

The Seven Lakes TIMES

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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

January 24, 2014

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Reynwood residents want road repaired

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



There's a big pothole on the side of Reynview Vista Road in the Village of Foxfire, right where it joins Richmond Road. And, according to the folks who live on Reynview Vista, it was the Village of Foxfire that caused the problem, so the Village should be responsible for fixing it.

The issue was raised during the Village Council's Tuesday, January 14 regular meeting

by several citizens who live on Reynview Vista Road. Though the road is an unpaved private street within the Reynwood subdivision, it lies within the Village's incorporated area, and those who live on the road pay Village taxes.

The area was annexed more than a dozen years in order to allow the development to be served by the Village's water system. When the water lines were installed, they ran up the middle of the road, and, more importantly, two

(See "Foxfire," p. 28)

The McDonalds



The area along Foxfire Road between Pinehurst and Foxfire Village is the ancestral stomping grounds of the McDonald clan who, settled there prior to the Revolutionary War. Here, some 20th Century McDonalds gather for Sunday School at the home of Archie and Alice McDonald. See Page 12 for more on the McDonalds.

Compromise found on cell tower regs

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



In two marathon sessions, the Moore County Planning Board put final touches on the Unified Development Ordinance [UDO], reaching a compromise on cell towers that protects historic properties, but offers no special protection for the County's Scenic Byways.

The Section of the ordi-

nance that governs cellphone towers — formally know as "Wireless Communications Facilities" — dominated the conversation in both meetings, held on Thursday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 14.

The UDO combines and updates three existing ordinances that govern land use and development: the zoning ordinance, the subdivision ordinance, and the flood damage prevention ordi-

(See "UDO," p. 26)

Proposed school closure riles Robbins Town Council

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Robbins has heard there are plans afoot to close Elise Middle School, and Robbins is not happy.

The school, built in 1904, sits near downtown Robbins and currently serves 225 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. The 21st Century Facilities Task Force is expected to recommend that Elise be closed. The Task Force was created by Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence to advise the Board of Education on the need for school

upgrades and new schools.

The panel's recommendations were to be presented to the Board of Education on Wednesday afternoon, January 22 as *The Times* went to press, but their deliberations have been widely reported in the press.

Closing Elise would require expanding Robbins Elementary School, in order to add sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to its current K-5 enrollment. The K-8 configuration is utilized by the other elementary schools — Westmoore and Highfalls — in the North Moore High School District.

But Robbins residents —

and particularly the small businesses in downtown Robbins — are concerned that the closing of Elise, and the reduction in traffic that will result, will sound the death knell for the small mill town, which has never fully recovered from the the departure of its largest employers: a textile mill and a chicken processing plant.

Robbins Commissioners oppose closing

Town Manager Jeff Sheffield, along with Mayor Lonnie English and Town Commissioner Kevin Stewart, attended the Monday, Jan-

(See "School Board," p. 24)

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How about a little jazz for your Valentine?

New York City nightlife is coming to Pinehurst for the 29th annual Heart 'n Soul of Jazz.

Presented by the Arts Council of Moore County, the event will feature the award-winning cabaret singer and comedienne Colleen McHugh on Friday, February 14.

This "one night only" event for Valentine's Day night of jazz and fun will be held at Pinehurst Resort's Cardinal Ballroom in the Carolina

Hotel.

After the concert, spend quality time with the musicians at the Meet-the-Artists Dessert Reception, as sponsored by BB&T and Wells Fargo. Heart 'n Soul of Jazz is a benefit for the Arts Council of Moore County.

Colleen McHugh is a singer, comedienne, actor, and writer.

Heart 'n Soul of Jazz tickets are on sale now \$60 per person (\$65 after February 1) and can be purchased at the Arts Council offices – Camp-

bell House, 482 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines, calling 910-692-2787, or online at www.MooreArt.org

In addition to the concert ticket, admission includes the Meet-the-Artists Dessert Reception after the concert and a chance for some great door prizes.

