

## Owning Pets Responsibly



**Riley Bloom & Maddie Hovland**, fourth graders at West End Elementary were winners of the Moore County Citizens Pet Responsibility Committee's essay contest. Their essays explained the importance of having pets spayed or neutered. They are being congratulated by MCPRC mascot "Speuter," better known to Seven Laker as Westsider Kathy Constantino. [See story on page 5.] – Caroline Ivey photo

## Ritter aims to keep seat

by Greg Hnkains  
 Times Editor

Otis Ritter aims to keep his seat on the Moore County Board of Commissioners, despite a GOP primary challenge from Westsider Louis Gregory.

Ritter, a native of Robbins, was appointed in May to serve out the unexpired term of Craig Kennedy, who resigned his position on the Board. At the time, Ritter told *The Times* that he wasn't yet sure whether he would

stand for election to a full term.

"That will totally depend on how my health is," Ritter said, noting that he was, at (See "Ritter," p. 28)



Otis Ritter

## Two-story office planned along Lakeway Drive

by Greg Hankins  
 Times Editor



Over the objections of Seven Lakes West, members of the Planning Board have paved the way for the construction of a two-story, 24,000 square foot office building on Lakeway Drive at the entrance to the community.

Sitting as the Watershed Review Board during their regular Thursday, November 7 meeting, Board Members approved Special Non-Residential Intensity Allowance

[SNIA] requested by James R. Kirkpatrick, who owns the Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center and a smaller parcel that lies between it and Lakeway Drive.

Because the property is within a Public Water Supply Watershed (WS-II-BW, Drowning Creek), rules designed to protect the watershed limit the amount of surface that can be covered with buildings and parking lots to twelve percent of the total area.

State law allocates the County a certain number of (See "Lakeway," p. 25)

## Cell tower issue gets complicated

by Greg Hankins  
 Times Editor



Moore County's rules governing cell towers were on the agenda of the regular Thursday, November 7 meeting of the planning Board, and members struggled to resolve the competing interests of tower companies, landowners, cellphone users, small businesses, and the critical, but hard-to-define, rural character of the County.

Ultimately, they realized that much more information would be required before they decided whether and how to revise the portion of Article 12 of the County Zoning Ordinance, governing Wireless Communications

Facilities.

The existing ordinance is barely five years old and was crafted after months of work by a previous Planning Board and the experts they consulted.

The current Board tabled consideration of proposed amendments to the ordinance and scheduled a Work Session for Thursday, December 5 on the topic.

### Ordinance too strict?

Why revise a five year-old ordinance?

The existing ordinance requires that towers located within one mile of "property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Art Roads and Farm Trails of North Carolina and NCDOT Scenic Byways" utilize a "stealth" (See "Cell towers," p. 26)

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# Guild will elect officers at Nov. 20 meeting

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary  
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild has scheduled a final meeting of 2013, on Wednesday, November 20, at 5:30 pm at Seven Lakes Country Club, to discuss end of year financials, goals going forward, and to vote on:

- Officers for 2014,

- Membership dues structure for 2014, and
- Allocating additional funds to the Village Road Association.

The Guild invites all members to attend this important meeting that will set the stage for next year.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy for serving as Guild Treasurer for seven years. His dedication, devotion to detail and steadfast participation in Guild events makes him irreplaceable.

The officers and members of the Guild appreciate his service through times of growth, challenge and change over the years. Vann is hanging up his calculator to help manage Quality Care's growth

at their two locations, on a full time basis. He will be sorely missed.

And for outgoing Guild President Karen Milligan of Karen Simmons Designs, I have nothing but praise. We started our businesses at the same time in 2010 and attended one of our first Guild meetings at Randy Merritt's Seven Lakes Friendly Mart in December.

Since we were just about the only members present, and the current officers were retiring, we were lucky (or dumb) enough to be nominated (or "volunteered" so to speak) as President and Secretary. Through the years that followed, we volunteered for the Guild while growing our respective jewelry and travel ventures 24/7.

Karen has worked tirelessly championing our Seven Lakes businesses and promoting the "Shop Local" campaign.

She has more energy, enthusiasm and smarts than most of my former past life colleagues in the corporate world, and has spent countless hours organizing events that serve our community, including the Summer Concert Series. She is a tremendous asset to the Guild.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our members and Guild friends for a terrific year of Seven Lakes activities.

The last official event of 2013 will be a Christmas Tree Lights event on Tuesday, November 26 and the annual Storefront Holiday Decoration contest in December, open to all area businesses, that will be judged with cash prizes awarded by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis.

If you plan to attend the Guild meeting on November 20 at SLCC, contact Cheryl Darwell at 673-7245, or by emailing [SevenLakesBusinessGuild.com](mailto:SevenLakesBusinessGuild.com) or [CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com](mailto:CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com)

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Thu, Nov 21*	Fri, Nov 29
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27
Fri, Jan 3	Fri, Jan 10
Fri, Jan 17	Fri, Jan 24
Fri, Jan 31	Fri, Feb 7
Fri, Feb 14	Fri, Feb 21
Fri, Feb 28	Fri, Mar 7
Fri, Mar 14	Fri, Mar 21
Fri, Mar 28	Fri, Apr 4
Fri, Apr 11	Fri, Apr 18
Fri, Apr 25	Fri, May 2
Fri, May 9	Fri, May 16
Thu, May 22*	Fri, May 30
Fri, Jun 6	Fri, Jun 13
Fri, Jun 20	Fri, Jun 27
Thu, Jul 3*	Fri, Jul 11
Fri, Jul 18	Fri, Jul 25
Fri, Aug 1	Fri, Aug 8
Fri, Aug 15	Fri, Aug 22
Thu, Aug 28*	Fri, Sep 5
Fri, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 19
Fri, Sep 26	Fri, Oct 3
Fri, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 17
Fri, Oct 24	Fri, Oct 31
Fri, Nov 7	Fri, Nov 14
Thu, Nov 20*	Fri, Nov 28
Fri, Dec 5	Fri, Dec 12
Thu, Dec 18*	Fri, Dec 26

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# Board discusses next step on tennis courts

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



The best approach to rehabilitating the Northside tennis courts continues to be a matter of considerable discussion among members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board.

The two poles of opinion could be described as:

- Let's try some things — bocce, pickle ball — without investing a lot of money in order to see what has the most appeal to residents, or
- Let's develop a master plan for the tennis courts — and surrounding amenities — that can be implemented over a number of years and make Northside Park a showcase for the Association.

Based on a 45-minute discussion that dominated the Monday, November 11 SLLA Work Session, it appears that most Directors see the value of each of those approaches. But that makes it difficult to come to a decision about what to next.

Currently, the fence around the tennis courts is being replaced, and a temporary bocce ball court has been installed in place of one tennis court. Directors expressed concern that there has been little use of the bocce court since it was installed. But Director Rich Faraci reminded the Board that Les Sommers, the leader of the drive to build the court, is recovering from recent illness, which has set back the effort to organize a bocce league.

One unknown is the condition of the asphalt under the plastic tiles that were installed over the courts a few years ago — and what it might cost to put that surface in playable shape for pickle ball if the tiles are removed.

Though the Board had heard previously that pickle ball could be played on the tiles, Director Bob Darr said the tiles don't have enough bounce for that sport. Darr has removed tiles on one

court to assess the condition of the asphalt. By the end of the discussion, the Board reached consensus that the tiles should be removed completely from one court, with the idea of putting it into shape for pickle ball.

Looking longer term, the Directors asked Community Manager Ray Sohl to explore options for bringing in a consulting firm that could help the Association develop a long range plan for its recreational amenities.

## Ramapo Dam project

During Monday's meeting Sohl and Faraci provided an update on the work to repair Ramapo Dam. Sohl reported that the water level is currently five feet below normal pool, and there is another eight feet to go to reach the faulty overflow pipe that must

be plugged.

Faraci suggested that the Association backhoe, which is currently awaiting repairs, could be used to remove the portion of the pipe that extends back into the lake, allowing the portion that passes through the dam to be plugged without draining more water from the lake.

Sohl had obtained a quote for accelerated pumping of water, which would allow the eight additional feet to be pumped out in a week. But the cost was too high to be of interest to any of the Directors.

## Other Business

In other business during the Monday, November 11 meeting of the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Sohl reported that three bids have been received for

the rehabilitation of the Northside Pool basin and deck. The Board agreed to schedule a special work session to meet with the low bidder; a date has not yet been set.

- The Directors agreed to move to the November 20 Open Meeting a proposal to install a barcode reader to control access to the debris site at a cost of just under \$14,000. An internet link for the card reader and security cameras will cost \$983 per year.

- The Directors moved to the Open Meeting a proposed unbudgeted expenditure of \$5,500 to replace street signs on the North Side. South Side signs have already been

replaced, in an effort that cost \$2,100 less than the \$9,000 budgeted.

- Also moving to the Open Meeting is a process developed by the Finance Committee for capitalizing assets and disposing of assets — a control the auditor would like to see in place.

- President Steve Ritter said he would convene a committee after January 1 to evaluate the nineteen lots recently acquired by the Association under and agreement with Seven Lakes Country Club, as well as any other Association-owned lots. The objective will be to determine which lots should be sold and which should be added to the common area.

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# MCS gears up for Phase II of digital initiative

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County Schools [MCS] is preparing to move into the next phase of the digital learning initiative that aims to put a laptop or tablet computer in the hands of every student.

Tony Tusso, Chief Officer for Technology Services, and Steve Johnson, Lead Digital Integration Facilitator in the Instruction Design and Innovation department, During the Board of Education's Tuesday, November 4 regular meeting, reviewed progress to date and decisions that must be made in the next two months.

In Phase 1 of the Digital Technology initiative, MCS provided iPads to all Carthage Elementary students and MacBook Air laptops to students at the Community Learning Center at Pinckney.

Those were the most visible signs of progress. But Tusso explained that less visible network infrastructure had also been upgraded. The capacity of the network that interconnects all MCS schools was increased tenfold, from 100 megabytes [MB] to 1 gigabyte [GB]. The bandwidth of the pipeline that connects MCS to the wider internet was doubled, from 250 MB to 500 MB.

