

Wedding Belle



Tinkie Petterson is Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines' Wedding Coordinator. The Chapel recently hosted its 155th wedding. [See story on page 13.]

Rick Rhyne Center Dedication

Moore County will dedicate the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center in a ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at 2:00 pm.

The Rhyne Center will house the Sheriff's Office, Public Safety Department, the 911 Call Center, and a new Detention Center.

The Center is named for Moore County Sheriff's Deputy Rick Rhyne, who was shot and killed in the line

of duty in December of 2011. Rhyne served for twenty-six years as Foxfire Village's Chief of Police. He was 58 years of age at the time of his death.

The Board of Commissioners in June unanimously accepted a recommendation from Sheriff Lane Carter that the new facility be named for Rhyne.

The Center is located at 302 South McNeill Street in Carthage.

Steve Hudson plans to resign from Board

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Newly-elected Seven Lakes Land-owners Association [SLLA] Director Steve Hudson plans to resign from the Board, he told *The Times* on Tuesday.

In a Letter to the Editor printed in this edition [see page 22], Hudson explains his concern that the current Board of Directors is operating in violation of the SLLA bylaws by voting on matters during what the bylaws describe as a "non-voting" Work Session.

Saying that the definition of "non-voting" is something even a fourth-grader can understand, Hudson writes: "The Board wants you to obey the bylaws and the rules and regulations, but those don't apply to

them." He then declares his intention to resign.

The issue surfaced during the Monday, April 8 SLLA Work Session — the first held since Board elections in March and the first Hudson had attended since his last term on the Board ended in 2008.

Two meetings with two purposes

Most matters that come before the SLLA Board come to it initially in a Work Session. Often, items on the Work Session agenda have been vetted through committees. Other items are proposed by management or by individual Directors.

During the Work Session, as each item comes up on the agenda, public input is received, and the Directors

(See "Hudson," p. 29)

Gould explains proposal for Foxfire Water System

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The future of Foxfire Village's water system was on the table at a special Council Work Session on Thursday, April 11, with Moore County Public Works Director Randy Gould in attendance.

The Village's Long Range Planning Committee has worked for the last two years researching and assessing the quantity and quality of the Village's present and potential water supply, measured against future population growth, the cost of maintaining the system, and preparedness in case of a catastrophic occurrence.

Looking for more water

In 2007, Foxfire contracted with the Pittsboro-based engineering firm Hydrostructures, PA to conduct a Water Source Study. The study recommended that, with the Village's high rate of growth at the time, it

should should secure an alternative source to complement the system of wells that currently supplies Foxfire's water. A follow up study conducted in 2008 recommended Moore County as that source.

The 2008 recession halted construction, slowing growth, and the recommendation was put on the back burner. The Village's current water system works well and is economically viable. However, it does not have the capacity to meet future expected growth.

The Long Range Planning Committee met with Gould earlier in the year to explore whether Moore County would consider extending water to Foxfire. Gould created a model, factoring in availability of water, proximity of water lines and towers, and expense.

After considering all options, the Long Range Planning Committee recommended that the Village Council consider merging their water system

(See "Foxfire Water," p. 20)

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Guild sponsors free concert on April 26

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild will host its first free concert of the year on Friday, April 26, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

"Sweet T" will perform at "Village Central," on Grant Street between Lake House Bar and Grill and TempControl.

Proceeds from the sale of beverages will help fund Guild projects aimed at enhancing the Business Village. Wine, Beer, soft drinks and water

will be available.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the fine Spring weather.

May Fest and Street Fair Planned for May 18

Do you have a storefront or home based business in Seven Lakes? Are you a craftsperson, organization or

vendor servicing the Seven Lakes area?

Do you have a food truck? Do you make crafts? Are you an artist?

Then you can't afford to miss the Guild's first Annual Seven Lakes Street Fair and May Fest, on Saturday, May 18, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Guild is inviting all local businesses and organizations to register now for a booth to showcase your services in what will be the biggest event for the Spring. The Guild is partnering with members to combine events such as an artisan alley, games, live music and a children's corner.

Spaces at the Street Fair and May Fest is only \$35 for non-Guild businesses, and is it Free to all members of the Business Guild.

Don't wait to reserve your space! Contact Cheryl Darwell at CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com or 673-SAIL

SOS to host session on fracking

Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative evening, Thursday, April 25, 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments served.

Save Our Sandhills (SOS) will host James Robinson, Research and Policy Associate of The Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA). Robinson is knowledgeable about the Mining and Energy Commission (MEC), which is writing the guidelines for local oil

and gas exploration. The Commission plans to finish its work and report to the General Assembly by October 2014. Robinson understands the structure and timeline pertaining to each of the six committees within the Commission and its three study groups, and he can provide suggestions as to the most effective way in which to get involved and to help influence those in the decision-making process.

Robinson will offer a brief overview of hydraulic fracturing, and will detail North Carolina's shale gas basin

and leasing history. Then he will discuss the current law and existing bills on hydraulic fracturing: SL2012-143 and SB76. Robinson will explain the current state of the MEC rule-making process, as well as the current state of the Compulsory Pooling Study Group process and he will

explain how to get involved in the MEC process.

Robinson earned a B.A. in Political Science from LaGrange College and an M.S. in Political Science from Florida State University. He manages RAFI's hydraulic fracturing and landowner rights project.

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, 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.

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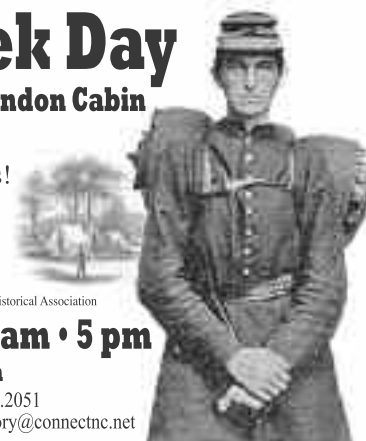
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SLLA Board supports rewrite of bylaws

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The bylaws of the Seven Lakes Land-owners Association [SLLA] may be destined for a rewrite — even as a disagreement over bylaw interpretation appears to have led one newly-elected Director to resign.

Community Manager Ray Sohl proposed a bylaw rewrite during the Monday, April 8 SLLA Work Session, after having two outside attorneys review the existing documents and proclaim them difficult to interpret, fairly unyielding, often conflicting, and repetitive.

“Some are convoluted and need to be rewritten,” said Sohl. “They need to be as short and as concise as possible.”

It appears to be precisely a difference in bylaw interpretation that led to the resignation of Director Steve

Hudson less than a month after his election to the Board. Hudson objected to the Board’s Work Session votes to move items onto the Open meeting agenda, noting that the bylaws refer to “non-voting work sessions.” [See story on page 1.]

Sohl recommended contracting with attorney Jim Slaughter, of Rossabi Black Slaughter, a North Carolina firm specializing in HOA law, to rewrite the existing bylaws at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.

“This is a man [Slaughter] that knows what he is talking about,” said Director Bob Racine. “I believe we should be open to any ideas coming in. We should not bury our heads in the sand and say this is how things have been done for many years.”

“We are not just buying his time, but also his experience, expertise and know how,” said Director Bill Hirsch.

Directors Steve Ritter and

Chuck Leach agreed that the money would be well spent to put the bylaws in a more straightforward format.

Comparing the expense of a rewrite to the cost of hiring an attorney to interpret the bylaws, Treasurer Conrad Meyer noted that it would be less expensive to have them rewritten.

“At the rate we have been asking our attorney questions,” he said, “we have spent more than that [\$1,200] for him to try an interpret some of these unwieldy bylaws.”

The Board voted 5-0 with one abstention [Hudson] to move the proposed rewrite it to the Wednesday, April 24 Open Meeting. [The Board is comprised of seven Directors, but President Steve Ritter plans to vote only to break, or create, a tie.]

Code of Ethics

After some debate, the Board also moved a proposed Board Code of Ethics to the April Open Meeting. Community Manager Sohl first presented a proposed Code to the Board during its February Work Session. The Directors made suggestions and edits and asked Sohl to rework the draft.

During the April Work Session, Sohl asked if there were any comments regarding the revised Code of Ethics. Director Leach agreed that it was routine to operate by a Code of Ethics. “This is boiler plate policy, and I think we should accept it,” said Leach.

Director Meyer asked if the ethics code would conflict with the bylaws. Sohl reassured Meyer that they were compatible.

“[Director] Bob Racine [a

retired attorney] carefully looked them over,” Sohl said.

But Director Hudson pointed to a conflict. “It says here the Board can suspend a director for three months,” Hudson said. This is illegal.”

“These are part of the rules and regulations,” Sohl countered, “and are legal as long as it is not in conflict with higher documents. This is very standard procedure and is absolutely within our rights. The board can enact rules and regulations.”

Moving to another point, the Directors discussed the proper protocol for Board member interaction with SLLA personnel.

“If you [a board member] have a complaint concerning an employee, then it should go to the general manager,” said Ritter. “The general man-

(See “SLLA,” p. 28)

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Council okays unfinished construction ordinance

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



For years, residents of Fox-tail Lane in Foxfire Village have been dissatisfied with their view of three exposed foundations, the remnants of three unfinished homes.

Due to financial constraints, developer Ron Jackson was unable to build on the three foundations. With passing each year, the residents' patience wore thinner.

By 2007, the downturn in the economy had halted most construction across the state, including in Foxfire Village. To aid ailing homebuilders, in 2008 the General Assembly approved a moratorium granting developers a grace period to complete unfinished construction.

That moratorium has expired, but Jackson has not responded to requests by the Village to address the unfinished foundations. In January, the Village Council sought advice from attorney Michael Brough on how best to proceed.

A new ordinance was drafted to address the problem, and the Council approved that ordinance during its Tuesday, April 9 regular meeting, after holding a public hearing.

Resident Betsy Wands expressed her frustration: "We had word from Ron Jackson that he would build on those foundations, because we were taking him to court. He never showed us anything. And he promised that he would have them built by that July — that was six or seven years ago."

"We are very concerned about that," she continued. "We love our Foxfire. We want the beauty of Foxfire to keep growing."

The new ordinance, which was approved unanimously, will allow the Council to send a letter to Jackson demanding that he either complete construction or remove the foundations. Upon receiving the letter, Jackson will have

six months to address and remedy the problem.