Doors open at 7:30 pm for the 8 pm performance. Open Cabaret-seating is in the intimate, 2-tiered Cardinal Ballroom. Resort attire is the expected dress and black tie is optional.

Jazz ticket holders can take advantage of a special pre-jazz dinner in the Resort's Carolina Dining Room for \$42 (all inclusive) per person.

Dinner reservations can be made by calling 910-235-8434. Seating begins at 5 pm.

Outreach Valentine Party

The Annual Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine Party will be held on Friday, February 14, at 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

The Chapel invites everyone to come, especially those living in the community

that are alone or shut-in. The New Horizons Band in the Pines will provide music for everyone's enjoyment.

For information or if transportation is needed, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156 or Fran Stark at 673-5493.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

SLLA Candidates Night

Seven Lakes Landowners Association will host their "Meet the Candidates Night" on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:00 pm in the North Clubhouse.

Meet the Candidates Night is a pre-election event intended to provide residents of Seven Lakes

Landowners Association the opportunity to meet and question candidates who want to serve the community as Board of Directors.

The format will allow each candidate to introduce themselves and respond to questions from landowners.

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Experience is the best teacher, Commissioners find

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Sometimes, a little bit of firsthand experience makes a world of difference when it comes to governing — a fact about human nature that was illustrated at least twice during the Tuesday, January 21 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

Recounting a recent stint of jury duty at the Moore County Courthouse, Nick Picerno told his fellow Commissioners: "Actually having gone through the court facility, I really feel there are some legitimate issues at our court, and that the facilities task force probably needs to get together and maybe speed up our timetable just a little bit in terms of looking toward how we address some of those court issues."

Picerno noted that, previously, all of his "observations about the court were from a distance, not being in the court system, not working in the court system."

"I was the first one to say, 'I can't see three courthouses in Moore County,' [the historic courthouse, the current courthouse, and a new courthouse]; but, after having experienced that, I think that is something this Board is going to have to tackle."

Picerno noted in particular that he, as a juror, had trouble even hearing the defense attorney in the case. Commissioner Otis Ritter seconded that observation, noting that when he served on a Grand Jury: "I had decided that there were people convicted and on their way to jail before they knew what happened to them . . . The sound in that place is absolutely awful."

Hard Chairs in the Historic Courthouse

The value of some firsthand experience extended as well to the Historic Courthouse, which houses the Commissioners' meeting room and its row upon row of hard

wooden seats.

"I haven't been to court, and I don't plan to go to court," Chairman Larry Caddell said, "but I sat four-and-one-half-hours in one of those chairs out there in a Planning Board meeting, and I have asked the Manager to look into finding us about fifty cushions or something. It's terrible."

"We'd probably be lynched, but what we ought to do is take these chairs out, sand the floors down, and put some comfortable chairs in here, if we are going to keep using this building long term. We would probably be shot for doing it, but I can't imagine having to sit there for

four-and-one-half hours."

Caddell also remarked that the sound system in the Commissioners meeting room is effective only if the board members using it speak directly into the microphone, which neither Commissioners nor Planning Board members do consistently.

Sandhills Community Action Program

Karen Ray Thomas of the Sandhills Community Action Program [SCAP] provided the Commissioners with an annual report on the organization's activities.

SCAP is funded through a \$562,000 grant from the NC Department of Social Serv-

ices, and Thomas explained that its "main goal is to help people that are unemployed or underemployed to have better skills to help them get jobs."

SCAP services four counties — Moore, Montgomery, Richmond, and Anson — and expects to serve 375 individuals in the FY2015 budget cycle.

"We are almost a second

chance program," Thomas explained, helping low-income individuals who have otherwise fallen through the cracks of other social assistance programs.