More than 4000 wireless access points were installed in MCS facilities, because most devices now rely on a wireless connection. And, finally, all MCS teachers were given laptop computers last Spring — approximately 750 in all.

## Rolling out more laptops

The next step, Tusso explained, will be to provide each student in an additional seven schools with digital devices — a total of 3,200 computers. Those will go to Union Pines and North Moore High Schools; New Century, Crain's Creek, and Elise Middle Schools; and High Falls and Westmoore Elementary.

In order to determine which

devices best fit the needs of MCS students and teachers, in August, the technology team selected twelve classrooms to test various types of computers. The middle school students received either MacBook Airs or one of three versions of Google Chromebook. The High Schools received HP laptops or one of two versions of Google Chromebooks.

Combined with the students at Carthage Elementary and Pinckney, these test sites produced a total of 850 students from whom data could be gathered.

Steve Johnson explained that students and teachers completed surveys on the devices as the school year began and will soon complete post-use surveys. They have completed daily use checklists to provide data on how the devices are being used. And both students and teachers have been interviewed.

Teachers in many of the classrooms are doing a pilot project utilizing the same standards but using different devices, Johnson said.

School Board members will be presented with a showcase on the results of the study and hear directly from students and teachers during a Work Session on November 21.

Johnson said MCS' senior leadership team would meet after the showcase and make a decision about which devices to select for the Phase II rollout.

The goal is to have the 3,200 devices ordered by Thanksgiving break and on hand by Christmas break, so they can be in students' hands for the second half of the school year.

On another front, Johnson said MCS had submitted a digital learning plan to the state department of public instruction that describes "what we want kids to be doing with these devices."

## New tests reset the bar

Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence told the Board that 2012-2013 end-of-grade test results due out November 7

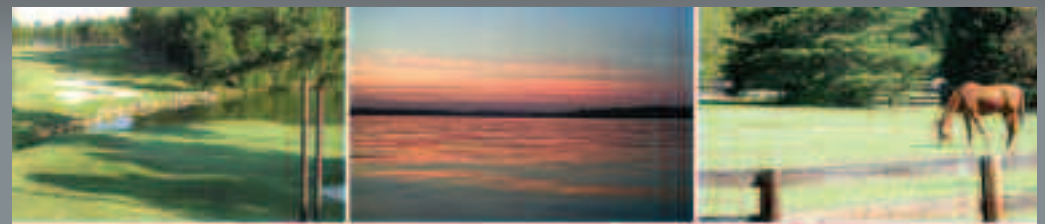
would like show a significant drop in the percentage of Moore County students con-

sidered "proficient" in the subject areas tested.

That is not, Spence said,

because students have lost ground, but rather because

(See "Schools," p. 10)



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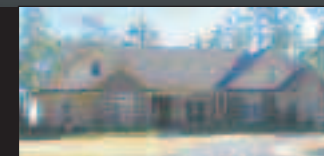
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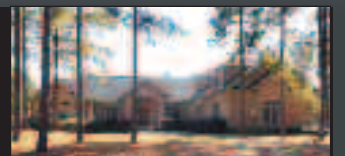
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# 4th graders learn pet responsibility

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Fourth graders at West End Elementary lined up to sign the pledge on Thursday, November 7. That would be the pledge to treat their pets with respect, to be a responsible pet owner, and to spay or neuter their pet.

The signing ceremony was the culmination of a six-week curriculum designed and taught by volunteers with the Moore County Pet Rep-

sonsibility Committee. The Committee was founded in 2008 with the support of the Board of Commissioners and now teaches its curriculum to fourth-graders in thirteen public and nine private schools.

The mission of the committee has spread to other North Carolina Counties.

During the assembly, students were treated to a presentation by Bob Baillie,

(See "Pets," p. 14)



Bob Baillie [Caroline Ivey photo]



Signing the pledge

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# More work needed on revised SLLA bylaws

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



There's more work to be done on the revised Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA]

bylaws after a sparsely-attended Special Open Meeting on Tuesday, November 5.

Only three landowners attended the meeting, along with six of the seven Directors, Community Manager Ray Sohl, and Assistant Manager Janet Alcorn. Also on hand was Attorney Jim Slaughter, a specialist in homeowners association law assigned the task of drafting the bylaws and advising the Board on their adoption.

Key issues that remain after the two-hour session include:

- Deciding how the membership should be involved in approving the annual budget or dues assessments.
- Crafting language that will allow the Board to make an emergency decision without calling for an Open Meeting, while at the same time ensuring that the Board's deliberations and decision-making are done in full view of the membership.
- Deciding whether future bylaws amendments should require approval of the membership, rather than being a responsibility of the Board, as is now the

case.

- Deciding whether the schedule for the annual meeting and open board meetings should be specified in the bylaws or left totally up to the Board.

## Simplifying the language

Attorney Slaughter began by explaining the overall goal of the bylaws revision.

"Your current bylaws are based on an older model for legal documents that was very long, detailed, and contained a lot of legalese," Slaughter said, "a lot of heretofore and whereas."

"Much of what is in old bylaws duplicates the declaration [also called the 'covenants'], which is a higher document — or they are provisions of state statute. The idea is that the bylaws are a governance document. We don't duplicate the declaration or the articles of incorporation. This is where the rubber hits the road: how does the Board get elected, who are the committees, who gets to vote."

## Budget and dues

When it comes to setting a budget for the year and determining annual landowners dues, current SLLA practice is for the Board to develop and approve a budget and the membership to vote on any dues increase proposed by the Board.

That is in contrast to com-

mon practice in Seven Lakes West, where the budget itself is put to a vote each year — and is automatically approved unless a majority of all landowners rejects it. That's the process laid out in the NC Planned Community Act [PCA] — the state law that governs homeowners associations.

But the SLLA, as an older association, is not governed by that section of the PCA and, so, can define its own process.

The draft bylaws contained language that would have members voting on the budget, but Treasurer Conrad Meyer objected to fixing a process that doesn't appear to be broken.

"What we normally do is the Board comes up with a budget and approves it," Meyer said. "The community then votes on a dues increase."

"I really wasn't looking at changing how we do budgets or assessments," he continued. "I want to continue to have the Community Manager and Treasurer pulling the budget together, and the Board approves it."

After some discussion, Slaughter pulled out a copy of the SLLA covenants [there are actually four separate sets governing various neighborhoods within the Association] and discovered that the current process is laid out in that document. The bylaws can't contradict the covenants, and the covenants can only be changed by winning approval from one hundred percent of the membership.

So Slaughter will revise the

new bylaws to reflect the current process, as specified in the covenants.

One wrinkle in the language of the declaration is that it appears to require that the membership vote every year on the dues assessment. If the assessment isn't approved, it reverts to the prior year's level. Typically, SLLA Boards have asked for a vote only if an increase is requested, but that practice may have to change, so that

(See "Bylaws," p. 20)

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# West Side may increase allowed boat length

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



In a meeting that may have set a record for brevity, the Seven Lakes West Land-owners Association [SLWLA] Board increased the maximum length of boats that may ply the waters of Lake Auman, made some minor changes to the Architectural Standards, and appointed members to a number of committees.

## Upping boat length

Director Bruce Keyser asked for and received Board approval of the first reading of a change to the rules and regulations that would up the maximum length of boats permitted on Lake Auman from 22 feet, 8 inches to 24 feet.

A thirty-day waiting period and a second vote of the Board will be required to make the change official.

Keyser explained that there are seventeen boats currently over the length limit operating on the lake, having been grandfathered in. The change would leave only two grandfathered boats, one longer than 24 feet and the other a jet boat.

Keyser said a 24-foot limit would give members access

to more of the models being currently offered by manufacturers.

## Hart to handle crack-filling

Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman introduced Don Hart, and the Board appointed Hart to the Infrastructure Committee to oversee crack-filling on community roads.

Pierman said comments and suggestions had been posted in the community forum on the SLWLA website regarding erosion control efforts at the corner of Shever Road and Shaw Drive. In response, the Infrastructure Committee prepared a 3.5 page document and posted it on the website, offering far more detail on the subject than would have been practical to present in a meeting.

## Herdrich joins ARC

At the request of ARC Dan Blue, the Board appointed Mick Herdrich to the Architectural Review Committee.

The Board approved the first reading of a revision to the rules and regulations that would require the same \$3,000 construction deposit from a contractor hired to complete a job after the original contractor was fired.

Also approved on first reading was a simple word change to the description of plans

that must be submitted to the ARC.

Blue said ARC forms posted on the website in a PDF format that allows them to be filled in and submitted online have proved popular. Another enhancement to the website is the addition of a section that displays the minimum square footage and required setbacks for each of the West Side's neighborhoods.

Blue said construction activity has been relatively flat in October, with one new home approved and another completed and roughly fifty smaller projects underway.

## Running under budget

Newly-appointed Treasurer Don Freiert said expenses for the year continue to track favorably to the budget. October expenses of \$77,493 included two unusual items: A \$6,753 quarterly insurance payment to State Farm and \$2,702 for repairs to the pond fountains.

Only \$88,798 of a \$500,000 capital expense budget has been used so far this year, but the larger anticipated expenses are associated with the upcoming makeover of the front entrance. President Jack Stevens said entrance

committee chairman Mick Herdrich is expected to offer a progress report during the Association's December 17 meeting.

The Association has 162 delinquent accounts owing a total of \$70,452, Freiert said, adding that he and management would continue to aggressively pursue the collections strategy developed by former Treasurer Dale Erickson.

At Freiert's request, the Board appointed Mercedes Herdrich to the Finance Committee.

(See "Westside," p. 24)



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# Halloween Party at Seven Lakes Stables



*Rio, the purple unicorn, and Amanda Duggan*

Have you ever seen a purple unicorn?

You could have, had you attended the Halloween Party at Seven Lakes Stables on Thursday, October 31.

Everyone's favorite pony Rio was decked out in bright purple for the event, and some of his stable mates got into the act with their own costumes.

Darth Vader and Princess Leia made an appearance, as well as a Renaissance Princess on her trusty rose-bedecked steed.