New Signs Ordinance

The Council also held a public hearing concerning a proposed sign ordinance.

Councilman Mick McCue presented the updated ordinance, which will allow for a larger signs for commercial zones, make the ordinance consistent, and clean up the language. It passed unanimously.

Too Fast for Foxtail Lane

"Slow down!" Foxtail Lane residents demanded during Public Comment, expressing their concern with cars speeding in their subdivision.

"There isn't a speed limit," Joan Hopkins explained. "We want to have a sign put up with a low speed limit. There are people really driving very fast around our circle. We walk our dogs, there are a bunch of children out playing, and our 95-year-old neighbor likes to walk. The cars are

going too fast."

Mayor George Erickson said he would pass the concerns along to Councilman Vic Koos [who was not in attendance at the April 9 meeting] and who heads up the Roads Committee.

Village accepts Pinelands Preserve Streets

The Council unanimously approved a resolution accepting the streets in the Pinelands Preserve development into the Village road system. The streets will be owned and maintained by the Village.

Developer Pete Mace is in the final stages of completing the necessary modifications within the subdivision including the purchase and placement of street signs, the construction of two cul-de-sacs, and the installation of four street lights.

Changing Hats

The Council accepted the resignation from David Mel-

drum, who has been appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board, from the Appearance Committee. Steve Martin

was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board to represent the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction.

Methodist Salad Supper

Get ready to enjoy the "Salad Supper" at West End United Methodist Church on Friday, May 10 at 6 pm. The United Methodist Women's Salad Supper will be served in the West End United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. This is one meal you do not want to miss. Tickets for this event are only \$8 each and can be purchased from Lou Anne Cline at 673-5431.



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Digital learning: Who funds what, when?

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Moore County School Board, the Board of Commissioners, community and business leaders, teachers, and, above all, Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Aaron Spence, are committed to bringing digital learning to Moore County Schools.

That was made abundantly clear during the Tuesday, April 16 Commissioner meeting, when Spence had an opportunity to present MCS' Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget request. What was less clear is exactly how that commitment to digital learning will be funded.

Community Support

Public comment during Tuesday's meeting focused on the budget request presented by Moore County Schools — and, in particular, on a request for \$750,000 in new County funding to support the 1:1 Initiative, which aims to put a laptop

or tablet computer in the hands of each teacher and student in the system. In future years, that request is projected to grow to an annual commitment of \$2 million in additional funding from the County.

Among those who urged the Commissioners to fund the schools' technology initiative were Moore County Chamber of Commerce Director Patrick Coughlin, Partners in Progress Executive Director Pat Corso, and Andrew Lyons, President of the Public Education Foundation of Moore County. Several MCS teachers provided examples of their use of technology in the classroom, describing its impact on learning and student success.

Chairman Nick Picerno took the unusual step of allowing each of the Commissioners an opportunity to respond after the public comment period. Commissioners Melton, Caddell, and Saunders all spoke of their commitment to support education — noting the large role it plays as a percentage of total county spending and

the fact that more than three-quarters of the county's indebtedness is the result of voter-approved school bonds. [Commissioner Craig Kennedy was absent from the meeting.]

But Picerno's comments made clear that MCS and the Board of Education have already moved the digital learning ball further down the field, faster, than the Commissioners expected.

"We all on board on digital

learning," Picerno said. But he was quick to add: "We did not feel that this was a 'this-year' initiative. We thought we were looking at something that would be phased in. We were surprised to discover that we were already in Phase 1. So, we are in a pickle, because once you start this, you can't really stop it."

Picerno quickly closed the door on one strategy for getting out of that pickle: raising property taxes.

"We are committed to education," Picerno said. "We believe in the schools, believe in the kids, believe in digital learning. But, unlike the federal government, we don't have a printing press . . . and we aren't coming to you [the taxpayers] and asking you to pay more. If we figure this out, it is going to be within the confines of what we have now."

In other words, the
(See "Digital," p. 15)



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Non-profits make their case for County funding

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



It's budget time for the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

And a nearly four-hour meeting on Tuesday night, April 16, was punctuated by presentations and public comment that demonstrated just how many organizations, and how many citizens, have a stake in the County's \$100 million annual budget.

Non-profits make their case

Funding for non-profit agencies makes up a small portion of the County budget, but a critical one for the budgets of those organizations and the citizens they serve. Seven non-profits made their case for funding before the Commissioners during Tuesday night's meeting.

The Literacy Council teaches basic life and literacy skills, serving the twenty-two percent of Moore Countians who are "functionally illiterate" — that is, who can't read well enough to fill out a job application, help their children with homework, or interpret written medical instructions. The Council has a budget of \$114,383 and received \$7,000 from the County this year.

The Coalition for Human Care provides food, clothing, and financial assistance to families in crisis. By its own estimate, the Coalition provides more than \$500,000 in services to Moore County residents. It received \$8,000 from the County.

The Malcolm Blue Farm, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, provides a site for festivals and field trips that give both school kids and adults a taste of Sandhills life in the 19th Century. Looking to increase its operational hours and create a children's museum onsite, the Farm is asking for double the \$4,000 it received from the County this year.

The Citizen's Pet Responsibility Committee aims to reduce pet over-population in Moore County, with its primary thrust an educational program aimed at 4th graders. The Committee receives \$8,000 from the County.

The Arts Council supports county arts organizations and programs in the schools, attracting more than 50,000 people to its programs each year. It receives just under \$9,000 from the County.

Habitat for Humanity homeowners paid \$116,000 in County property taxes in 2012. The organization builds

and repairs homes for low-income families and receives \$4,000 in County funding.

Friend to Friend focuses on domestic violence and sexual assault, providing counseling, temporary shelter, and advocacy. It served 2,305 victims last year and receives \$43,000 from the County.

"I can promise you the budget team will take all this to heart," Chairman Picerno said after the Board heard presentations from the non-profits. "You all are givers; you are giving back to your community. And we appreciate you."

Other business

In other business during the Tuesday, April 16 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- The Board declared the week of April 21 as National Volunteer Week and recognized the Moore County recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards:
- Shirley Baldwin of Pinehurst United Methodist Church, who was selected as a Diamond Award Winner singled out by the office of Governor Pat McCrory for statewide recognition.
- The Moore County Disaster Action Team of the Red Cross.

- Judy Lewis, Executive Director of the Prancing Horse Center for Therapeutic Riding.

- Nine-year-old Maggie Batson, who supports the Moore Humane Society through the sale of jewelry handmade from recycled items.

- Owen Gallagher, a volunteer with Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care.

- Pam Giambelluca, the volunteer director of the Moore County Literacy Council.

• The Commissioners proclaimed May 12 - June 16 "Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month," and the month of May as "Foster Parent Appreciation Month."

• The annual Cooperative Extension report highlighted the increase in sorghum acreage in the county from 1,500 to 2,500 acres, as well as educational efforts that

include the Master Gardeners program, training for farmers, nutrition programs, training for child care providers, and the 4-H program.

• IT Director Darlene Yudell reported that the County's Virtual Computing Project, which will allow county staff to access their files and workspace from remote computers and handheld devices, is up and running in a full testing phase. Yudell said she expected the system will be ready to put into live operation within three months.

• After a public hearing, the Commissioners approved the swap of a 0.16 acre tract of land with Pinehurst, LLC for a tract of equal size and value. The area is the site of the County's sewer Lift Station 3-4, which is scheduled to be replaced by a new pump station.

• The Board approved a (See "Commissioners," p. 18)

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In memory of . . .

Joyce Ruth Groszmann, 89, died Sunday, April 7, at Kingswood Nursing Center, Aberdeen.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 12, at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Groszmann was born in Plainfield, NJ daughter to the late Florence Ethel Keifer and Richard Melvin Douglas. She was a member of Seven Lakes Baptist Church.

She preceded in death by her husband Richard Eugene Groszmann and two brothers

Survivors include her two daughters, Nancy Jo Englehart and husband Les of Seven Lakes and Ellen Sue Prough and husband Irvin of Minot, ND; four grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Memorial Sloan Kettering at www.mskcc.org/giving

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Shirley Ann Moore Cole, 73, of Eagle Springs died Tuesday, April 2, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

She was born in Pitt County, daughter to the late William Andrew Moore and Betty Hedgepeth M. Peaden.

Mrs. Cole worked for many years as a secretary and bookkeeper at the original Pinehurst Hardware and later for Seven Lakes Hardware. Following this career, she worked for the Seven Lakes Country Club as a receptionist and bookkeeper.

She is survived by her daughter: Sherry Michelle Cole Bolton of Charleston, SC; son, Craig Moore Cole and wife Sharon of Eagle Springs; her granddaughter, Samantha Mariah Bolton of

Greenville, NC; her siblings: W.C. Moore and wife Betty of Bethel; Ronnie J. Moore of Fountain; Carol M. Tugwell and husband W.L. of Farmville; Dennis Peaden and wife Deborah of Farmville;

Timmy Peaden and wife Julie of Fountain; and Joy P. Aycock and husband Timmy of Fountain.

Funeral services were held Saturday, April 6, at Big Oak Christian Church, 3627 Ben-

salem Church Rd., Biscoe. Pastor Randy Thornton officiated. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Sandhills Children's Center, 1280 Cen-

tral Dr., Southern Pines, NC 28387 or to Animal Advocates of Moore County, PO Box 3399, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst assisted the family.



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Proposed school grades worry School Board

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The NC General Assembly is poised to change the way that the performance of individual public schools is evaluated, and concerns about the system legislators may elect dominated the April 8 meeting of the Moore County Board of Education.

Senate Bill 161, if passed, would create a system that gives each school a letter

grade — 'A' through 'F' — based strictly on student performance on end of year testing. The grades will not take into account socio-economic differences among schools, nor will they factor in consistent progress or growth in student test scores. This differs significantly from the current system used in the state, which places significant weight on year-to-year student progress.

"As a former principal I find this frightening; rather

than be labeled 'school of progress,' but assigning grades," said Dr. Mike Metcalf, Moore County Schools' [MCS] Director of Planning, Accountability and Research. Metcalf presented an in depth report on implementation of new testing and the state's proposed grading of individual public schools.