By way of example, she mentioned providing child care assistance to young mothers who can't afford day-care, so that they can attend school and acquire the skills

(See "Commissioners," p. 23)

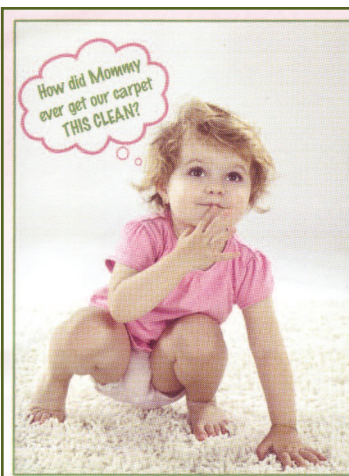
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— Darrell Marks

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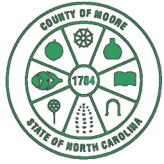
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Melton, Caddell Bow out

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Jimmy Melton surprised attendees at the January 9 annual retreat of the Moore

County Board of Commissioners with the announcement that neither he nor Commissioner Larry Caddell would stand for re-election in November.

Caddell was not present for the meeting, caring for his mother in the hospital.

Melton noted that he and Caddell were initially elected at the same time, in November 2006.

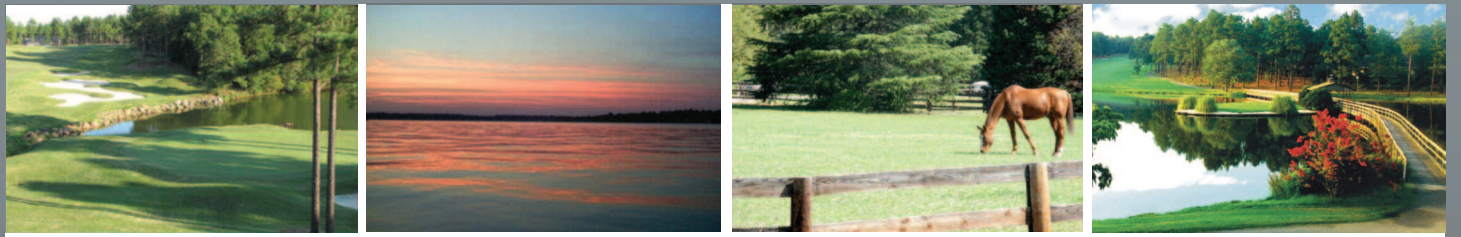
"The Bible says everything has its season," Melton said, "a time to plant, a time to grow, a time to harvest. We have gone through the planting season and will look forward to your harvest."

The announcement by Melton and Caddell sets up an unusual situation, in which three seats on the Board of Commissioners are in play.

Though filing for office does not get underway officially until February 10, Louis Gregory has already announced his intention to run against incumbent Commissioner Otis Ritter for the District III seat (which includes Seven Lakes West) in the May Republican Primary.

The absence of an incumbent in the District I and V races — roughly the Carthage and Aberdeen areas — could produce multiple contestants for those seats.

One candidate, Carl Romine of Cameron, has already announced his intention to stand for Caddell's seat on the Board.



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MLS# 156694 \$289,000



160 Pinelands Vista, Foxfire
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MLS# 154258 \$293,900



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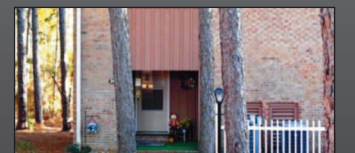
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3 Foxfire Blvd, Foxfire Golf Front
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118 Lancashire Ln. 7 Lakes South
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2563 Murdocksville Rd, West End
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Grand Pines Vista –

Lots 92-96 2-12 Acres \$95,000-\$220,000

Vista Ridge West –

Lots 58-66 2-4 Acres \$90,000-\$135,000

152 Grande Pines Ct. E 3 Acres . \$84,500
Vista Ridge East 4 Acres \$135,000
150 Pinelands Vista.94 Acres ... \$45,000
14 Green Valley Lane .86 Acres . \$29,900
Lot 11 Tufts Vista 10.34 Acres ... \$84,500