Stables Manager Kate Pennington asked to host the annual Seven Lakes Landowners Association Halloween Party, which has traditionally been held in the North Clubhouse.

The Board of Directors agreed, and the result was a great turnout and plenty of fun that suggests a Stables Halloween Party may become an annual event on the Association calendar.



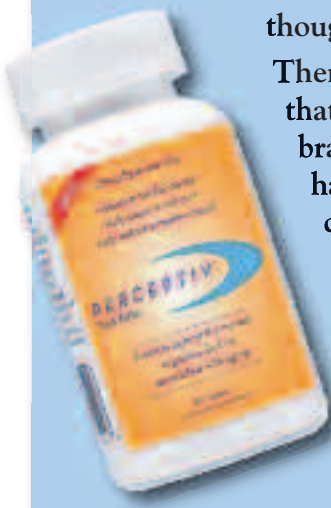
*Shay Brumbles and Bandit as a princess and her horse*

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# Foxfire Council raises the roof at meeting

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Roofs can now aspire to new heights in Foxfire Village.

During their regular, Tuesday, November 12 meeting, members of the Village Council voted to amend an ordinance allowing for a maximum height of forty feet. The Council hopes that the increased height will attract more builders to the Village.

Foxfire has received its resolution back from the state approving the 2012 Local Water Supply Plan. The Village's water supply and operations were found in good standing.

The Village's Water Department has a job opening for the right person. Current Water Superintendent Jon Sedlak gave his notice earlier in the Fall. Sedlak, who lives in Foxfire has worked as the superintendent for a number of years, and is looking forward to starting retirement in 2014.

Since the job opening was posted last month, there has only been one applicant. Unfortunately, he lacks the necessary certification.

"It is a great part time job

for someone that lives in the area," Village Councilman Steve Durham said.

The job does carry a heavy responsibility. The superintendent is the only Water Department employee and oversees the Village's water system. Durham reported that Sedlak might be willing to be recertified and continue working until a hire is made.

County Clerk Lisa Kivett recently attended the Moore County Road Name and Address Ordinance meeting.

At the meeting, she learned that similar spellings of street names on some signs can be confusing for emergency responders.

"They are trying to establish stricter guidelines on road naming," she told the Council.

"They do not want to have duplicate roads in Moore County, or names similar in spelling.

"Before someone wants to have street name established, they will need to go through

Moore County," Kivett said. The Council agreed to look over the County's recommended ordinance and decide to either vote on it or submit their own.

## Frusco, Koos & McCue Re-elected

Fifty voters turned in ballots in Foxfire Village's uncontested Council elections on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5.

Leslie Frusco was the top vote-getter, capturing forty-eight votes.

Forty-three Villagers marked their ballot for Vic

Koos, and forty-one chose Mick McCue.

Two voters wrote in names in the space provided on the ballot. However, state law does not provide for the disclosure of names written in unless the same name is written in by five or more voters.

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## Thanksgiving Service

West End United Methodist Church will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24 at 7 pm.

Several churches will be participating in the annual Community Thanksgiving Service: West End United Methodist Church, West End Baptist Church, West End Presbyterian Church, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Harmony Baptist Church & Greater Works Church of Deliverance Ministries.

Following the service there will be light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

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# Guild Tree Festival Nov. 26

Celebrating the holidays in Seven Lakes Village will have a different twist this year. Instead of lighting one tree, the Business Guild invites the public to tour a field of Christmas Trees, decorated by Seven Lakes businesses, in Village Central, the Grant Street location that serves as the site for Business Guild events.

Those attending will be able to vote for their favorite tree, and competition is expected to be fierce.

Carols performed by local church groups and a visit from Jolly Old St. Nick are also planned for the evening. Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm, and are free to the public.

Local churches and musicians who would like to participate are encouraged to contact Lisa Mace at 910-673-5678. Businesses who want to participate should call Gayle Mace at 910-673-0093.

## Schools

(Continued from page 4)

a new curriculum, a new test format, and a revision of the scores considered "proficient" have combined to create a new level from which to measure growth in the future.

"This is common when new tests are implemented," Spence said. "We call it an 'implementation dip.' We should not compare these results to previous years . . . We need to consider these results as a baseline against which we can measure future learning."

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LOT #2399 - \$23,500

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# Moore County's first solar farm approved

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County may soon have its first solar farm. During its Thursday, November 7

regular meeting, the Planning Board unanimously approved its first conditional use permit for a commercial solar collector facility.

The applicant is Argand Energy Builders, a Charlotte company that has, according to its Vice President of Sales, Rob Lease, installed more than 200 commercial scale solar projects.

Argand will lease 29.4 acres of a 202.1 acre tract on Samarkand Road in Eagle Springs from Chappell Land Company, LLC. Company owner Bill Harris, a High

Point attorney who also owns Sandhills Turf, told Planning Board members that the site is currently being used to grow turf grass, but that the soil composition and water availability make it less than optimum for that use.

Harris noted that his sister lives across the road from the site, giving him a personal incentive to ensure that the installation is not detrimental to nearby property owners.

Lease said the five megawatt facility would produce enough electricity to serve 300 homes over the course of a year. Duke Energy has agreed to purchase the electricity produced for the next fifteen years. The project has an anticipated lifespan of thirty years.

Argand will seek investors for the project, which is expected to cost \$13 million to build.

Planning Board member Molly Boggs asked about the noise levels the project will produce. Project engineer Jeff Crisp of Kleinfelder, the engineering firm that designed the project, explained that the only noise is from the inverter, which

itself has no mechanical parts and emits a low hum that cannot be heard thirty feet away.

Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter asked whether Bill Harris and Argand would be willing to attach their land lease agreement to the conditional use permit application, because it would help the planning staff and board members understand the

terms of a commercial solar land lease. Harris and Argand agreed to do so, with the financial terms of the lease redacted.

With that, the Board unanimously approved the conditional use permit. Unlike some Planning Board decisions, this one does not have to be ratified by the Board of Commissioners.

## Acoustic Music Circle

The Acoustic Music Circle of McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will meet on Sunday, November 17, 4 - 6 pm, in the church's fellowship hall.

The Music Circle invites traditional acoustic musicians of all levels, including beginners, to come and play a variety of traditional folk

music including old time and Celtic in a friendly and supportive setting. Listeners are most welcome.

McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road from Pinehurst). For more information, call Jill McCloy at (910)692-5094.

## Toys for Tots

The Marine Corps League Detachment 1001 of Moore County is gearing up for their 2013 Toys for Tots Drive. Toys for Tots collection boxes are located all over the county, but many more are needed, plus the support of businesses, civic groups, clubs, non-profit organizations, governmental offices, schools and other groups that want to help bring smiles to children of Moore County this Christmas season.

The community can help Toys for Tots in several ways

– place a toy collection box in your business or place of employment. Donate or collect new unwrapped toys valued at \$10 or more. Give a monetary donation (Check or Money Order) made payable to Toys for Tots. The toys and dollars collected will stay in Moore County.

For more information contact: Toys for Tots at: 531 E. Maine Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387, rdmaley@nc.rr.com or thomasmcke@aol.com, 910-528-2024 or 910-420-2123.

## Come to the Merry Market!

The popular Merry Market sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church will take place on Saturday, November 16 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and running through 4:00 p.m.

The Merry Market this year is featuring the works of over 20 area crafters of wonderful jewelry, festive candles, baskets and a host of other items. Also take advantage of the huge bake sale of cake, cookies and all manner of baked goods.

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church  
is located at 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

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Mandala Fellowship students

## Autumn concert

Students from the Mandala Fellowship will present a free Autumn Concert at Sandhills Presbyterian Church on Friday, November 22 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Mandala Fellowship, the creation of Classical Conversations founder Leigh Bortins of Seven Lakes, is a residential program that offers students a year of learning, work, and exploration between high school and college.

The program focuses on the disciplines that comprise the classical educational concept of the Quadrivium — algebra, geometry, astronomy, and harmonics.

Music is an integral part of the program, and the Autumn Concert will give the twenty students who are the Fellowship's first scholars

an opportunity to share their musical skills with a wider audience.

The concert will feature a wide range of instruments, musical styles, and selections.

Sandhills Presbyterian Church is located at 650 Pee Dee Road in Southern Pines.

For more information on the Mandala Fellowship, visit [mandalafellowship.com](http://mandalafellowship.com)

## Sales celebrate 50 years



Liz and Bud Sales honored with the traditional crossed swords of a military wedding.

Liz and Bud Sales of Seven Lakes West will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, November 16.

Elizabeth Howard and Mark Bishop Sales were married in Liz's home church — Broad Street Methodist — in Portsmouth, VA on November 16, 1963.

Shortly thereafter, Bud shipped out for a six month tour on the U.S.S. Enterprise.

The Hohokis, NJ native met his bride-to-be on a blind date, New Year's Eve, 1962. They were engaged on January 26.

The Sales have three children and three grandchildren "scattered coast to coast."



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# Celebrate the holiday season at Weymouth

The Women of Weymouth are hard at work planning the Christmas Tour of Boyd House at Weymouth Center in Southern Pines. The house will be transformed by many of the interior designers, floral designers, garden clubs, and artisans in the area, and then opened to the public

for four days.

This year's theme is "Tender is the Night before Christmas," a literary tribute to F. Scott Fitzgerald, who often visited the Boyd's at Weymouth. Using native greenery, antique furnishings & lavish table scapes, the house will be readied, as it might have

been in the 30's, for a visit from Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Advance Tickets are \$10, and at the Door: \$15

## Schedule of Events:

Preview Party Gala, Wednesday Evening, December 4, 6 – 9 pm - \$75. Tour

Hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 5, 6, 7, 10 am – 3 pm, and Sunday, December 8, 1 pm – 4 pm.

Carols at Weymouth will be Thursday, December 5, 5:30 pm – and will be free and open to the public.

Candlelight Tour will be Saturday evening, December

7, 7 to 9 pm for only \$30.

For more information and reservations, contact the Weymouth Center at 910-692-6261, weymouthcenter@pinehurst.net

All proceeds will be used for the upkeep of this historic cultural center for the arts and humanities.