Raising concerns even further is the fact that students will be facing a new set of standardized tests in the coming year, as the state moves to the Common Core curriculum. Studies show that students score lowest when introduced to new testing format, due to unfamiliarity with the type of test, not the subject matter.

School Board Member Bruce Cunningham agreed

with Metcalf. "It's discouraging and frightening," he said. "I think we are missing a large chunk of what makes up our success. I don't know what we can do to push back." School Board Member Kathy Farren suggested writing their state representatives.

How to Measure Growth in Growing To Greatness?

"This particular bill doesn't use growth in its model," Metcalf said, presenting a historic view of MCS data. Moore County Schools have shown improvement every year, except for two.

"Both of these years are when we have put in place new tests," Metcalf said. "The historic data suggest that we will experience another drop

in progress due to the new tests."

The school grading model proposed in SB161 was applied to Moore County Schools, yielding scores ranging from an A for West Pine Elementary to an F for Aberdeen Elementary.

"I saw the predictions," Superintendent Aaron Spence said. "It has Pinecrest High School as being a D school; and I thought: Someone needs to explain to me, how can Pinecrest be a D school?"

Spence gave examples of recent Pinecrest student achievements and community involvement, including the debate team's national win at Harvard, a student who just won the State Poetry Out Loud Competition, a sen-

(See "School Board," p. 21)

Blood Drive April 24

Did you know only 3% of people donate blood?

There is a desperate need for more donors and severe shortages exist throughout the US.

The Seven Lakes Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, April 24 from 1:30 pm to 6 pm at the Seven Lakes North Club House.

Please make your reservation by calling 673-4931

and give the gift of life. Walk-ins are welcome and everyone is encouraged to donate. You can make a valuable contribution by donating.

Please remember to bring your donor card or photo ID. This drive is sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

You must be at least 17 years of age to donate [16 years of age with parent's consent].

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Mrs. Martin comes to Seven Lakes from Richmond Family Medicine, where she had been a provider since March 2008. Her approach to wellness and the special needs of women define her as a practitioner and keep her patients, even those living in Rockingham, coming back. As a new resident of Seven Lakes, where she now lives with her husband and two sons, she provides the community with an excellent nurse practitioner.

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Planning Board gets a solar education

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Harvesting sunlight and cultivating energy could provide a new bright future for Moore County landowners. The Moore County Planning Board is considering a proposal to allow zoning for commercial-scale solar farms.

During the Board's Thursday, March 7 meeting, Moore County Planner Jeremy Sparrow presented draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would accommodate solar farms, prompting numerous questions from Board members.

To get a firsthand look at the impact and requirements of the installations, Sparrow and several members of the board visited a forty-acre solar farm in Raeford owned and operated by Strata Solar.

Sparrow presented additional information during the Board's Thursday, April 4 meeting, and invited Clay Hartman, Managing Director at Argand Energy Builders of Charlotte to answer any technical questions.

Board member Les Murray had visited the Strata site and was optimistic in his report.

"There appears to be very little risk," Murray said. "The pylons are driven into the

ground. The panels can be taken down, and it can go back to farmland at any time. The representative told us that the scrap value of the system far exceeded the cost to remove it."

One proposed Moore County site is at a turf farm owned by Bill Harris in Eagle Springs. Argand would lease the land from Harris and pay

for the installation of the solar panels.

Sparrow and Hartman made it clear that not just any land will do. The preferred site should be level and already cleared. It has to be a large enough to be economically worth while. The land should be within at least three miles — and less than one mile is optimum

— of a three-phase power line or substation.

"We prefer to have a site that already has existing heavy three phase and that is one mile away," said Hartman. "Also, the site shouldn't have any technical or environmental issues. Streams, wetlands, old foundations would cause a significant

(See "Solar," p. 27)

Clenny Creek Day

The eighth annual Clenny Creek Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Free admission for all the family is the tradition here and it's an all-day event sponsored by the Friends of the Bryant House, an 1821 era home with a 1760 era cabin built by Joel McLendon. Proceeds will benefit efforts of the Moore County Historical Association to maintain the two historic house museums.

In case of rain, Clenny Creek Day will be moved to the next day, Sunday April 21, noon to 5 pm.

Food, music, vendors, historic representations and talks, games, and more are on tap both outdoors and inside the two historic homes at 3361 Mt. Carmel Road, Carthage.

For details call the Moore County Historical Association at (910) 692-2051, visit www.moorehistory.com

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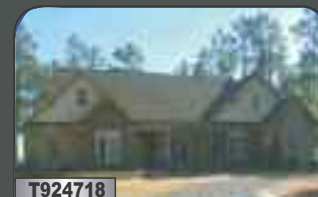
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Seven Lakes Chapel's wedding bells ring often

by Rollin Tomberlin

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines recently hosted its 155th wedding.

"It's amazing that the Chapel holds so many services considering we're located in such a small community," said Tinkie Petterson, Wedding Coordinator. "And surprisingly few of these are actually for church members."

Several reasons were cited for the broad appeal of the Chapel for weddings. "The church has wonderful facilities for almost any size of ceremony: intimate, small, or large," Petterson said. She also mentioned the excellent parking accommodations and the Joralemon expansion with its oversized modern kitchen and entertainment capabilities as appealing.

"Amazingly, many couples select the Chapel because we have a center isle. Some nearby churches have only side-aisles, and brides prefer to march down the center," she continued.

Petterson has been in charge of weddings at the Chapel for fourteen years. In 1999, she responded to

long-time Chapel leader Helen Simpson's request "for a little help at a wedding this week-end." And, she's been coordinating the Chapel's nuptials ever since.

"Understand that these events require a lot of help, and I've had many wonderful committee members that volunteer their time, too," she commented. "Since there's always a rehearsal prior to the wedding, we need to attend to our details on two separate week-end days. Obviously, our volunteers are truly dedicated. Because of growing demand for our services, we always need new personnel, and I'm constantly seeking additional people."

Noting that there have been too many helpers over the years to thank them individually, she did offer accolades to community leader, Andy Lowe. "He's been in charge of the microphones and speakers, along with other electronic gear, over these many years and has done a superb job," Petterson said.

Responding to inquiries regarding unusual happenings, she mentioned, "Over the passage of time, we've had our share of late brides,

late grooms, VIPs that couldn't find the Chapel and the like. We even had a tough, hard-nosed Special Forces soldier who absolutely "froze" at the altar with a 'panic attack.'" We've had requests for dogs to be included (a no-no)!

Recently, there was a couple that wanted to get married early Friday morning. They had to get to Charleston, SC (a 5.5 hour trip) to catch a ship for their honeymoon cruise that afternoon. This same bride elected to attend her Winter wedding ceremony clad in a strapless dress, but without shoes or socks. Afterwards, the photographer took her outside on the frigid

day and shot pictures sans coats and shoes.

The Chapel in the Pines congratulates Tinkie Petterson for her many years of

service and for her dedication "over and beyond the call of duty" to the community's brides and grooms.

Synergy Park Yard Sale

Come to the Synergy Park for a Seven Lakes Yard Sale/Flea Market and Craft Show on Saturday, May 4 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Everyone is invited to participate. Show off and sell your new wares or clean out your home and turn that old stuff into "Lucky Finds" for others. There will be

music, snacks and inflatables.

Rental spots are still available, reserve your spot by contacting Tammi at synergypark@aol.com. The park is located on the Seven Lakes Cemetery Road, from Seven Lakes Drive turn off onto MacDougall and go straight back.

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Philharmonic gathers musicians of all ages

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Spring is performing its own symphony. Intermittent gales of rain wash the golden pollen down the street. Upstairs in the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Building is Moore County Philharmonic Chairman Paul Barnes' corner office. Large windows look out over historic downtown Aberdeen. There is no train in sight, but its whistle is carried on the wind. Song birds call to one another, while a lone carpenter bee buzzes against the window casement.

Barnes relocated from Florida five years ago to be the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for A&R Railroads.

"My first love has always been the railroad," he explained. "I actually went to Maryland to major in transportation. My second love is music."

Barnes graduated with Bachelor of Science and a minor in music. "During college, mid-stream, I got confused and changed over to music education before changing back," Barnes said.

When Barnes moved to Moore County, he realized he could have the best of both worlds. The Moore Philharmonic Orchestra welcomed him. Its foundation is to cultivate Moore County's

musical youth, by placing them alongside accomplished older musicians. It is rare that middle school, high school, and college students have the opportunity to perform with mature musicians.

"We have a three-prong effect," Barnes said. "We benefit our community and local economy, mentor music students, and help raise money for music scholarships and other charities."

"We also help develop students musically, ethically and morally," he continued. "We have some of our top educators sitting right next to the kids. If a student has a question, all he has to do is lean over and ask for help. We have fifty musicians. The youth comprise sixty percent, and forty percent are from the community. We are also members of the Moore County Arts Council and the Moore County Chamber of Commerce."

In December, the Orchestra played to a full house at the Sunrise Theater.

"We raised \$3,000," Barnes said. "A portion will go to the Sunrise for digital, and the rest will go into our scholarship fund." The scholarships help Moore County youth pay for private lessons, attend summer music camps, and purchase higher quality instruments.

The orchestra's concert season has two more performances. "We are performing our Spring Concert on April 21," Barnes said. "We are a non-profit organization and the performances are free and open to the public." The Concert will be held in Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College, at 3:00 pm.

"Your hometown community orchestra helping develop students for the world's stages" is the Orchestra's motto. Barnes could be its poster child. Growing up, he benefited from excellent music teachers; and, in 1986, he performed at the Statue of Liberty's hundredth anniversary.

As a high school student Barnes was one of five hundred chosen from all over the nation to be in the 1986 Statute of Liberty Marching Band.

"We performed for President Regan, his cabinet, international dignitaries and citizens," Barnes remembers. "I was less than fifty feet away from the President. We also had a chance to perform the closing ceremonies at Giant Stadium with Shirley MacLaine and accompanied Manhattan Transfer."

Now Barnes wishes to pay it forward. "Our group is diverse and includes teachers,

doctors, military and senior citizens," Barnes said. "Our director is Eric Kopecky, who is also the orchestral teacher at Southern Middle School. It's amazing how much talent is here."

Rays of sunshine cut through the slate blue sky. Lunch is over and it is time

to get back to work. For fifty residents the Orchestra provides a balance for those who spend their days as students or professionals, but are musicians at heart. The Moore Philharmonic will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in 2015. It promises to be quite the performance.