FOXFIRE

Lot 2 Tufts Vista 6.05 Acres \$49,500
Lot 1 Tufts Vista 5.84 Acres \$49,500
Lot 3 Reynwood Vista 5.10 Acres \$45,500
18 Oak Hill Drive 1.05 Acres \$60,000
165 Second Wind Ct. 2.76 Acres . \$75,000

JACKSON SPRINGS

Rose Ridge Road-
Lots 1 & 3 2.6-2.63 Acres \$35,000

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146 Cardinal Dr 1.17 Acres \$49,500
117 Firetree Ln \$15,000

SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

107 Devonshire Ave \$13,000
104 Bexley Ct .63 Acres \$18,500

SEVEN LAKES WEST

139 Beacon Ridge Dr 47 Acres .. \$39,000
104 Myrick Ct \$25,000
106 Myrick Ct \$25,000
501 Longleaf Dr \$27,500
549 Longleaf Dr \$27,500
103 Paul Rd \$34,500
105 Paul Rd \$34,500
101 Bancroft Ct \$34,500
101 Tucker Ct \$18,500
107 Phillips Dr \$17,500
104 Drum Hill Ct \$20,000

SEVEN LAKES WEST

104 Baker Cir \$27,500
126 Baker Cir \$69,900
117 Baker Cir .45 Acres \$295,000
113 Banbridge Dr 1.38 Acres ... \$99,500
159 Morris Dr \$445,000
176 Morris Dr \$35,000
115 James Dr \$30,000
117 James Dr \$32,000
TBD Morganwood Dr 5.06 Acres \$79,000

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205 Pebble Dr 1.15 Acres \$17,000
221 Pebble Dr .89 Acres \$16,000
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Commissioners' Retreat

County budget goal: No increase in taxes

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



County Manager Wayne Vest asked whether there was any "specific direction from the Board" as Moore County begins its budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2015.

Vest posed the question during the Commissioners' annual planning retreat on Thursday, January 9.

Picerno opened discussion of the budgeting process with

"No tax increase." That was the response of Commissioner Nick Picerno when

praise for the spending restraint shown by the County staff in the last fiscal year. Noting that the County's General Fund expenses rose by only \$150,000 from FY 2012 to FY 2013, Picerno noted that \$110,000 of that increase went to education.

"So our total increase in spending was \$40,000 for everything else the County did last year," Picerno said.

"There is \$3 million worth of debt service on this building," he continued, referring to the Rick Rhyme Public Safety Center, in which the retreat was held, "and yet we spent \$40,000 more. That

just goes to show how well, Wayne [Vest], the Finance Department, department heads, employees, have bound together and made do with a lot less — and made Moore County a better place to live."

"What that is going to allow us to do is to put some money aside, so that, when we have to replace an aging school building or replace a court facility that is not adequate, we don't have to go to the public and increase taxes."

Emphasis on Public Safety

When Vest later asked for direction on budgeting for

staff positions, Picerno, who has long taken the point position among the Commissioners on budget issues, said the emphasis needs to be on public safety.

"We believe that, to run an efficient government, the priority in government should be public safety," he said, pointing to an increase in Emergency Medical Services from 52 to 66.75 full time equivalents.

"We feel that is a vital need for Moore County because of the population that we have and the geography that we have," Picerno explained. "The goal has been to control

spending growth in other areas so that more emphasis could be put on public safety."

As a result, "We are meeting the national average response times pretty much everywhere — and beating it in many places," Commissioner Otis Ritter said.

"We have eliminated a lot of vacant positions that departments weren't using and then asked the department heads to come back to the budget team meetings and justify them," Picerno said.

West End Pres emphasizes missions

West End Presbyterian Church will be sending out two mission groups later this month as part of its quest to do more mission work.