## Pets

(Continued from page 5)

founder of MIRA USA, which provides guide dogs to blind children aged eleven to seventeen.

Baillie, who became blind at age 64, brought along his guide dog DJ.

Students were invited to enter an essay contest, writing about the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

The essays of Riley Bloom & Maddie Hovland — both residents of Seven Lakes

North — were selected for special recognition.

Maddie wrote that most of her family's five dogs had been obtained from a rescue organization — and all are spayed and neutered.

Riley wrote about her own experience of the consequences of not spaying or neutering your dog, when her dog had nine puppies.

The pledge students signed at the end of the assembly includes promises to never,

abuse, neglect or harm any animal; to provide food, water, shelter, and love to their pets; to spay and neuter their pets; and to be an advocate for all animals.

In addition to its educational activities with fourth graders, the Citizens Pet

Responsibility Committee promotes adoption of pets from the Moore County Animal Center through its Pet Placement Project and coordinates puppy adoptions through the North Shore Animal League.

Additional information

about the Moore County Citizens Pet Responsibility Committee is available on the web at [www.mcprc.org](http://www.mcprc.org).

Additional information about MIRA USA is available on the web at [www.MIRAUSA.org](http://www.MIRAUSA.org).



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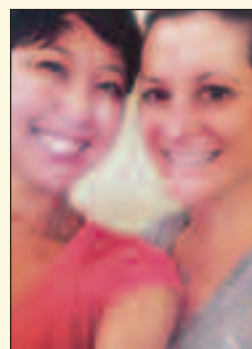
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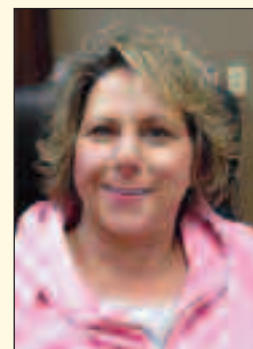
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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- **The Jazz Guardians** – 7 pm, Owens Auditorium. *Free, but a ticket is required and are available in the Boyd Library on the SCC campus and at the Arts Council of Moore County at 482 E. Connecticut Ave.* Jazz Guardians often perform standards by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Glenn Miller.
- **Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities presents** – 7 pm, (performance continues on Saturday, November 16 at the same time). The Velveteen Rabbit: A Ballet. Performed by local artists and young students of the Choreographic Institute of North Carolina. Reception to follow. Purchase tickets at The Country Bookshop, online at [www.weymouthcenter.org](http://www.weymouthcenter.org), or 910.692.6261. Adults \$15, Children \$12. Weymouth Center, 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. 910-673-4656.
- **Merry Market** – at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Everyone is welcome, get your Christmas gifts early.
- **Turkey Shoot** - at Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs, held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Win Prizes. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **"End of Life Decision" Class** – 3 pm to 5 pm, at

Culdee's Fellowship Hall, 916 Hwy 73, West End. Class will cover Health Care, Legal, Planning Decisions. Questions, Answers and Refreshments. Everyone invited! (910) 295-6685 [culdee@embarqmail.com](mailto:culdee@embarqmail.com)

- **McDonalds Chapel Music Circle** – 4 to 6 pm, meet in the

Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

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

- **Making Difficult Decisions** – 6 pm to 7 pm. For

family caregivers of seniors held at Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes.

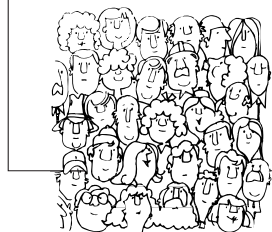
Speaker Barbara Stender. Refreshments. 673-2230 or 673-2045.

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. 910-673-4656.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines - Lunch Bunch** – at noon, Joralemon Hall. All single seniors are invited to attend. No cost. Reservations appreciated. Following lunch, Bart Clark will speak about Solace for the Children. 673-2156. Chapel in the Pines 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Living Your Fullest with Dementia & Memory Loss** – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven

## What's When Calendar



church's fellowship hall. Music Circle invites traditional acoustic musicians of all levels, to come and play a variety of traditional folk music. Listeners welcome. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen. Jill McCloy at (910) 692-5094.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Matuto*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)-944-7502.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18**



- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes.

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Lakes. Weekly gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. facilitators. No cost. Fran Stark, 910-673-5493.

- **Seven Lakes Business Guild Meeting** – mingle 5:30 pm to 6 pm, meeting starts 6 pm to discuss end of year financials, goals going forward. Guild invites all members to attend. Cheryl Darwell 673-7245
- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Dr. 673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Mayberry Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead Bible Study, meets in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **LWV "Fracking" Forum** – 7 pm, to explore the issue in North Carolina and specifically Moore County, the League of Women Voters of Moore County has organized a forum to explore the concerns and better understand the process and its ramifications for county residents. Questions and Answer session. Open to everyone at no charge, held at Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, Senior Center, Hwy 15-501. Barbara Farr, 910-949-2703 or Kathy Bergquist, 910-673-3955.



## Spring Semester 2014

*Classes Begin January 13*

### Curriculum Class Registration

**Thursday, December 5**  
*New students need to apply and take a placement test prior to registering for classes.*

### Continuing Education

**Class Registration Begins**  
**Monday, December 2**  
*Classes begin throughout the semester.*

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

- **Celebration of Seagrove** – event continues through November 24. Friday night Gala event. Browse and shop the booths before the marketplace opens Saturday morning. Tickets for Gala \$40 in advance, includes Saturday and Sunday admission to the Celebration. Saturday and Sunday event tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5, with children 12 and under admitted free. Luck's Cannery, N.C. Highway 705, Seagrove or [www.CelebrationOfSeagrovePotters.com](http://www.CelebrationOfSeagrovePotters.com)
- **Singing on the Hill at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church** – 6:45 pm, the guest artists are the Mark Trammell Quartet, The Whisnants, and Jay Stone Singers. Admission is Free, but an offering will be taken to benefit the Moore County Backpack Pals program.
- **Mandala Autumn Concert** – 7 to 9 pm, Sandhills Presbyterian Church 650 Pee Dee Road, Southern Pines. Free admission for all. Celebrate the holiday season with musical performances by students from Mandala Fellowship. Featuring: tra-

ditional hymns, classical instrumental pieces, and fun contemporary music.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. 910-673-4656.
- **Moore County Library - Carthage** – 11 am to 1 pm, *Lego Build for Kids*. The Library's Lego collection will be provided. Call 910-947-5335, Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra** – 1 pm, ensemble to perform at the Festival of the Trees, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. No tickets are required. Tax-deductible donations welcome. [www.mporchestra.com](http://www.mporchestra.com)
- **Turkey Shoot** - at Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs, held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek

Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** – 4 pm, Communities of faith joining hands, hearts and voices in an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, 6244 NC Hwy 73, Jackson Springs. Community welcome. Bring non-perishable foods as a Thanksgiving Offering, to be donated to the Agape Outreach of the Word of Truth Christian Center.
- **Community Thanksgiving Service** – 7 pm, hosted by West End United Methodist Church. Following the service there will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors

open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. *Brian Ashley Jones and Sarah Aile*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)-944-7502.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Fifth Annual Shine a Light on Lung Cancer Vigil** – 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, hosted by FirstHealth of the Carolinas. Held at the Shadowlawn Room at the Clara McLean House at FirstHealth (20 FirstVillage Drive). Speaker Michael Pritchett, D.O. Evening will include a lighting ceremony.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, meeting at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Jeff Marcus of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission will present, "The Fire Bird: the status of the Bachman Sparrow in North Carolina." Visitors Welcome. 910-692-2167 or [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Seven Lakes Business Guild Christmas Tree Lighting** – 6 pm. Held on the lot next to Lake House. Community invited.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Living Your Fullest with Dementia & Memory Loss** – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. For individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. facilitators. 910-673-5493.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

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## In memory of . . .

**Robert Darrell Saunders**, 53, of West End, died Tuesday November 5 at his home.

Services were held on Friday November 8 at Middlecross Baptist Church, West End. The Rev. David Reynolds and Rev. Chris Hrabosky officiated. Burial followed at the West End Cemetery.

Mr. Saunders was born in Pinehurst, son to Tommie and Mary (Muse) Saunders.

He was preceded in death by his father Tommie Saunders.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Rebecca Gaye (Chriscoe) Saunders; daughters, Morgan Huff and hus-

band Craig of West End, and Erin Michelle Saunders of Fayetteville; his mother, Mary Saunders of West End; sister, Debbie Bowyer and husband Douglas of West End.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Robert Saunders to Hope Quest Ministries, PO Box 2699, Woodstock, GA 30188.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Edward Eugene Dunn**, 72 of West End, died Sunday, November 3 at his home.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Novem-

ber 6 at West End First Baptist Church. The Rev. John Terry and Rev. Robbie Gibson officiated. Burial followed in the West End Cemetery.

Mr. Dunn was born in Moore County the son to Edward Andrew Dunn and Nellie (McRae) Dunn. He served in the US Air Force.

Mr. Dunn was preceded in death by his father, Edward Andrew Dunn.

Mr. Dunn is survived by sons, Scott E. Dunn of West End; and Johnny A Dunn and wife Myra of Queen Creek, AZ; step-son, Jeff Nielson and wife Petra Badinski of Germany; step-daughter, Kristin Nielsen of Phoenix, AZ; his mother, Nellie McRae Dunn of West End; brother, Jim F. Dunn and wife Hope of Ft. Mill, SC; his sister,

Brenda H. Richardson and husband Wayne of Clinton; six grandchildren, and ex-wife Debbie Dunn of Phoenix, AZ.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Edward Dunn to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care at 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

**Frank Segar Arnot**, 79, of Seven Lakes West, died Monday, October 28, at his home.

Mr. Arnot was a Navy Korean War veteran, received his bachelor's degree from Montclair College, a master's and doctorate equivalency degree from Seton Hall University.

He was a teacher, assistant

principal, director of special education for Passaic County Schools in New Jersey, and principal of John F. Kennedy High School.

After retirement from education, Mr. Arnot moved to North Carolina and worked for RTI as an education analyst.