Moore Philharmonic Spring Concert

Celebrate the sweet sounds of Spring by attending the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Sunday, April 21, at 3 pm. This performance will be at Owens Auditorium, at Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.

Featured soloists are world-renowned pianists

Sophia Pavlenko and Paul Chandley.

In addition, scholarships will be awarded to winners of the Orchestra's annual student scholarship competition. No tickets are required, but tax-deductible donations are always welcome.

For more information, visit www.mporchestra.com

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Digital Learning

(Continued from page 6)

\$750,000 MCS is looking for to purchase laptops and tablets is going to be squeezed out of either the County budget or the MCS budget, without raising taxes.

The Future is Ten Years Ago

Presenting the Board of Education's request for local funding, MCS Superintendent Aaron Spence picked up on a refrain heard during public comments, that "the future is now."

"You have heard couple of people say 'the future is now.' I want to be honest with you, the future is ten years ago," Spence said.

"When I was a principal in 2001, we were a one-to-one high school. Here it is 2013, and you can imagine my surprise when I walked into Moore County and discovered that not all of our teachers had laptops. . . . We've got to make a transition over to digital learning, and we feel we have to do it a little bit faster, because we are a little bit behind in that arena."

Spence's personal commitment to the power of digital learning was clear, even while he admitted that the approach is new enough that academic research is only beginning to demonstrate its benefits. He shared research from the digital learning advocacy group Project Red showing improvement in achievement and attendance, complemented by decreases in discipline problems. Those

improvements, however, accrued in schools in which the rollout of technology was accompanied by appropriate training and technical support for teachers.

He also shared very preliminary data from Carthage Elementary that showed increased attendance since each student in the school was provided with an iPad.

Spence made clear that placing a laptop or tablet in the hands of every teacher and student will require a continuing investment from both MCS and the County.

In implementing Phase 1 of the MCS 1:1 Initiative, "we haven't asked for any County support," Spence said, explaining the laptops for Pinckney Academy and iPads for Carthage Elementary had been funded through cost-cutting in the expense budget and through federal Race to the Top grant funds.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, MCS is asking the County for \$750,000 in new technology funding, while coming up with \$1.5 million on its own through "tightening down on positions and some from fund balance." He noted that the money the County contributed to the effort will only be used for the purchase of devices, not for software, training, and support.

In Fiscal Year 2014-2015, MCS will contribute \$1.6 million to the effort, asking the County for \$1 million. Once all students and teachers have digital devices, Spence

said, the on-going replacement cost is expected to total \$3 million per year, with the County contributing \$2 million of that total.

"I realize that seems a bit audacious," Spence said, "but, honestly, we can't do it without a partnership with the County."

"We want to be one of the greatest school districts in the state of North Carolina — you all want that, for us, for our children. Frankly, we are not there. We are a very good school system . . . but the data doesn't play out that we are one of the best in terms of overall student achievement. But we can be, with this kind of commitment to bring learning into the 21st century."

Where to get the money

Commissioner Saunders asked whether, if the NC General Assembly and Governor Pat McCrory stopped the practice of siphoning of Education Lottery funds for non-educational uses and fully fund the County's share of lottery funds, some of those revenues could be used to pay the County's proposed share of 1:1 Initiative costs.

"It is up to you all to decide

how to fund it," Spence replied. "We would be open to a fund for technology that remains in the County budget But realistically, we are losing funds on the state level."

In a dialogue with MCS Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin, Commissioner Picerno probed for details on the school system's fund balance, \$4,000,000 of which has been designated for possible use this year to cover expenses. Griffin said he expected MCS would use at most \$500,000 of that balance.

"That helps us lot when we go in to see how we can actually fund this," Picerno said, evidently eyeing that fund balance as a source for the additional \$750,000 the schools want for technology funding.

But Spence made clear that MCS has its eyes on that fund balance. "That part of the money that we show as our contribution to digital learning incorporates the draw down of fund balance," he said.

Ultimately, the debate, or compromise, may come down to how much of whose fund balance gets used, and when, to pay for laptops and tablets

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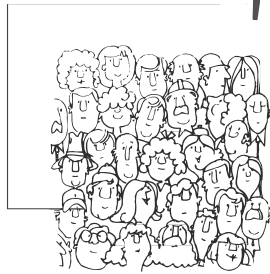
- **"Buddy Holly – The Concert"** – 8 pm. Hear the music of Buddy Holly, J.P. Richards. The Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens. Tickets: \$25 at the Temple Theatre Box office or 919-774-4155 Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage St., Sanford.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) Annual Meeting** – 10 am to 12:30 pm, a Wildflower presentation, nature hike, SALT election of officers. At Weymouth Woods State Park, 1024 Ft. Bragg Road, Southern Pines. 910-695-7258.
- **Pinehurst Garden Club Annual Plant Sale** – 10 am to 3 pm Geraniums, Vinca, Impatiens, Begonias and a variety of hanging baskets, herbs. 405 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, next to the Pinehurst Fire Dept. 235-0070 or 295-3485.
- **Clenny Creek Day celebration** – 10 am - 5 pm, Free admission, an 1821 era home with a 1760 era cabin built by Joel McLendon. Food, music, vendors, historic representations, talks, games, and more, 3361 Mt. Carmel Road, Carthage. Moore County Historical Association (910) 692-2051, www.moorehistory.com (In the event of

rain, the event will moved to Sunday April 21, noon to 5 pm.).

- **International speaker, Kari Mashos** – 2 pm, Mashos, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing, will present a talk,



"Peace for the

World: Prayers that Counteract Terrorism" at the Sandhills Horticultural Center, Sandhills Community College.

- **"Buddy Holly – The Concert"** – 5 pm & 8 pm performances. Tickets: \$25 at the Temple Theatre Box office 919-774-4155 or www.templeshows.com Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage St., Sanford.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert** – 3 pm, Celebrate Spring, at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Featured soloists will be world-renowned pianists Sophia Pavlenko and Paul Chandley. Moore

Philharmonic Orchestra www.mporchestra.com

- **"Plants that Bite Back"** – 3 pm, Take a closer look at the carnivorous plants that are found at Weymouth Woods. Group will spend some time in the auditorium and then hike to two locations. Bring bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

- **Earth Day**
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – evening Fellowship meal at 6 pm followed, by Worship Service at 7 pm. Come as you are. West End United Methodist Church, West End. 673-1371.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting, 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. "A New Old South." Nick Radko of UNC Pembroke leads the discussion. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- **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.

- **Rick Rhyne Dedication** – 2 pm, at the Rhyne Center, Carthage.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm - 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Sunflix Documentary Film Event** – 7:30 pm, *Girl Rising*, Presented at Sunrise Theater by Gathr Films. Tickets: \$10. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 to 6 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. For an appointment call 910-673-4931. Walk-ins are always

welcome. Sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis.

- **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 leads in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Museum of the Cape Fear** – 7 pm, welcomes Dr. Matt Farina who will speak about The Wounding and

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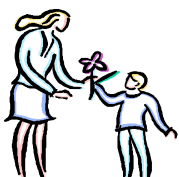
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- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Save Our Sandhills** – an informative evening on the subject of Fracking, 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Free and open to the public. Refreshments. Speaker: James Robinson.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *If I Were You*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Food, Games & Socializing, Buffet 5-6:30, \$13.95 inclusive, meal consists of Lasagna, salad, rolls/butter, cake. RSVP for dinner by Wed., April 24. Call 673-1100.
- **Free Concert featuring Sweet T Band** – 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Village Central (Grant Street between Lake House Bar and TempControl). Proceeds from beverage sales benefit SL Business Guild Projects to enhance Seven Lakes Village. Sponsored by Seven Lakes Business Guild.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *If I Were You*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- **Spring Yard Sale at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9 am to 2 pm, Hundreds of household bargains to rummage through for all ages. Hot dogs and baked goods too! 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Seven Lakes Lion Club Plant Sale** – 10 am to 2 pm, Lots of beautiful plants for sale, including hanging baskets, flats, herbs, and roses. Sponsored by Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe. Held at the corner of Hwy 211 and Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Chapter of the American Red Cross and Moore County Amateur Radio Society (MOCARS)** – will have an informational display at Southern Pines Spring Fest. Contact Jim Johnson 910-400-3019.
- **Community Shred Event** – 9 am to 12 noon, Defend yourself against identity theft. Moore County Sheriff Department, Back Parking Lot, 105 Dowd Road, Carthage. Bring your personal and professional papers for free, confidential shredding by mobile shredding truck. (910) 722-5075.
- **Middle Cross Baptist Church** – 12 noon to 6 pm, *Cruise-in and Kid's Festival*. Free and open to the public. Games, bouncy houses, puppet shows, food, and old cars. Come and enjoy

the fun. 440 Lucas Road, West End. 910-986-3205.

- **Opera at the Sunrise** – *Handel's Giulio Cesare*, A New Production – 12 noon, Tickets \$25. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *If I Were You*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **"More than Pines"** – 3 pm, Group will look at the variety of plants that flourish in the Longleaf ecosystem of the Sandhills along this one and a half mile hike. Bug spray recommended. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **Moore County Choral Spring Concert** – 4 pm, Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School, Southern Pines.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *If I Were You*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines. 692-3611.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Moore County Land Use Plan Steering Committee** – 6 pm, at the Senior Enrichment Center, West End.
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – evening Fellowship Meal at 6 pm followed, by Worship Service at 7 pm. Come as you are. West End United Methodist Church. 673-1371.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *If I Were You*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St, Southern Pines.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

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

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

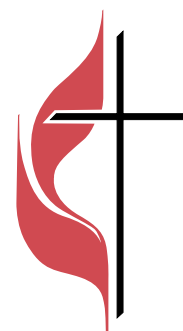
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- **May Day**
- **English Speaking Union** – Dr. Tyrus (Ty) W. Cobb, the guest speaker, Country Club of North Carolina, cocktails at 6:30 pm with the program and dinner. Hope Price (910) 692-7727.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers) meal \$5.



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 8)

rewrite of the Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance that places that function with the County's GIS department. Responding to comments from Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter about the difficulty of navigating between county and municipal planning authority when a property to be developed lies within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a town, the Commissioners resolved to convene a meeting of mayors and town planners with County planners to work toward greater cooperation. Commissioners Melton and Caddell will serve as the Board's point men in that effort.

