speak during public comment at council meetings will now be required to stand at the lectern and state their name. The Council adopted the new protocol to improve order at meetings.

Councilman Steve Durham was absent from the February 28 Work Session.



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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.

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West Side

(Continued from front page)

mittee, presented a proposal for walking trails at West Side Park.

The proposal envisions trails totaling a bit more than one-mile in length, with a crushed granite surface suitable for walking, bike-riding, and pushing strollers.

"I wanted it so that a one-year-old to a ninety-year-old could use it," said Mendence. "All age groups could walk and ride."

The initial proposal did not put a price tag on the project. Mendence said, if the Board expressed an interest in moving forward with the project, price quotes could be assembled.

If the Board does agree to install walking trails near the WSPCC, it would be at least two to three years before it is complete, she added.

Road Study Planned

The Association has hired the firm US Infrastructures to work with Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman to evaluate the roads in Seven Lakes West.

The \$19,500 project will include:

- Inspecting roads, at a cost of \$12,500.
- Developing a Road Maintenance Plan for five years for \$5,400.
- Developing a Long Range Plan for the next fifteen to twenty years for \$1,000.
- Drafting Road Specifications and Standards for

\$650.

The Infrastructure Committee allocated \$20,000 for the project in the current year's budget.

Safety and Security

Plans to install siren-activated gates over Lake Auman Dam have been put on hold, reported Safety and Security Director Ed Cockman.

Moore County is in the midst of an Emergency Services study that may result in the realignment of fire and emergency responder districts — a realignment that may or may not affect Seven Lakes West.

Cockman explained that the Association will delay its decision about siren-activated gates until the County has completed its study and made any necessary adjustments to response districts. He noted that Moore County Fire Marshall Ken Skipper supports postponing the decision.

In other safety and security news, Cockman said that speeding continues to be a concern, but he was reassured by Deputy Sheriff Mike Kantarowski that speeding tickets will be issued.

Cockman reminded residents to be sure to observe stop signs in the community to avoid accidents.

The Seven Lakes West Neighborhood Watch Patrol is being reinstated, and anyone interested in volunteering should contact Cockman.

Yoga class causes concern

Events Director Rosemary Weber expressed concern that yoga classes are being offered in the Community Center by an instructor who is not a resident of Seven Lakes West. This caused quite a stir with some residents, who questioned why a for-profit business was teaching classes at West Side Park.

President Mick Herdrich explained that the class was authorized four years ago by a previous Board in an effort to increase use of the Great Room. Former Board member Karen Milligan initially brought the class to the community, Herdrich said.

Although the Board has since stopped authorizing use of the Community Center for classes taught by non-residents, he continued, both the yoga and tai chi classes have been grandfathered in.

"It's something we really need to look into," said Weber. "I don't think it is something we should continue, because

I don't think it is fair to those people who would not be allowed to conduct their business here."

In other Events news, Weber announced that the next "Cooking with Camela" class will be held on March 16 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

"Cooking with Camela" will also host a class during Spring Break on March 27 from 10:00 am to Noon.

Reservations for these classes should be made with the CAS office.

Lake and Dam

In an eight-to-one vote, with Director Dan Blue opposed, the Board approved submitting an application for a permit to allow the Association to take measures to control the non-migratory Canada Goose population in Seven Lakes West.

The Board also named Geo Technologies, Inc. of Raleigh to serve as the community's new dam engineering firm, as requested by Lake and

Dam Director Bruce Keyser.

In other Lake and Dam news, the road at Johnson Point was resurfaced last month, Keyser reported. However, work on replacement of the drain from the roadway to the Lake has been delayed due to the weather.

Johnson Point boat slip agreements are due in the CAS office by March 1, Keyser announced; and boat registration will run through April 30.

Treasurer's Report

The SLWLA began Fiscal Year 2012-2013 in May with more than \$1 million in reserves. The Association is expected to finish the year with a little more than \$500,000 in reserves, Treasurer Don Friert reported.

Projects planned — like the new mailhouse — and unplanned — like the repair of the dam at Pond #3 — resulted in significant withdrawals from the reserve

(See "West Side," p. 29)

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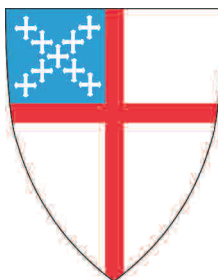
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West Side

(Continued from page 28)

funds, Freiert explained.

Year to date, Association revenues are tracking \$107,000 over budget, primarily because of the prepayment of landowners dues.

"We look pretty solid for the year," said Freiert, adding, "We are up and down in each of the accounts, but, overall, we are in good shape."

January's cash disbursements were \$257,000. Expenses in excess of normal operations included: \$90,000 to Bill Reaves Construction for work on the new mailhouse; \$33,000 to Raleigh Paving for street improvements; \$14,000 to Cagle Landscaping for Pond #3 dam guardrails; \$10,000 in

insurance costs; and \$6,600 in mailhouse expenses.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the SLWLA's Tuesday, February 26 meeting included:

- The Board approved reducing the number of Board members from nine to seven, effective in March of 2014. This vote will officially change the By-Laws of the Association.
- ARC Director Dan Blue said there have been fewer small projects throughout the community, which he attributed to a "seasonal slow down." Three new homes are currently under construction, Blue said,

adding, "It's a more positive trend than it's been in the last seven to eight months."

- Community Manager Mendence reported that landowners are requesting more classes at West Side Park — specifically, water aerobics.
- Mendence said the Community Center Great Room will now rent for \$100 plus a \$100 setup fee for parties of less than 75 people. For parties over 75, the rate will remain \$400.
- Communications Director Jane Sessler said that the new electronic message board in the mailhouse will help with the timeliness of announcements, because the system can be con-

trolled from the CAS office. Sessler noted that a new WiFi system has been installed that covers the entire Community Center, as well as the mailhouse and pool area.

- Legal Director Jack Stevens asked that residents be mindful of septic system compliance, especially when it comes to maintenance and inspection. "One might want to regard that a \$65 inspection fee might prove to be a reasonably-priced insurance policy," said Stevens.
- Long Range Planning Committee meetings have been canceled for February and March, Director Freiert reported. Due to Board elections approaching in

March, Freiert said, the next Long Range Planning Director can select new individuals to serve on the committee. Freiert thanked all the volunteers who have served on the Long Range Planning Committee during his time on the Board.

- Starting March 1, yard waste hours will be Saturday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Wednesday 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The yard waste site will be closed March 30 due to the Easter weekend
- The SLWLA Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 pm.
- The next SLWLA Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm.

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Seven Lakes Times
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