He is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made in his name to: FirstHealth Hospice of Moore County, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

A celebration of life for immediate family was held at Boles Funeral Home Monday, November 4.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

## Military Missions in Action

Bill and Sandi Carl of Seven Lakes West are working with Military Missions in Action to collect, pack, and ship comfort items to be sent to active duty troops in combat zones.

The following items have been requested by the troops for donation: Breakfast bars, Snacks, Candy (not chocolate), Jerky, Water Flavoring Mixes, Trail Mix, Canned meats and fish, Nuts, Baby wipes, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo, Chap-

stick, Sun Block, Cough drops, black or white calf length socks, playing cards, pens, pencils, and paper.

Phoenix Fashions of Seven Lakes is the designated drop off facility in the Seven Lakes community

The Carls will pick up the items and deliver them to the local office of MMIA in Southern Pines for packing and shipping.

The last day for pick up will be Monday, December 16.



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"I love being a part of this community," she says, "and I look forward to working with the families here on their health and wellness."



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# Chapel Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, November 20 at noon.

Following lunch, Bart

Clark will speak about the program Solace for the Children. This program provides medical care, as well as education and leadership development for the children of war-torn countries.

Wherever children are affected by war, beginning with the children in Afghanistan, Solace will offer the healing and tools for bringing lasting peace.

There is no cost. Reser-

vations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

To make a reservation for lunch and/or transportation please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.

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**WATERVIEW, 3 BD+LOFT \$344,900**

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**GOLF FRONT - REDUCED!**

4 BD+BONUS+LOFT! – \$319,000

112 CLAY • 7LW



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104 TIMBER RIDGE .....	\$35,000
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106 BRENDALL .....	\$39,000
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# Bylaws

(Continued from page 6)

the Board is fully in compliance with the covenants.

## Open meetings and emergency decisions

Early this year, the Board changed the bylaws' language on closed sessions, in order to give the Directors more discretion to discuss contract negotiations behind closed doors.

Slaughter's draft bylaws simplify the language in that section, but still require that Board meetings be held in public — and caution the Directors against using informal gatherings to discuss Association business.

Both Directors Bob Darr and Bill Hirsch expressed some concern about the limited reasons for which the Board can meet in private.

"It is very, very restrictive," Darr said, noting that Directors had been scolded when four of them "have a conversation sitting around a table on the pool deck."

Hirsch asked whether there could be a workshop meeting that is a closed session.

"We want to exchange ideas and hash out stuff," he said. "You might want to throw out what turns out to be a dumb idea without the whole world knowing that you threw out that dumb idea."

In contrast, President Steve Ritter said, "I really like the laundry list of the things that we can take into closed session. Everyone understands that."

While advising the Board that Robert's Rules of Order allow them to enter executive session for any reason whatsoever, Slaughter cautioned against the "slippery slope" of closed work sessions.

He said he has seen a number of cities and towns — which are subject to more restrictive state laws — begin to hold work sessions before their regular meetings, where it is clear that all the decisions were being made in the closed session rather than in view of the public.

"That would clearly run afoul of this language [in the draft bylaws]," Slaughter said. "If you are going to have a

knock down discussion of an issue, then that sounds like you are conducting business to me. That sure sounds like you are trying to evade the open meetings provision."

The current bylaws provide for votes by email or by proxy only "in emergencies and/or when decision-making is urgent." But Slaughter said NC law does not recognize email votes.

Slaughter's draft bylaws provide for the Board to take action outside of a meeting if the decision is unanimous and all Directors affix their signature to the decision.

Board members clearly expressed the need for an arrangement that would allow for emergency decision-making and asked Slaughter to propose suitable language in a future draft.

## Scheduling meetings

The current bylaws specify a precise date and time for both the Annual Meeting and monthly Open Business meetings, though they give

the Board the discretion to change the latter.

The new bylaws place the scheduling of both completely at the discretion of the Board.

"I don't like making documents so precise," Slaughter said, relating a situation in which one community he represents found that its annual meeting had to be held on Thanksgiving Day.

However, if some specificity is desired, he said the bylaws could specify a particular month for the Annual Meeting and could require monthly Open Meetings, without mandating a particular date or time, leaving that to the discretion of the Board.

## Future amendments

Slaughter raised the issue of who should control future amendments to the bylaws, once the present revision is approved by the Board. It is common practice in most homeowners associations and other non-profit corporations, he explained, for bylaws revision to require

either a majority or a two-thirds vote of the membership. The Board typically does not have the authority to revise the bylaws on its own.

SLLA Directors were clearly skeptical of adopting that practice, largely for practical reasons. If amending the bylaws requires notifying all members by mail and holding a special meeting, Director Meyer noted, the practical result will be that "we will have to bucket all the changes up for the year to the annual meeting. We are putting a control in place on something that isn't broken."

However, Slaughter pointed out that leaving authority for bylaws amendments with the Board meant that "any future board could make any changes to the bylaws that they wish without recourse, except for the members throwing them out."

"If we have a bylaw change [under the current bylaws]," Meyer said, "that would flow through a work session, and come for a vote in the open meeting. It's done out in front of people." In addition, the membership must be notified of bylaws changes at least ten days in advance of a

(See "Bylaws," p. 21)

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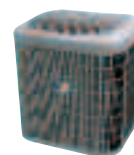


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# Presbyterians ready for some football

West End Presbyterian Church has scheduled its annual intergenerational touch football game, the Turkey Bowl, for Sunday afternoon, November 24, at the recreational field of West End Elementary School. This has become a popular event for both the youth of the

church and "youthful" adults who still like to play a game of touch football in a fun atmosphere.

The church will also be participating in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24, at the West End United Methodist Church. A number of area

churches are participating in this ecumenical worship service at 7 pm. The community is welcome to join in this Community Thanksgiving Service.

West End Presbyterian Church will also have new Presbyterian hymnals in its pews beginning on the first

Sunday in Advent, December 1.

The new purple hymnal includes 850 hymns and worship resources, including many newer hymns as well as many older and popular hymns. The new hymnals will be dedicated in worship on December 1.

West End Presbyterian is beginning to plan an adult mission trip to its sister church in Mexico in mid-

winter.

Each month the children's choir, the WOW choir, is singing in worship. The children are also planning a big Christmas performance in December.

West End Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the PC (USA). The church is located on Knox Lane, one block west of Highway 211 in West End.

## Bylaws

(Continued from page 20)

Board vote.

"Our system is set up to be relatively transparent," Meyer concluded, "so I am struggling with the notion of having the bylaws coming before the membership. This could degenerate into the members wanting to vote on everything."

The conversation on who should have the right to approve changes to the bylaws was left unresolved by the close of the meeting.

### Other Issues

Other issues raised during the Board's Tuesday, November 2 discussion of the draft bylaws included:

- **Multiple lot voting.** The current bylaws currently provide only one vote to a member who owns multiple lots. The draft bylaws follow the more common practice of providing one vote for each lot. "Having multiple

lot owners have multiple votes is a significant departure from the current bylaws," Meyer noted.

- **Quorums.** The current bylaws require that ten percent of the membership be present in person or by proxy for the annual meeting. Slaughter said ten percent is the "default setting." But the Directors spent some time discussing whether that was either too high or too low.
- **Committees.** Recalling an instance in which a former SLLA President dissolved almost all Association committees, Director Bob Racine asked whether the proposed bylaws would prevent that. Slaughter explained that Robert's Rules provide that only the power that created a committee can dissolve it. Under the new bylaws, the power to create committees is given to the Board rather

than the President, so only the Board will be able to dissolve committees.

### A new draft coming

Slaughter said he would prepare a revised draft of the new bylaws for Board review. No date was set for that meeting.

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# OPINION

## Boat dreams . . .

They say the best day in a man's life is the day he buys himself a boat.

They say the best day in a man's life is the day he sells his boat.

Apparently, neither will ever be the case with me. I began this journey in 1951, and here it is nearing the end of 2013, and so far, the only boats I had I left behind in my bathtub around 1955.

I think about boats. I think about boats a lot, actually. Now I live in a community called Seven Lakes, but few people really seem to know if there are really seven lakes or eight lakes or what qualifies as a big old pond or a small little lake. I know in my neighborhood there is a big old lake. I mean, it is not Lake Michigan, but it is big enough that if I tried to swim across it at its widest point, you would be reading my obituary right now rather than whatever this is.

So, there has been no point in my life that I am more tempted to have a boat than right now.

This temptation actually goes back a very long way. My Dad was a World War II Navy guy, and when we were kids he would take us to

would ooze out, and your hands would get sticky holding the battleships I put together. This was Clue No. 1 that my hands were not the hands of a skilled surgeon or even dentist. I dealt with it.

Then our family would go camping.

We often would camp near lakes. These lakes would have docks. The docks would have boats.

I would walk out on the docks, look at these boats, and say to myself, "someday I will have a boat." At one time, I even developed these dreams enough to imagine my boat "upward mobility." I would start with a row boat, then get a speedboat, then a "cabin cruiser." Dreaming of owning a "cabin cruiser" someday

was a fairly heady dream for an adolescent boy. Can you imagine what happens on a "cabin cruiser?" I tried to, but I suspect I had no idea.

And so this dream has continued. I now actually live about a half mile from a lake, and I could easily so have a boat. But I don't.

I keep saying to myself, you know, Larry, you really don't have a clue as to how to sail a boat, and as for a boat powered by gasoline, isn't gasoline way expensive? And as far as a rowboat, that seems like a lot of manual labor, doesn't it?

So mostly I fall back on the kayak or canoe idea, but then I look at the lake, and I say, do you really want to be out in the middle of that big old lake, and have your kayak capsize when some teen age ski boarder (is that what they are?) scoots on by? Then, there you are, in the middle of the lake, think-

ing that boat idea was crummy after all.

So this is what I do. I rent a pontoon boat, for four hours, on Big Glen Lake every summer way up in Northern Michigan. For four hours a year, I am "Captain Larry." I go fast, I go slow, we anchor the boat, and we get out of the boat into the very clear and very frigid waters of Big Glen, which honestly, is the most beautiful lake these eyes have ever seen.

This seems to work.