- At the recommendation of Public Utilities Director Randy Gould, the Board rejected bids for a wireless monitoring and control system for the County's sewer system. The project will be rebid.

- The Commissioners approved a project ordinance for the Edgewood Terrace Water Main project that will invest \$41,000 of county funds and a matching grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center to extend the County water system to the Edgewood Terrace and Stanley Street neighborhoods in West End.

- At the request of Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips, the Board authorized a contract change with Motorola, Inc. to allow the staged rollout of new radios compatible with the VIPER system that will be used for emergency communications throughout the County.

- Commissioners approved an \$18,000 increase in a contract with Radio Communications Company of Cary, which will install a link between the old 911 communications center and the new communications center in the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center. Systemwide rollout of the VIPER system has been delayed because the State Highway Patrol, which operates VIPER, cannot provide Moore County with a sufficient number of radio

ID numbers. As a result, the new and old emergency communications systems must be temporarily linked.

- At the request of Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey, the Board approved an \$84,000 increase in the contract for office furniture for the Public Safety Center. County Manager Wayne Vest reported that the overall cost of the new facility is expected to come in \$800,000 to \$900,000 under budget.

- Also at Godfrey's request, the Board reflected bids for an epoxy floor coating for portions of the Rhyne Center, electing instead to utilize D.H. Griffin, the primary contractor on the project, to complete the \$200,000 coating installation.

- At the request of Bobby Lake, who has been named Director of the Property Management Department, the Commissioners approved an increase in the volume of the County's propane contract with Sandhills Propane Com-

pany at no increase in the per gallon rate.

- The Board reapproved an agreement between the towns of Pinebluff and Aberdeen regarding their adjoining ETJ boundaries to reflect an updated map.

- Commissioners approved a settlement of the 2012-2013 Tax Levy and shared the new Interim Tax Administrator with the collection of taxes, a technical action required by the General Statutes because former Tax Administrator Wayne Vest has been promoted to the post of County Manager.

- The Board approved a resolution in support of House Bill 504 before the NC General Assembly, which would allow certain counties to publish public notices on their websites instead of in a newspaper of general circulation. Moore County asked to be added to the list of counties so authorized.

- The Commissioners passed a resolution opposing

House Bill 343 and Senate Bill 385, which, County Attorney Misty Leland explained, could require the County to pay court fees that are currently waived in child support, child abuse, and other actions filed by the Department of Social Services.

- Marshall Joyner and Mike Andrews were reappointed

to the County's Transportation Advisory Board, along with new members Ginger Finney and Carrie Perez.

- Gerald Galloway and Samuel Riddle were reappointed to the ABC Board, and Robin Cummings was reappointed to the Board of Adjustment.

Visit Seagrove April 20-21

Seagrove potters are coming together to create an eventful weekend with something for everyone. Over 65 clay artists will be offering special events and kiln openings throughout Seagrove the weekend of April 20-21.

Spring has always been a time for renewal and awakening in Seagrove and this year an unprecedented number of shops are opening their doors at the same

time to Celebrate spring with special events.

A large variety of events are scheduled throughout the weekend including - loads of beautiful new pots fresh from the kilns, door prizes, refreshments, turning demonstrations, raku firings and special guests.

You can download a pdf of participating shops and hours and a map from Discover Seagrove or Celebration of Seagrove Potters



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The 55-year old plaintiff was a field director for a non-profit group. She had worked there for 21 years before being fired by a new executive director.

The plaintiff alleged that the new executive director wanted a more youthful staff, and that younger employees were replacing older field directors. The organization responded that the plaintiff was fired for legitimate reasons, namely that she had an unauthorized program on her work computer.

Plaintiff's expert indicated that the antivirus program could have been installed by the company. The case settled for \$175,000. Actual case.

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Peace for the World

As a result of world-connectedness today, we are acutely aware of the events that go on across the globe as we are of those in our own community.

International speaker, Kari Mashos says, "We can rely on the law of the First Commandment, that there really is only one God, one power, and it is able to unify everyone in the spirit of true brotherhood. When we use this understanding of the one God, one Mind, it acts as a law of protection and it blesses ourselves as well as everyone around us."

Mashos, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing, will present a free lecture, "Peace for the World: Prayers that Counteract Terrorism" at the Sandhills Horticultural Center on Saturday, April 20 at 2 pm.

Mashos shares ideas based on the book Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, and the original sourcebook of Christian healing, the Bible. From her own experiences, she helps audiences explore how to connect more deeply with universal Love to find comfort, safety, and peace. Mashos has discovered first hand that prayer can bring safety to any situation and that our prayers are effective clear across the globe.

Classic Car Cruise-In and Kids Fest

Join the fun at Middle Cross Baptist Church on Saturday, April 27, from 12 noon to 6 pm. There will be many games, bouncy houses, puppet shows, food and some great classic cars for everyone to enjoy seeing on display.

Middle Cross Baptist Church is located at 440 Lucas Road, West End. 910-986-3205.



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Lot #6146 - \$59,500

Lot #2399 - \$23,500

— INTERIOR —

LOT #797 - \$12,000

LOT #2475 - \$13,500

LOT #5433 - \$15,000

LOT #2550 - \$26,000

LOT #5323 - \$19,900

LOT #1052 - \$19,900

LOT #2552 - \$22,900

— INTERIOR —

LOT #4047 - \$30,000

LOT #220/215 - \$12,000

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Foxfire Water

(Continued from front page)

into the Moore County system. Noting the complexity of the factors to be considered — and the need for public input — the Council scheduled the April 11 Work Session and invited Gould to attend.

Gould: County has ample water

At the work session Gould gave a presentation that encompassed both extending water to Foxfire Village and details about Moore County's thirty year water plan. The County currently has adequate sources of water to meet its projected growth for the next thirty years. Planning for the unexpected, Moore is continuing to seek alternative sources of water.

"The reason I took the time to present those options, is that I want you to understand we have alternatives," Gould said. "So you can have confidence that we have a plan in place."

"The county is looking at taking on Foxfire Village plus other growth. You feel you will have enough current water and other sources to take on us?" asked Councilwoman Leslie Frusco.

Gould reassured Frusco, "I think we are solid for 30 years." Moore County is currently considering increasing the amount of water it purchases from Harnett County. Harnett is in the process of expanding their water treatment facility.

"They are expecting to get approval this Spring for upgrading their system," said Gould. "They want us to buy capacity in their plant, and they will provide us with three million gallons per day. As a partner in construction, they would sell us water at reduced rate."

County would take on debt, connect systems

Gould proposed that the County would absorb the Foxfire Water Department's outstanding debt of \$400,000. In exchange, the County would take over the water tower and distribution system. The County would then extend lines down Foxfire Road to Foxfire Village. The county does not have an interest in taking ownership of the Village's operating wells.

Foxfire residents would continue paying their current water rate, which is higher than the rates paid by Moore County water customers. If the County raised its rates, the rates in Foxfire would

increase by the same percentage. Foxfire Villagers would pay their higher rates for twenty years, creating revenue that would cover the cost of extending County water lines to serve the Village.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Durham asked Gould when the County's had last increased rates and if he knew of any future increases. Gould said that possible increases are being discussed and that he could not remember when the last rate increase was.

Details, details

Frusco pondered how best to bill Foxfire residents over the twenty-year period.

"Maybe from a structuring standpoint, it might be better to make the water rates what they are and then add a surcharge to Foxfire residents' bills," she said. "It might be a better way — more transparent way — to structure it."

Frusco also asked if the Village would continue to have access to the land underneath the water tower. "The land is currently being

used by public safety, for storage and for a yard waste service. Would we still be allowed to use that if you took over the water system?" Frusco asked.

Gould was amendable in considering Frusco requests and reminded her that this was just a proposal.

"These are all details that would have to be worked out," Gould said.

Durham reined in the questions and pointed out that the Village's own rates were not fixed.

"The people in Foxfire Village pay a certain rate right

now," he said. "If we had to put in a well, then their rates would go up. If we were to turn our water system over to Moore County right now, our rates would be the same until Moore County increased its water rates. When the loan is paid off, our rates will be the same as Moore County."

Council members present at the meeting were Mick McCue, Steve Durham, and Leslie Frusco. Eleven residents attended, including Jon Sedlak, water superintendent for Foxfire Village.

Rose Nursery Field Trip

The Sandhills Horticultural Society is planning a bus trip to the famous Carolina Rose Nursery. Plans are for bus transportation to Witherspoon, a guided tour of the nursery with rose growing tips, light refreshments and shopping time at the rose gardens. All this followed by a leisurely stop at Southern Seasons

in Chapel Hill for shopping and an optional independent lunch.

Cost is \$45 per person payable to SCC-SHS due by April 22. For additional information call (910) 695-3882.

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School board

(Continued from page 11)

ior who has earned a Dartmouth scholarship and thirty-two ROTC students that spent the previous Saturday volunteering at the Malcolm Blue Farm.

"It's very concerning that the growth model is not included," Spence said. "Because the growth model is exactly what we are suppose to be doing with students — see annual progress in learning. There are lots of ways to measure students' success, and tests scores is not the only way."

House Bill 434 includes progress

The General Assembly has an alternative assessment model that takes growth into account in House Bill 434, which would also delay assessment for one year to give schools and students a chance to adapt to the new testing format.

"I have my own preference in which one I would like to see," Metcalf said. "House Bill 434 better describes our schools."

New Standards, New Tests

The new Common Core Standards that the state has adopted aim to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.

"The Common Core is the expectation we hold for our

students and how we measure that success," Metcalf said. "How well are our students are learning? Where they are improving? To ensure that they are college- and career-ready."

This year, various additional tests will be administered to students in elementary, middle, and high schools. To better assess whether students are college ready, the ACT is now required of all 11th grade students. Career Technical Education (CTE) students are required to take an end-of-year WorkKeys test. Passing students will show a certification of completion and be prepared to enter the workforce.

Additional Common Exams that will be added in 2013-14 school year include Kindergarten through 3rd Grade measures of student learning; as well as tests in the Arts; World Languages; and Health and Physical Education.

Lobbying needed

Both SB161 and HB 434 have yet to be voted on by their respective houses in the General Assembly. Spence agreed with Farren that concerned members and parents should contact their legislators.