After four hours, I turn the boat back over to the college girls working the marina, and I walk away, boat free, happy as I can be, and already dreaming of a certain four hours the next year.

*Larry Lyon is pastor of West End Presbyterian Church and the actual captain of no boats whatsoever.*



### From the Lyon's Den

Larry Lyon

Annapolis, the home of the United States Naval Academy. I would walk around with my jaw wide open. We also would build model ships, destroyers and battleships and even aircraft carriers.

I never was very good at putting these plastic model ships together. I would use too much glue. The glue

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MEMO:

### Board Notes

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### Letters to the Editor



We accept letters delivered by e-mail or the US Postal Service. Or you can drop your letter in the dropbox at our office at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive.

### Your letters welcome here . . .

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we get. We're particularly fond of letters that are concise and to the point — 300 words or fewer. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached.

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# There ought to be a law!

**Question:** I am very upset with my daughter, who does not send her children to Sunday school and church, because soccer practice and games are scheduled on Sunday mornings. Shouldn't there be a law forbidding children's and youth activities in the community on Sunday morning when Christians worship?

**Response:** There used to be numerous laws that forbade recreational activities on Sunday, along with laws that prohibited businesses or recreational facilities such as theaters and bowling alleys from opening until after noon on Sundays. Alcohol sales had to stop at midnight on Saturday and bars could not open before 1:00 pm — or not at all on Sunday, depending on the state or community. These were called "Blue Laws," especially in the South.

Gradually, these laws were watered down, and they have disappeared in most states. They had their origin in the days of the New England Puritans and took hold in the fertile ground of Southern

Evangelicalism. Gradually, under the pressure of secular society, they have essentially disappeared.

Personally, I welcomed their



## Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

demise. They were really a violation of the First Amendment of our Constitution that guarantees that our nation does not endorse any established religion. To recognize Sunday (the Christian Holy Day) and not recognize Friday (the Muslim Holy Day) or Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath), essentially establishes Christianity as the favored religion of the State.

In the beginning days of the Christian Church, the Church did not enjoy special privileges from the state. The Church was a counter-cultural institution for three centuries until it became the

state religion under Constantine. These years before Constantine were the years when the church followed closely the teachings of Jesus and experienced

amazing growth, even though Christians were persecuted by the state.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters

have experienced this for centuries. I once asked a rabbi friend how Jews all over the world were able to maintain the principles of their faith. His response: "We

never depended on the state to protect us. We knew that we, alone, were responsible for preserving our faith and passing it on to the next generation."

Being Christian in a secular society, such as ours today, requires the community of faithful Christians to adjust to the culture without sacrificing the principals of the faith and to teach our children that sometimes they, themselves, must make choices between the pressures of society and the requirements of their faith.

This throws the responsibility of teaching the values of worship and the importance of the Christian Sab-

bath back to the family.

I once lived for two years while in college with a family that would not allow anyone in the family to open the Sunday newspaper until after noon when all church services were over. They didn't ask the paper to stop delivery; they learned to maintain their Christian practices in the context of the family without help from outside resources, including the state.

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



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# Apologies

Dear Editor:

Two weeks ago, I sent a release updating the community on the progress of Backpack Pals from its beginning eight years ago until now. The release ran in the Friday, November 1, 2013 edition.

In the release, I listed the names of sponsoring groups of activities conducted

throughout the year for the benefit of Backpack Pals. The Benefit Golf Tournament for Backpack Pals is held annually at Beacon Ridge and has been sponsored by Seven Lakers for Backpack Pals for the past four years *not* the Women of Seven Lakes as stated incorrectly in the release.

The Tournament is not con-

nected with the Women of Seven Lakes and has not been since the fourth year of the event.

I apologize for the mistake.

Linda Hubbard  
Director

Moore County  
BackPack Pals  
Food Bank of Central &  
Eastern North Carolina

# Thanks from the Lions

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes Lions Club would like to express their appreciation to all who helped make the Brighter Visions Fund Drive a success.

The Club would like to thank First Bank, BB&T,

Food Lion, Greenbow's Restaurant, The Seven Lakes Friendly Mart, and the Moore County Recycling Center for allowing members to collect funds at their businesses.

The club also thanks all the local individuals who

filled the Lions buckets with donations.

The funds will help support Camp Dogwood for the blind and the Mobile Screening Unit.

Bill Seldomridge  
Seven Lakes Lions Club

# Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Communities of faith in the Foxfire/West End area are joining hands, hearts and voices in an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving on the Sunday, November 24, at 4 pm at this year's host site, Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, at 6244 NC Hwy 73, Jackson Springs. Everyone in the community is welcome and participants are invited to linger for music and refreshments following the service to enjoy getting to know their neighbors.

This eighth annual Thanksgiving community gathering is sponsored jointly by the Community of Mindful Living

in the Pines, Congregational Church of Pinehurst - UCC, Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church, the Sandhills Jewish Congregation - Temple Beth Shalom, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Sandhills.

Representatives from each faith community designed

the service to invite neighbors into a worship setting in which various faith traditions express their shared gratitude for the blessings of this community, nation and world.

Worshippers are asked to bring non-perishable foods as a Thanksgiving Offering, to be donated to the Agape Outreach of the Word of Truth Christian Center in Vass.

# Westside

(Continued from page 7)

## Events

Director Nancy Workman reported on several upcoming events, including:

- Newcomers Reception on November 19.
- Holiday Decorating at the Community Center on November 21.
- Annual Christmas Social in the Great Room on December 7. Tickets are free and available at the office.


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*Let yourself be silently drawn  
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— Rumi

Think for a moment of a food from your past, one that makes you feel great after you eat it for no specific reason. Maybe it is macaroni and cheese, slow-simmered tomato sauce, ice cream cones or potato pancakes. Eating food like this (every now and then) can be incredibly healing, even though your rational brain might not consider it highly nutritious.

Food has the power to impact us on a level deeper than just our physical well-being. What we eat can reconnect us to precious memories, like childhood playtimes, first dates, holidays, our grandmother's cooking or our country of ancestry. Our bodies remember foods from the past on an emotional and cellular level. Eating this food connects us to our roots and has youthening and nurturing effects that go far beyond the food's biochemical make-up.

Acknowledging what different

foods mean to us is an important part of cultivating a good relationship with food. It's important to notice that we each have a relationship with food—and that this relationship is often far from loving. Many of us restrict food, attempting to control our weight. We often abuse food, substituting it for emotional well-being. Others ignore food, swallowing it whole before we've even tasted it.

What would your life be like if you treated food and your body as you would treat your beloved? With gentleness, playfulness, communication, honesty, respect and love? The next time you eat your soul food, do so with awareness and without guilt, and enjoy all the healing and nourishment it brings you.

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# Lakeway

(Continued from front page)

acres in each watershed that it can parcel out to allow developers to exceed that percentage, in order to make commercial projects economically feasible. Kirkpatrick sought to increase the built-on area of the 4.53 acre shopping center parcel from its current 41.72 percent to 50.77 percent. He sought to increase the area covered on the 1.78 acre site (which includes the building that once housed the Beacon Ridge Welcome Center) from its current 19.10 percent to 61.24 percent.

The two-story building Kirkpatrick proposes to build has 11,064 square feet on its lower level and 12,480 square feet upstairs. It would sit well inside the current gates of Seven Lakes West, on a currently wooded portion of the parcel. The land slopes from the current shopping center toward Lakeway Drive, so the building would have only one story above ground on the shopping center side.

Parking lots running from the former Welcome Center to the new building would connect with the shopping center parking lots.

## Westside Objections

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] had both an attorney, Stephen Later, and an engineer, Jared Hilliard, on hand to question the details of the site plan that Kirkpatrick presented as part of his application for the SNIA.

Many of the engineering questions focused on how increased stormwater flowing from the site would be han-

dled, and whether the bio-filter designed by Kirkpatrick's engineer was equal to the task.

Hilliard's questions were parried point-for-point by Kirkpatrick's engineer, Allen Hill of Triad Design Group, and a good bit of the thrust and parry was over technical engineering details.

Hill argued that the granting of the SNIA was "just one step in the process," noting that division of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] would have to sign off on both a storm water permit and an erosion and sedimentation control plan.

Additional permits would have to be obtained from County departments, as well.

SLWLA attorney Later objected that the increase in impervious surface could dump substantial amounts of water onto Lakeway Drive — the primary entrance into the community — during a normal Summer storm.

Hill noted that County and state regulations require only that Kirkpatrick treat the first inch of rainfall in a bio-filter to avoid washing oils and other chemicals that accumulate on parking lots into the public water supply.

"We are not required by the ordinance to treat the volume of runoff," Hill said. "If you have eight cubic feet per second [cfs] now and we create ten cfs, we are not required to treat that. Our design meets the requirements of the ordinance."

But Planning Director Debra Ensminger told *The Times* that the permits Kirk-

patrick needs from the state Division of Water Quality will require a plan to deal with stormwater run-off.

## A flawed plan?

Beyond concerns about storm water runoff, Later objected that the Watershed Review Board was being asked to grant the SNIA based on a substantially flawed site plan that could never be built as designed.

According to Later, agreements are in place that require a ten-foot buffer that was not included in the plan. Perhaps more importantly, the plan calls for sewage to be pumped under Lakeway Drive to two residential lots owned by Kirkpatrick.

"The lots to be used for septic can't, under the covenants, be used for septic by an offsite commercial building," Later said. "The

site plan that you are looking at in fact can't be built."

Kirkpatrick attorney Craig Pfeiffer then told the Board that his client could comply with the ten foot buffer and revise the plans for septic.

"I believe you have sufficient information before you to make the decision," Pfeiffer said.

"We are not here to approve or disapprove the plan," Vice Chairman Les Murray told Board Members. We are being asked to approve the watershed allocation."

Chairman Robert Hayter had asked to be recused from consideration of the matter, because both Kirkpatrick and the SLWLA are among his clients.

Approving an allocation based on a site plan that appeared likely to be significantly revised appeared to give some Board Members

pause.

However, Kirkpatrick's SNIA request represented only 3.39 acres of 2,337.70 total acres allocated for SNIA's in the watershed. Only one SNIA request, for 0.88 acres, has been approved in the watershed in the past.

Ultimately, the Board voted unanimously to grant Kirkpatrick's request. Ensminger told *The Times* that she could not recall an instance in which the Watershed Review Board has turned down a SNIA request.

Kirkpatrick's project will require a variety of county and statement permits to move forward — and perhaps some negotiations with the SLWLA — however, all of those permitting processes are essentially technical, staff-driven functions. None involve public meetings or an open opportunity for public input.

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## Cell towers

(Continued from front page)

design — that is, they must be concealed (for example, in a church steeple or grain silo) or camouflaged (for example, as a flag pole or pine tree).

American Tower recently filed applications with the County for nine towers, most in northern and western areas of the County that currently have poor cellphone coverage. But, when five of those towers turned out to be within one mile of NC Highway 705 or NC Highway 24/27 — both state-designated Scenic Byways — the applications were withdrawn.

Two of those applications were for 300-foot towers; two for 250-foot towers, and one for a 195-foot tower. It is difficult to conceal towers at that height.

When Planning Director Debra Ensminger informed members of the Board of Commissioners that the applications had been withdrawn, they asked the Planning Board to revisit the ordinance — presumably with the idea of making it easier for American Tower to build the towers it wanted.

### Treating all roads the same

To kick off deliberations in the November 7 meeting, Ensminger presented an ordinance, drafted with input from NC Highway 705 resident Scott Thomas, that treated all roads in the County equally, requiring that towers be placed at least one-quarter mile off the road, unless they incorporate a stealth design. The same would apply to proximity to properties listed

on the National Register of Historic Places.

However, even Thomas wasn't satisfied with that compromise. In fact, he told the Board, he was satisfied with the one-mile limit described in the existing ordinance. But, having read about the withdrawn American Tower applications in *The Seven Lakes Times*, he told the Board, "I knew that distance was going to be reduced."

Thomas was critical of several aspects of the draft amendment, including a requirement that a tower site be surrounded by mature trees.

"What is a mature tree?" he asked. And what can the County do to ensure that the landowner doesn't clearcut those trees once the tower is in place.

"Moore County has one of the better telecommunications policies," Thomas said, "but we now have an opportunity to make improvements — something better than what we have."

### Making no one happy

American Tower was no happier than Thomas with the draft amendment.

"Every tower project is different," the company's attorney, David Robinson, told the Board. "What you have to figure out is whether you want to have taller towers or more towers."

Robinson said he did not object to a special setback rule to protect scenic byways or historic properties. Nor did he object to a requirement for a buffer of mature trees.

"What we oppose is the specific language," he said. "Every site is just different. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder . . . I don't think all of your views are the same. This has evolved to an every road in the county type of standard."

Robinson suggested instead of hard and fast rules, language that speaks of "preferences" — that is, a "preference" for stealth towers near scenic byways, a "preference" regarding proximity to historic structures.

"But my client should be able to rebut those preferences," Robinson said. "By some standard of proof, they would have to show that it is not reasonable in the case of that one tower."

### Depends on which side of the fence you live on

Even less happy was Jarius Garner, the owner of a parcel on NC Highway 705 north of Robbins that American Tower had selected for a 300 foot tower — one of the applications that was later withdrawn.

After he was approached by the company, Garner said, he hired an attorney specializing in such matters and

"spent quite a bit of money." He objected to the requirement in the proposed amendment that the tower site be surrounded by mature trees, because his tower site was in pasture that backed up to a stand of trees.

On the other hand, Garner's next door neighbor, Bryan Monroe, was solidly behind Scott Thomas' insistence that the ordinance be toughened. Monroe noted that the mature trees against which Garner's tower would be placed were at Monroe's property line, and the 300 foot tower would be roughly 150 feet from his home.

Mary Holmes, President of the Seagrove Area Potters Association, said that her

members, as small business owners, are highly dependent on cellphone coverage. She said that shoppers will often use a smartphone to take a photo of a particular piece and then email or text it to someone else in order to make a purchase decision.

On the other hand, she continued, "people are expecting a scenic byway and a country experience. We respectfully ask you to consider the distance. A mile is wonderful, but please make it at least one half mile. And we ask you to make that no higher than 195 feet. You cannot disguise the fact that there is a 195 foot tower behind anything."

(See "Cell towers," p. 27)

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## Cell towers

(Continued from page 26)

Jesse Wimberley, speaking for the Sandhills Area Land Trust [SALT] said a smartphone app is available that provides a guide to points of interest along NC Highway 705, but he added that the viewsheds along that route -- and elsewhere in the County, must be protected if they are to retain their appeal to tourists and potential residents.

Wimberley said the County's recently approved Working Lands Protection Plan and its pending Land Use Plan both highlight the value of both agriculture and tourism.

Growing those segments of the economy is "something we must work on diligently," he said. "We should make sure we don't detract from the viewsheds we have. We are very lucky here in a Moore County to have the wonderful landscapes that we do."

### More information needed

Chairman Robert Hayter attempted to set some parameters for the Board's discussion of the ordinance, offering three criteria for decision making, including ensuring the private property rights of a landowner who may want to lease land to a tower company, making cellular service available to every resident of the County, and considering the visual and natural character of the County.

He noted that any decision the Planning Board made would ultimately come before the Board of Commissioners as a recommendation.

Despite Hayter's attempt to guide the discussion, it was clear that the conflicting public input left members of the Planning Board, for the most part, feeling that they needed much more information before agreeing to change the existing audience.

"The number one thing that I would sort of agree with is that I don't think one standard for the county makes sense," Vice Chairman Les Murray said, adding that "you probably aren't going to get adequate cellphone service in that area [around

NC Highway 705] with a mile. I don't think one size fits all."

Arron McNeill agreed, but was clear that his sympathies lie with the property owner.

"I don't think one mold is going to fit every tower. We aren't going to be able to put everyone inside the same box. One mile is too far, one quarter mile is in some places too far . . . . We are definitely going to have to cut this back from a mile. And we don't need to be talking about the other roads. We should focus on 705."

"I'm an advocate for property rights. What your neighbor does with his land is his right."

Johnny Harris, on the other hand, felt all the county's roads should be treated equally.

"I'm for 1350 feet off all roads," he said. "Any road in the County is a scenic byway. I do not like 300 foot towers; I like 200 foot towers. We need to learn more."

"The people who spoke gave us a lot to think about," Molly Boggs said. "The thing we do have to decide is what is the balance between the viewshed and the need for communications . . . . I really am not prepared to come to any decision tonight. I want

to go out to think about it more."

"I am uncomfortable with the one size fits all approach," Jules Latham said, expressing some skepticism about relying on information provided by industry experts. "I want more information."

Noting that he has considerable experience in the area of radio signals, Buck Mims said the range of cellphone antennas mean that the difference between one mile, one half mile, and one quarter mile is not critical.

"I am very cautious to trust the cellphone company," he added. "But we are all experts on living in our community. We need an education on what is the best way to do this that is in the best interest of our County. We have a lot to learn."

With that, Hayter moved that action be tabled until the Board could meet with the County's consultant.

"Clearly, tonight there is just not enough information," he said. Hayter promised that there would be adequate public notice concerning future meetings on the topic.

The first Work Session to gather additional information is scheduled for Thursday December 5 at 1:00 pm.

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## Ritter

(Continued from front page)

the time, in excellent health. "If it stays that way, I will file." It has, and he will.

"The reason I want to stay here is I now have a good grasp on what the challenges are for the County," Ritter told *The Times* during an interview conducted in the Commissioners' meeting room on Monday, November 4. "Knowing what the economy is and what has got to be done — for the schools, especially — I think we need someone that's conservative enough to say 'You may be asking for too much, but let's do it in steps.'"

### Minding the taxpayers' money

Ritter has no interest in raising taxes. But accomplishing that means controlling the pace of County spending.

"I compare it to a well that produces forty-five gallons a minute," he said. "You can take more than forty-five gallons, but your water level is going to keep going down 'til you run out."

Moore County has a lot of

needs, Ritter said.

"Our county employees need to keep up with the cost of living, at least. We don't want to lose them because there is a better opportunity out there."

"We just spent \$12 million on water that is supposed to supply our need for thirty years. But if the county's growth exceeds the projections, we are going to have to do other things."

And there is always the danger and expense of unfunded mandates handed down by state or federal government — like the mandate to convert emergency communications to a new frequency, at a cost of several million dollars.

"That is my challenge: to take care of the money that comes into this County," Ritter said.

### Committed Republican

Ritter was raised in a mill house in Robbins — a house he later owned for a time.

He joined the US Navy in 1962, and became a Republican around the same time.

"In 1966, I met George Little [Chairman of the Moore

County GOP at the time.] He indicated that he needed some representation in the northern end of the county," Ritter said. "I became active in the Republican Party at that time and became present chair shortly after that."

The GOP's goal was to create a Republican majority among the County's registered voters and, ultimately, to elect a full slate of Republicans to the County Board of Commissioners.

Both goals were achieved in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Ritter was elected Vice Chairman of the Moore County GOP in 1989.

"I have been actively working for the party for more than 45 years," Ritter said.

### Focused on Emergency Services

Even before he joined the Navy, Ritter said, he helped form the County's first Rescue Squad, Robbins Unit 1, in 1961.

"I've spent my life in emergency services," Ritter said. He served as Chairman of the County's Emergency Services Advisory Committee for twenty years, and missed only one meeting in all that time.

Working as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician, Ritter said he noticed some problems.

"I started seeing some bad things with people going into shock," he explained, "because we couldn't estab-

lish a simple saline line."

That led to conversation with the Board of Commissioner and a proposal to create a special Advanced Life Support tax that would fund a County paramedic service.

"We did eighteen presentations to put an ALS tax in," Ritter said. "The tax was estimated to be five cents [per hundred], but it never went that high."

The first ALS base opened at Union Pines High School in April of 1991, Ritter said. "And now we have one of the best EMS services in the state."