"This is going to come down to a showdown between the Senate and the House," Spence said. "We have two separate bills with two very different ways of looking at

the accountably model. A-to-F is already done — that was enacted in the short session. So now it's how they [schools] get labeled."

"We need our entire community to speak up and say: 'You need to listen to us. This is important, and you can't label our children this way.' To the extent we can get our community to stand with us, I think some of legislators will listen."

"That is the way to get it changed," Board Member Laura Lange said. "There is going to be strong support out of the House to get the Senate to make a little bit of concession and to include growth in the model. We have to say special thanks to both of our representatives that both voted for our house bill. That's a good thing."

Board Member Dale Frye reported that he, Spence, and other board members met with Senator Jerry Tillman, as well as Representatives Jamie Boles and Allen McNeil. In addition to the

two proposed bills, the discussion included teacher salaries, possible elimination of teacher's assistants, school performance grades, and ownership of school buildings.

"They were very cordial in listening to what we had to say and were very attentive to it," Frye said. "We did feel it was time well spent."

Budget Approved

In other business during the April 8 meeting, the Board unanimously approved a pro-

posed FY 2013-2014 MCS budget, which was presented to the Moore County Board of Commissioners on April 16.

Although it seeks no increase in normal operational or capital funding from the County, the budget does establish a separate technology fund that would require an additional \$750,000 in FY2013-2014. That amount would ultimately grow to an additional \$3 million each year.

Shred those documents

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Life among the natives

I live among native Seven Lakers.

I am not a native Seven Laker. I am a native of Tarrytown, NY, but my parents fled there and migrated to Virginia when I was five. I continued the migration south when I went to college in North Carolina and there discovered a good North Carolina woman with whom to fall in love. Our history together has been essentially deep fried in North Carolina.

So, I am not a native Seven Laker. Neither are you. You may be a native Ohioan, a native Pennsylvanian, a native of New Jersey, and maybe even a native North Carolinian. But you are not a native Seven Laker, at least not if you are reading this.

For I submit to you this: the native Seven Lakers are all creatures, creatures such as deer, turtles, black squirrels, and foxes. I would say

coyotes, too, but apparently they may be like you and me, latecomers to the party.

Anyway, I am happy, even thrilled, that the native Seven Lakers are willing to put up with us, with our split floor plans, our pontoon boats, our barreling down Longleaf Drive in SUVs, and our poke along golf carts. I am sure we seem a little weird to the native Seven Lakers, but they probably have grown to love our landscaping.

I have never been a reptile person. I much prefer my living things to be warm blooded, or even, hot blooded. But since moving here in 2006, I have grown some fondness for turtles, especially turtles that don't come too close to me.

Last year, I was very concerned when a pond not far from our house was completely drained, for I knew it was the habitat for a number of turtles. These turtles were

the most sunbathing group of creatures I have ever known. There was a stick that rose above the water in the middle of the pond, and on most any good sunny day, these turtles would line up on that stick in the middle of the pond and get themselves absolutely bronzed. Except turtles do not get bronzed, do they?

Anyway, I would drive by that pond several times a day, and anytime I saw the turtles out there with their bikinis on, I would find some solace. I would think, that turtle is knowing himself or herself some peace, even as I go about my chaotic and rushed day. I would never begrudge a turtle some peace.

After all, I am a pastor.

Among these turtles would be some mighty big ones, too. I only saw the biggest and slowest ones ever try to cross Longleaf Drive beside the pond. I am convinced the

deer, black squirrels, and foxes, although those sly foxes rarely let me get a good glimpse of them.

Deer especially abound. So far, in six years and six months, no deer of Seven Lakes and no car of mine have collided, although that came very close to happening two months ago. I do not want to hit a deer. My car, only slightly bigger than a large buck, does not want to be hit by a deer, either. I wish we could sit down long enough and sign a ceasefire, but the native Seven Laker deer seem a wee bit wary of us native New Yorkers, probably with good reason.

This land, after all, is their land.

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



From the Lyon's Den

Larry Lyon

only thing able to slow down a big vehicle on Longleaf is an old and slow turtle. God bless them all.

I am beginning to see evidence the turtles are back, too, which makes me happy, as long as they stay near the pond and don't come too close to our little dog, Simba, the Lyon King.

So turtles may again abound among us, as do

SLLA Board not smarter than a fourth grader

Dear Editor:

I went to my first Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session of the year and found that the English language is not understood by the rest of the Board. Our bylaws state that the Work

Session is "a non voting work session" for a reason.

Some years ago, boards were voting things in at the Work Session that they didn't want the landowners involved in until after the fact.

The present board was vot-

ing on every agenda item in the Work Session; and, when I brought it to their attention, was soundly shouted down by one and all!

This week I spoke with friends, educators, and even a fourth grader who agreed that if it says "non-voting," you can't vote. The Board

wants you to obey the bylaws and the rules and regulations, but those don't apply to them.

If you waste your time going to the open meeting on the April 24, you will see that they've already voted on the agenda in the work session.

Therefore, when you read this, I will have resigned!

Time is too valuable to put up with this idiocy when our board is not smarter than a fourth grader!

*Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes North*

[Hudson was elected to the SLLA Board at the Annual Meeting in March.]

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Presbyterians say 'Thanks'

Dear Editor:

West End Presbyterian Church raised almost \$4,000 in its yard sale fundraiser held recently for this summer's Mexico mission trip.

Hundreds of people turned out for the yard sale on Saturday, April 6. They purchased a wide variety of items, including furniture,

at extraordinarily low prices.

The entirety of the funds raised will go to fund the mission trip to Chetumal, Mexico later this year. More than fifteen adults and youth have signed up to go on the July trip. WEPC has a sister relationship with a church in Chetumal.

This Sunday, April 21, the

church will continue its Easter season worship, proclaiming the good news that Christ is risen. The worship service also will acknowledge Earth Day, on Monday, April 22.

Thank you,

*Rev. Larry Lyon
West End
Presbyterian Church*

What's your reaction?

Spring has sprung, and the past few weeks have been busy! We at Seven Lake Baptist are doing "block parties" at different locations in the community.

A "block party" is what we call it when we take some inflatable bounce houses, games, snow cones, and face painting and set them up at community events. We are able to offer them free of charge by having our church people donate their time to set up and man it. We do this just because we want to serve our community. There are no strings attached. We don't ask people for anything other than to enjoy what we can provide.

Last week, we went to Hillcrest Park for their opening day of kids baseball and softball. We gave out hundreds

of snow cones, painted countless faces, and hopefully enhanced a great event provided by the county.

It has been interesting to hear different responses from people when they find out that it is free.

Some people wonder "what's the catch?"

Many of them wonder this out loud.

My wife was in Food Lion the day after our latest block party and overheard a conversation. A young lady was disappointed and confused because she thought that the church had shut down the park and that we were charging people as a

fund raising event. I can assure you that, although it does cost the church money to provide this, we are genuinely doing it free of charge because we love people and the community that we live



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

in.

Other people have come to us and were so grateful that we provided the service that they tried to give us money. We assure them that it is free to them, but some insist that we take their money. I know that they truly did it out of kindness and we are grateful for their kind offering.

We have had those who call the church and ask us to provide the service for their child's birthday party. We explain that we don't have the resources or people to provide it for everything, and some become angry.

There are so many responses, but I can't help but wonder if this is how Jesus feels?

He offered His life freely to provide salvation for mankind, but some feel that they need to pay for their own salvation by works or with money. Others are disappointed and confused because they don't understand that what Jesus was offering is for them.

Some feel that, because Jesus set stipulations — that we can only come to God through Him and that we can't come to God by any other means — that somehow it is unfair. They like what Jesus is providing, so long as they can have it on their terms.

I wish that people could see that Jesus offers salvation

simply because He loved you. He didn't have an agenda other than caring for mankind. Perhaps, you should evaluate how you look at Jesus.

We have several block parties coming up soon. We sure would love it if you would come by and enjoy it! Maybe you have a question about Jesus or Christianity, we would love to talk to you about that as well. In fact, the whole reason that we do the block party is because we are trying to conform to the two laws that Jesus left for us: Love God, and Love People!

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

Garden Club Plant Sale

The Pinehurst Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 20, 10 am to 3 pm. Geraniums, vinca, Impatiens, begonias and Mandevilla will be available for pre-order; a variety of hanging baskets, herbs, and other flowers will be available day of sale.

New location: The parking

Lot next to the Pinehurst Fire Station - corner of Magnolia Road and Rassie Wicker Drive.

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Don't shoot the messenger!

Dear Editor:

The "Great Incorporation Debate" is here again. While I do not agree that Seven Lakes is a good candidate for the incorporation process, I believe it's important not to "shoot the messenger," Fred Young.

Young raises many excellent points and observations that should be addressed by the Greater Seven Lakes Community. Stagnant property values, shoddy "Welcome to Seven Lakes" signage, poor road maintenance, non-exis-

tent Seven Lakes marketing/business development plan, village standardization plan, additional amenities such as walking and biking trails and struggling country clubs top the list.

However, incorporation is not the simple answer to our issues and problems.

Obviously, everyone would like to live in a desirable, first class community that has all the features that one comes to expect in such a location. While not wanting to cheapen the moment and

burst a few bubbles, Yes, there is a price tag associated with all of this! Whether you incorporate or keep things the way they are, it all comes down to money and what we can afford.

Before moving to Seven Lakes West, my wife and I looked at many communities on the East Coast. Those types of "first class" communities exist, both in incorporated and non-incorporated settings and a hefty price tag goes along with all of them — there is no escaping the

reality of the dollars associated with living like a king. In my discussions with neighbors and friends, here in the area, the three main priorities for everyone seem to be: Security/gates, road maintenance and monitoring of our primary treasures — the lakes. Unless all the Seven Lakers are willing to sign up for a significant increase of our dues or taxes, substantial upgrades are not possible. Sorry, there are no free lunches!

Again, we should take the

salient points that Fred Young has capsulized very well and see what is realistic for us, as a community to undertake and "raise our vision" . . . certainly some of the points can be addressed even though we are not incorporated.

All of the home owners associations coming together and addressing the "mutual access" issue would be an excellent first step.