Ritter's work on emergency services eventually resulted in a state government post, (See "Ritter," p. 29)



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# Ritter

(Continued from page 28)

as emergency services grants administrator serving the eighteen regional councils of government. While in Raleigh he became the Disaster Medical Coordinator for the state emergency response team.

Ritter continues to serve as the Board of Commissioners' liaison with the County's Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

## Education a priority

In addition to his work in Emergency Services, Ritter taught at North Moore High School for seven years as a substitute teacher. That gives him a personal connection to the challenges faced by Moore County Schools [MCS]. "We are going to do what we have to do for our schools," Ritter told *The Times*. "That is the future of this County. From substituting, I know firsthand what these teachers are up against."

Asked whether he supported MCS' drive to incorporate digital technology, Ritter said, "They have to; the world is going that way. I have three computers in my own house!" "The internet is one of the finest things that has happened to our schools," he said. "But we have to do it [incorporate digital technology] so it doesn't break the bank. It's better if you eat a piece of pie kind of slow."

But Ritter cautions against leaving behind training in

trades.

"Vocational education needs a little more attention at this point," he said. "We have to be careful not to turn our backs on folks who are not inclined to academics. Someone has to build the houses, work on cars, do the plumbing."

## Economic Development

Ritter expressed support for expanding the County's economy, but some skepticism about strategies currently being advocated for accomplishing that goal.

"We should not block economic development," he said. "But the way we are going at it . . . I'm not real comfortable with so much emphasis put on these back to back tournaments [the 2014 US Opens]."

The organizers "are having to limit tickets," Ritter explained. "The people are going to come. They are going to dine and stay in hotels. That revenue is going to come."

"Do we want to take whatever we get out of that and put it into economic development? No. Because we have a great mountain to climb with the schools."

Regarding the current proposal by Partners and Progress and the Convention and Visitors Bureau to create a "talent recruitment" website, Ritter said, "I'm all for recruiting entrepreneurs. But there has to be a limit to how much

we spend to advertise ourselves. \$30,000 . . . \$75,000 . . . the price keeps going up."

Ritter is even more skeptical of the practice of handing out grants to businesses that are expanding in or moving to the community.

"Giving money to companies? I am against that," he told *The Times*. "Now, if we put the right strings on it — tie it to the number of people employed or the tax revenue — that would enter into my vote."

## Infrastructure for North Moore

Asked, as a resident of and the Commissioner from North Moore, what the County

could do to help that area, Ritter said: "Infrastructure. We have to have a water system up there. We are pulling water out of Montgomery County right now. I don't think we should have to do that."

"If we can develop a water system that could serve industry, the low cost of property up there is enticement enough for industry. The workforce is a little weak, but that's why we have to invest in education."

"I work for everybody in this County," Ritter said. "I have never gotten a dime off any of the work I have done for the Republican Party. I have done it for the pleasure of being able to do it."

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** – serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491. ttn

**TREE SERVICE — ALLEN & SON TREE SERVICE.** Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). ttn

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**RE-SURFACE GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS** – Prune crape myrtles, cutback pampas grass, leaf removal, general clean-ups, pine straw and pine mulch delivered and/or spread, roof and gutters cleaned, hedges trimmed, and mowing services available. Call Rick at 910-639-5206 for details.

**DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRT CHEAP!** – \$19/month. 96 gallon roll-out container provided for weekly pickup. Fully insured. Locally owned & operated. Professional Service. 100% Service Guarantee. **Carolina Waste Services. 910-673-4285 (HAUL).**

**GERITA'S CLEANING SERVICE** – Let me do your dirty work. 15 years experience. References available. 910-639-9473. 9tp 9/6

**CREATIVE CUSTOMWORK** – “The Decorator’s Workshop” Custom made Window Treatments, Bedding, Cushions, and Slipcovers. All made right here with the attention to detail demanded by the best designers! Pam Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Call 673-2500.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**SEVEN LAKES DENTAL STUDIO** – Repairs of dentures, acrylic partials, and relines. Same day service available. All work will be done only through your local dentist. Tom Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-1613. ttn

## BUYING GOLD & SILVER SERVICE

**BUYING GOLD & SILVER COINS** – Sterling Silver Flatware. Old Broken Gold Cash Payments! Call 910-944-0808.

## BOATS FOR SALE

**NEW & USED PONTOONS AND SKI BOATS** — Call Seven Lakes Marine. 673-1440.

**TURN YOUR USED BOAT INTO CASH** — People are looking to purchase good condition used boats. Let us connect you to the prospective buyers. Call Jeff at 910-673-1440.

**Advertise in The Times**  
910-673-0111

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DOWN  
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**Jim Leach/Agent**

**JIM LEACH AGENCY – 215-8150 – www.jimleachagency.com**  
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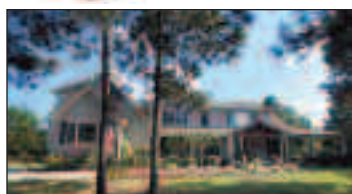


# Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team

## MOORE COUNTY'S MOST TRUSTED REAL ESTATE TEAM!



### #1 IN THE SEVEN LAKES MARKET FOR OVER A DECADE!



**McLendon Hills \$575,000**  
French country farmhouse on 3 acres  
4 BR / 3.5 BA  
600 Broken Ridge Trail



**Seven Lakes South \$245,900**  
Maintenance free and pristine home!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
240 W. Devonshire Avenue



**Seven Lakes North \$165,000**  
Charming ranch with split floor plan  
3 BR / 2 BA  
117 Pinecone Court

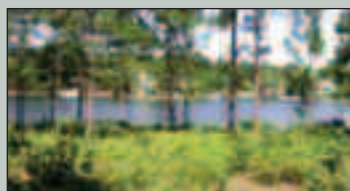


**Seven Lakes North \$175,000**  
Charming cottage on two lots- great privacy  
3 BR / 2 BA  
255 Firetree Lane

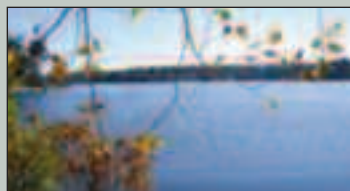


**Seven Lakes West \$166,000**  
Cute and affordable w/split plan  
2 BR / 2 BA  
107 James Drive

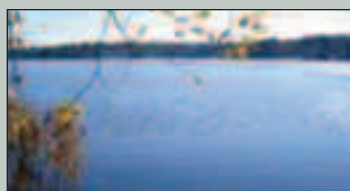
## Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



**103 Gordon Point \$225,000**  
Beautiful water front lot in Seven  
Lakes West! The only lot left on  
Gordon Point! (.82 Acres)



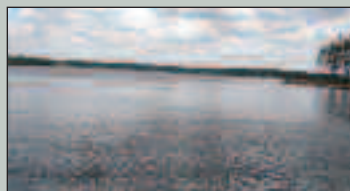
**126 Simmons Drive \$250,000**  
Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping.  
Beautiful wide water views. Lot  
beside this lot is also for sale —  
wonderful chance to own over sized  
lakefront for your special house!



**128 Simmons Drive \$250,000**  
Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping.  
Beautiful wide water views. Lot  
beside this lot is also for sale —  
wonderful chance to own over sized  
lakefront for your special house!



**126 Swaringen Drive \$395,000**  
Gorgeous wide water views —  
eastern exposure for optimum  
enjoyment of your late afternoon  
entertainment — one of the best lots  
on the lake! (.67 Acres)



**128 Swaringen Drive \$375,000**  
Spectacular, wide-open water  
views. Site is perfect for walk out  
level. Eastern orientation for  
beautiful sunrises and cool shaded  
evenings on your deck! (.64 Acres)



**107 Butterfly Court \$395,000**  
Enjoy wide water views from this  
wonderful waterfront lot on Lake  
Auman! Cul-de-sac location! The  
perfect spot to build your dream  
home!

## Thinking of Building?

Many More Building Lots Available in 7 Lakes!



**Seven Lakes West \$339,000**  
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman  
4 BR / 3 BA  
105 Tucker Court



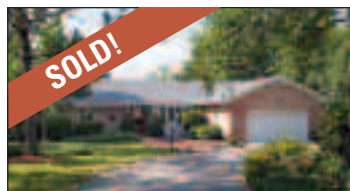
**Seven Lakes West \$619,000**  
Lakefront cottage w/custom upgrades  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
103 Featherston Point



**Seven Lakes West \$698,000**  
Gorgeous lakefront custom home  
5 BR / 3.5 BA  
129 Shaw Drive



**Seven Lakes South 196,000**  
Sun-filled home on well-landscaped lot!  
2 BR / 2.5 BA  
106 Somerset Lane



**Seven Lakes North \$299,900**  
Totally renovated on Longleaf Lake  
3 BR / 2 BA  
104 Rolling Hill Court



**Seven Lakes West \$440,000**  
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac  
3 BR / 3 BA  
109 Timber Ridge Court



**Seven Lakes West \$298,000**  
One-story w/sweeping golf views  
3 BR / 3 BA  
296 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes North \$249,000**  
Single level waterfront w/great privacy!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
126 Cardinal Lane



**Seven Lakes West \$495,000**  
Lovely Lake Auman waterfront home  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
163 Morris Drive



**Seven Lakes South \$215,000**  
Charming brick ranch w/front porch  
3 BR / 2 BA  
188 Devonshire Avenue



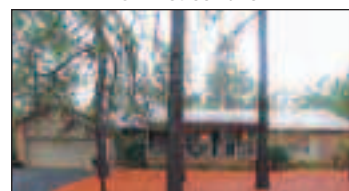
**Seven Lakes West \$315,000**  
Great home with open floor plan  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
128 Owens Circle



**Seven Lakes North \$375,000**  
Beautiful home on Lake Sequoia  
3 BR / 3 BA  
163 E Shenandoah Road



**Seven Lakes North \$325,000**  
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Sequoia  
3 BR / 2 BA  
181 Firetree Lane



**Seven Lakes South \$199,000**  
Charming golf front w/panoramic view  
3 BR / 3 BA  
122 Devonshire Avenue



**Seven Lakes North \$175,000**  
Adorable ranch with split floor plan  
3 BR / 2 BA  
106 Pineneedle Drive

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