*Jim Christner
Seven Lakes West*

General Kernan chairs Mental Illness Walk

Honorary Chair General Buck Kernan of Pinehurst, encourages everyone to do all that they can to support NAMI North Carolina in its efforts to help neighbors, friends and loved ones that deal with a mental illness. Everyone can join in the NAMI Walk Together and change minds . . . one step at a time.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk will be held this year on Saturday, May 4 at the Dorothea Dix Campus, Raleigh. It is only a 2.4 mile walk that could make a difference in the life of someone with mental illness. Check-in: 9:00 am, Walk Start Time: 10:00 am. Register to walk at: www.namiwalks.org/north-carolina For more information

about this event, please contact: Susan King Cope skingcope@naminc.org or 919-788-0801.

There is no question that the military community is experiencing significant post deployment stresses on its returning soldiers and their families. These stresses and emotional traumas have had tragic consequences. Broken marriages. Violence in the home. Inability to hold a job. Criminal charges. Mental disorders. Suicides.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) can be invaluable to those experiencing these challenges, especially those recently discharged from the military or still serving in our National Guard or Reserve Forces who do not have immediate access

to counseling or psychiatric services provided by the military.

NAMI North Carolina is to be commended on its many educational programs, particularly the Family to Family

psycho-educational program, and all it does to advocate on behalf of those affected by mental illness.

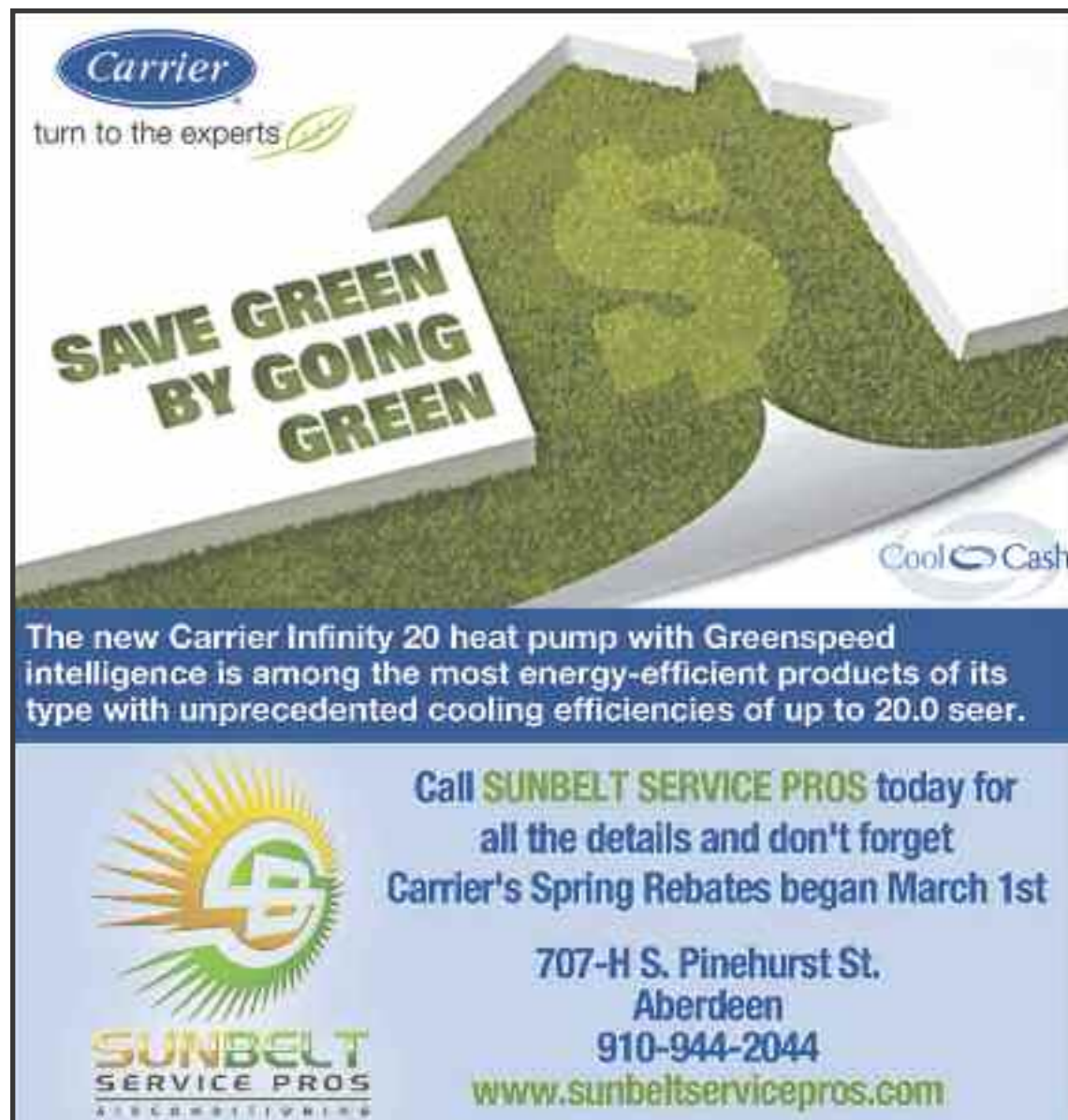
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Future of Seven Lakes: What shall we do?

This is the final article in a series 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.

The Future of Seven Lakes: What shall we do?

Accept the following realities:

- According to Pinehurst-Southern Pines Area Association of Realtors' Multiple Listing Service, the average Seven Lakes homeowner lost \$57,000 (twenty-one percent) in property value between 2007 and 2012. Over the same period average sales prices declined only ten percent in Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

Average Sales Price

Seven Lakes

2007	\$273,000
2012	\$216,000
Change	-21%

Pinehurst/ So Pines

2007	\$320,000
2012	\$286,000
Change	-10%

- Much, if not most, of the future progress of Seven Lakes will be determined outside the gates, where we have no community governance, little influence, and no control.
- There is essentially no way for the community to progress while maintaining the status quo. Without a governing structure, the \$1,600,000 forfeited each year, and the services that would be provided by a municipality, Seven Lakes cannot be competitive.
- Incorporation can and should occur only when a majority of the residents, and probably a substantial

majority, support such action. Incorporation should be a unifying event, something most residents would be pleased to do and would be proud to accomplish. That sort of unanim-

ity of opinion does not exist currently.

- The future progress of Seven Lakes is held hostage by the crossbars. Crossbars do not strengthen security, do not improve property

values, and do not enhance social status. Nevertheless, attachment to them seems to be the major barrier to incorporation.

(See "Future," p. 26)



The Seven Lakes Business District could look like this if we incorporate. Main Entrance off NC Highway 211 north of the traffic light. Stagaard & Chao Architects



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Future

(Continued from page 25)

Seven Lakes is in a Difficult Situation

Property values are depressed and will probably get worse. Seven Lakes needs to incorporate, but large numbers of residents do not wish to do so. There is no organization to pursue incorporation on behalf of the community and no money to pay the costs.

What Shall We Do?

Raise our vision. While we live in an ideal southern vista where our homes surround these lovely lakes, this is no Walden Pond where we are isolated from each other or those on the other side of the gates. We need to look beyond mere seclusion as a primary asset and focus on an effective form of governance to preserve and energize our common life as a vital community of over five thousand citizens.

Change our focus. We must stop being fearful: obsessed with gate passes, small expenditures, faux security, and pseudo social status. We need to focus on investing, not savings; the future, not the status quo.

Rather than being driven by false fears, our real problems are the absence of a greater Seven Lakes leadership structure, lack of money, loss of property values, years to sell a house, no promotion or marketing organization to attract new residents or businesses, inadequate activities for non-seniors, unattractive NC Highway 211, and an unappealing and crumbling business district.

Accept personal responsibility. Nobody is going to do it for us! If Seven Lakes is to move forward, it will be because you and I and hundreds and thousands of residents decide it is time for change; express this opinion to our families, neighbors, friends, and community leaders; and work to make it happen!

The logical way for Seven Lakes to incorporate is for

the landowner boards to appoint and finance a representative community Task Force to develop an incorporation plan.

There has been no movement in this direction, probably because many residents have not supported incorporation. But the times are changing, opinions are changing, residents are changing, infrastructure is aging, landowner fees are increasing, property values are depressed, and the need for incorporation is critical.

Incorporation is neither a "Communist menace" nor a "weapon of mass destruction." It is the way the world, the United States, North Carolina, and Moore County organize, finance, and govern population centers. There are numerous town governments over 1,000 years old. There are 553 incorporated communities in North Carolina, 11 in Moore County.

Seven Lakes is like the mother at the high school band parade who exclaimed, "Look, everybody is out of

step except my son!"

Does anyone doubt that Seven Lakes will be incorporated within twenty years? There is essentially no alternative; the question is when and how. Will we delay and forfeit another \$20,000,000? Will the change be controlled and carefully planned, or will it be forced on us after continued deterioration or in the face of some unforeseen community calamity, such as a massive dam breach or a loss of water supply?

Establish a Task Force for Economic Development

A volunteer community organization and/or the landowners associations and the Business Guild could join together and establish a Task Force for Economic Development to market and promote Seven Lakes, to establish a Welcome Center, to produce and distribute materials, and to advertise our community. We cannot attract a sufficient number of prospective new residents and businesses without a

formal and professional marketing program.

Conclusion: A positive note

Thank you for the many thoughtful responses to these articles about incorporation. Your emails, letters, and personal conversations have been serious, analytical, and helpful to me.

While several people have expressed disagreement on issues, I have not experienced the slightest discourtesy, not a single anonymous telephone call, email, or letter, and no personal attacks. It makes me feel good about our community when we can discuss such serious matters without becoming personal or confrontational. It has been fun to work through this process with you!

It is in our hands!

The road to a more pros-

perous and desirable Seven Lakes is ready and waiting for those willing to take the risk. While it might take all the courage and energy we can muster, it is the only way we will make a difference for our common future.

There was an older wise man reputed to be able to answer any question. A young challenger approached the wise man with his hands cupped and asked "What do I have in my hands?"

The older man replied "You have a bird."

"Yes", said the young challenger. "But is it alive or dead?" He knew that he could asphyxiate the small, fragile bird by tightening his hands or he could release it and let it fly.

The wise man replied: "It is in your hands."

And so it is!



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Planning Board

(Continued from page 12)

amount of disturbance. We look for farming sites that are already cleared." The two sites proposed for Eagle Springs are well suited for solar.

The panels are non-reflective and the inverters that convert the power are surprisingly quiet. "The decibels are less than you would hear from a dial tone," Hartman said.

Murray agreed: "I personally couldn't hear it. My hearing is very good in low ranges; and I was fifty feet away and couldn't hear them at all."

Leasing to a solar farm can prove profitable. Landowners can earn in a range of \$650 to \$800 per acre per year. Board member Rodney Pickler asked why solar companies would be willing to pay so much.

Hartman replied: "Some land owners would argue 'Why so little?' We pay what they could earn leasing their land for farming or timber. If it is not a competitive enough number, then someone could farm soy beans instead solar. It has to be attractive enough for us to be there."

Curious as to who makes the initial investment, Board Member Rodney Pickler asked if systems are government funded. "Normally, it is a group of private investors," Hartman said. "It's a system that has proven it will sit there in the sun for 20 or 30 years and produce electricity — just sit there and make money for folks that have money to invest in it. Every once in while there are utility companies that express interest in buying them."

Murray encouraged the board to consider adding language addressing solar as an accessory use for residential homeowners as well.

Chairman Robert Hayter agreed that it might be wise to address it at the same time. "You [Murray] have come up with very valid point," Hayter said. "For a homeowners option, if they want to do this for their own benefit. I will have staff go back and come up with some

language."

Hayter noted that the Planning Board's recommendation would go before the County Board of Commissioners for final approval. "The essence, from our responsibility, is to draft language that will help them to decide whether to allow or disallow it," Hayter said.

Neighbor concerns

Moore County resident Ruby Brown spoke during the public comment session. She lives near the proposed site in Eagle Springs and asked a number of question, including whether the solar panels would be reflective and interfere with traffic, create a noise nuisance, impact her property values, cause

harm to animals, heat up the atmosphere, affect rainfall, or come loose during heavy winds. Hartman, Murray and Sparrow answered her questions as best they could.

Hayter thanked Hartman for his input and coming from Charlotte.

"In light of very specific requirements, I think this particular text amendment fits very well within an overlay district," Hayter said to the Planning staff. "We are still doing research and are not ready to give you guys the job well done motion yet. Go back and boil this, condense this, and put it back into context. Bring it back next month, so that we can move this along."

Episcopal Yard Sale April 27

Don't miss the Spring Yard Sale at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 27, from 9 am to 2 pm. There will be lots of household bargains to rummage through for all ages. Hot dogs and baked goods will be available too! 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 3)

ager is the boss to these people."

"So, what if I go to the stables and tell the stable manager to do something about a horse?" asked Hudson.

"What we are saying is going up and telling her to do something is wrong," said Ritter, explaining that Board members must work through the chain of command.

In a 5-0 vote, with Hudson abstaining, the Board moved the Code to the April Open Meeting agenda. Hudson expressed his disapproval and said the board was acting illegally by voting in a Work Session.

Waiting List for Boat Slips

Not moving immediately to the Open Session agenda was a recommendation from the Community Manager to drop the \$50 deposit currently required when members submit an application for a boat slip at the Lake Sequoia Marina.

Community Manager Sohl explained that it can be years before a slip opens up. In one case, a resident's deposit has been held for three years.

After much discussion among Directors, Leach said: "We have a paid manager, and we are micromanaging them. They are making a suggestion; then why are we arguing?"

But a motion to move the recommendation to the Open

Meeting failed. Meyer said he would like to clarify his 'No' vote.

"I would like to use the committees," he said. "These things ought to go to appropriate committees. My objection is the process. I think I might even be okay with it. I would like to see it placed into the appropriate committee first."

President Ritter agreed that the item would be revisited by the appropriate committees and then brought back to the Work Session.

Maintaining Lakes & Dams

Acting on a recommendation from the Lakes & Dams Committee, Community Manager Sohl requested that responsibility for monitoring and maintaining water levels in the lakes be transferred from the Committee to the Manager, working through the maintenance staff. The goal is to equalize lake levels to the degree possible, while at the same time maintaining levels required by the Seven Lakes Fire Department.

"I feel we need some more information," Director Leach said. "Is this for Summer months, May through September, or all year long? Will this be activated during any future Moore County droughts? What is the expense in running the pumps? If this becomes a Board policy, and funds or revenue is reduced in future

years, then would we have to change policy to amend?"

George Temple, a Lakes and Dams Committee member, said he could answer most of Leach's questions. The lakes would be monitored throughout the year. No lake would ever be pumped lower than the level the Fire Department requires.

Ritter asked Sohl, "What impact if any does making this policy have on you and your staff?"

"This is going to streamline it [the process]," Sohl said, noting that maintenance personnel would be able to initiate pumping as soon as they discover lower levels in a given lake, rather than waiting for a decision from the Lakes and Dams Committee. Temple agreed that it would allow for quicker response.

The Board voted 5-0, with Hudson abstaining, to move the policy change to the Open Meeting.

Tough Economic Times

SLLA management and attorney Roger Stone have worked out payment plans for five properties in foreclosure.

"We have fifteen total payment plans," said Sohl. "The reason the attorney selected these five is that they have maintained communication and they have an interest in keeping their property. It's very important to pursue accounts as soon as they become delinquent."

The Board voted 5-0 with Hudson abstaining, to move the plans to the Open Meeting for approval.

Hudson asked why the Board's agenda packet did not include names or addresses of the affected landowners.

"It's not prudent to do it," Sohl explained. "You would have exposure in doing that."

Discussion including any names on accounts should be done in Closed Session."

Diving into Pool Season

Repairs to the the pool are underway and on schedule, Sohl reported.

Water aerobics will continue to be free and opened to all residents.

The swim team has been restructured, making it an intramural event involving only SLLA members, rather than a competitive event that includes non-residents. The change was made because of liability concerns, and because of extensive modifications needed to make the pool ADA-compliant.



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Hudson

(Continued from front page)

discuss the matter. The Board then decides whether or not it is ready move the matter to the Open Meeting for a vote.

The practice of having both Work Sessions and Open Meetings may be as old as the Association itself. For many years, the Board conducted its business meeting in a closed Work Session and used the monthly Open Meeting to report its actions to the membership. Votes were rarely, if ever, taken in the Open Meeting. The Board eventually opened its Work Sessions to the public, but continued to make most decisions in those sessions.

A 2007 revision of the SLA bylaws formally established monthly "non-voting Board work sessions" and confined votes of the Board to the "Regular Director Open Business Meetings" scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month.

After that change, Work Sessions were used to mull over and shape up matters prior to bringing them to the floor of the Open Meeting for a vote. Over the past two years, the decision to move items onto the Work Session agenda has become more formalized, with Directors actually making a motion to "move an item to the Open Meeting," and then voting on whether to do so.

Hudson objects to Work Session votes

It was these votes to move items to the Open Meeting that concerned Hudson, and from which he abstained throughout the April 8 Work Session. He objected that those votes violated the bylaws and were thus illegal.

Director Bill Hirsch attempted to explain the procedure. "The purpose of the work session is to figure what goes on to the meeting," said Hirsch. "Why are we sitting here, if we can't push this on to the meeting?"

"The Robert's Rules of Order are to get it going, not to nitpick every single thing," Director Bob Racine said. "We have Robert's Rules to keep us on track. We have this procedure that we have used in the past where we bring it to open meeting. Let's just go with. We have to have some way to move it forward."

President Steve Ritter then asked Hudson how many years had it been since he had been on the Board.

"I am talking about bylaws," Hudson said. "Our bylaws did not address any of this." Referring to the Board's process prior to the 2007 bylaws change, Hudson said, "We voted in the Work Session. And we voted in the Open Meeting. It was legal eight or nine years ago."

"We are not voting here to

approve or disapprove any of these items," explained Hirsch. "We are voting to move this out of this session, and to do our business of placing things on our agenda."

Ritter agreed with Hirsch that the Work Session is to decide whether or not an item is ready to move to the Open Meeting for a vote.

"These agenda items are developed by our staff," Ritter said. "We discuss it as a Board and decide if it is ready to move forward to the main meeting."

Hudson's objections surfaced in a discussion regarding a proposed Code of Ethics for the Board. Racine used the Code as an example of how matters move from the Work Session to the Open Meeting.

"This was on the agenda last month," he said. "And we didn't move it on."

Hudson abstained as the Board voted to move that item onto the Open Meeting agenda, and continued to abstain on every other similar vote during the Work Session.

His resignation will leave the Board one member short of its full complement of seven Directors.

Times Editor Greg Hankins contributed reporting to this story.

Buddy Holly - 'The Concert'

Feb 3, 1959 – The day the music died. Buddy Holly, J.P. Richards. The Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens. All of these music legends died in a tragic plane crash after leaving a winter concert in Clear Lake, Iowa on a snowy, winter night.

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their music over four performances only when it presents "Buddy Holly: The Concert," a fundraiser for the Historic Downtown Sanford theater.

The concert will be presented on Friday, April 19 at 8 and with two performances on Saturday, April 20 at 5 pm and 8 pm. Tickets are \$25 for Friday and Saturday performances and are currently on sale at the Temple Theatre Box office and may be purchased by calling 919-774-4155 or by going to www.templeshows.com Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage St., Sanford, Box Office: 919 - 774 - 4155.

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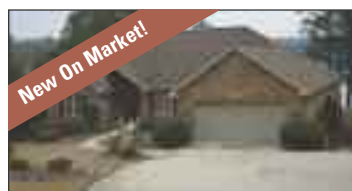
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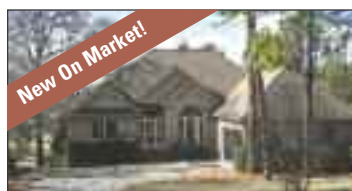
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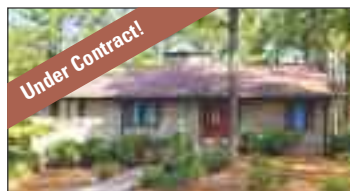
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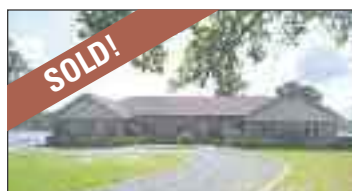
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