The first is a group of middle schoolers, who will be headed to Charlotte the last weekend of January to work with the CROSS ministry there at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. CROSS works with many urban ministries in the Charlotte area in providing services to the homeless and to the underprivileged.

Then the church will be sending a dele-

gation of ten adults to Chetumal, Mexico later this month and into February.

This group will be working with West End Presbyterian's sister church in Chetumal to learn more about the expanding ministries of the Mexico church and to discover ways the churches can continue to work together. The relationship between the two churches goes back more than a dozen years.

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

Public Service Announcement
for our Seven Lakes Clients

Amy McBryde
amymcbride@fcignc.com

The North Carolina Rating Bureau has updated their Homeowner Policy Program for use by all member companies in North Carolina from approval by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The new program, Homeowners 2011, will replace the current 2000 Homeowners Policy Program. All North Carolina policies will be reissued to include copies of the revised forms. These changes will affect all new and renewal policies written effective on or after April 1, 2014 that include some broadening of coverage, some coverage reduction and other miscellaneous changes. For more information on how these changes will affect you, please call or make an appointment to visit with your servicing FCIG agent, Amy McBryde, or Jill Edwards at 692-8303. If you're not a client of ours yet, maybe it's time you make a change and allow us to earn your business.



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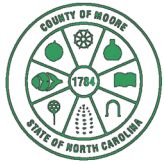
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Commissioners' Retreat

Public Safety recommends new Fire Commission

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips presented the Commissioner with a plan for creating a Fire Commission to replace the recently disbanded Emergency Services Advisory Committee [ESAC].

The County has been slowly modifying its approach to managing fire and EMS services, based on the recommendations of a comprehensive study of fire and EMS services in Moore County conducted last year by the consulting firm VFIS. The Public Safety Department and Fire Chiefs Association have collaborated on developing a plan for evaluating and implementing the study recommendations.

Phillips said the proposed Fire Commission would:

- Review and make recommendations on both operating and capital budget requests from fire and EMS squads;
- Support firefighter and volunteers incentive, retention, and recruitment efforts;
- Make recommendations to the Commissioners for future improvements of the County's fire protection system.
- Review Insurance Service Office fire ratings for each squad and recommend actions for improvement.
- Develop and make recommendations on the operating guidelines for each squad.
- Develop a minimum training standard for County fire and rescue workers and volunteers.

Phillips proposed a committee with nine voting members, including four active fire and rescue volunteers plus a citizen representative — someone not involved in the fire service — from each of the five Commissioner Districts. In order to ensure balanced geographical representation among the fire and rescue workers, Phillips divided the County into four

regions — North, South, East, and West — assigning four or five departments to each region.

The President of the Chiefs Association would join the Commission as an alternate and Phillips and Fire Marshal Ken Skipper would serve as ex officio members. The Commissioners would make all appointments.

A unified system

Phillips said the Commission would help standardize procedures and training across the County and facilitate long-range planning for equipment and personnel. The goal would be a more unified fire protection system

for the County, with greater interoperability among the individual squads. The budget process would be simplified, in that each squad would present its budget to the Fire Commission for review before it moves on to the Board of Commissioners.

"With the change that we have experienced here in the last two years, with the consolidation of rescue and fire," Commissioner Otis Ritter said, "we felt it would be helpful to make this change. Having citizens involved on the Commission will bring in new ideas."

Most of the County's Rescue Squads have merged with fire departments that serve

the same area; Seven Lakes EMS is the only remaining stand-alone rescue squad.

Ritter has a long history of working with Emergency Medical Services on both the local and state levels, and chaired the ESAC for twenty years.

"It's not that ESAC was not doing an efficient job," Ritter said. "It was that we needed to restructure to fit the situation that we have today. We're going to go forward and make this even better than it was before."

A single fire tax rate?

The County is already in the process of planning the

FY 2014-2015 budget, and Phillips presented three options for setting fire tax rates and operational budgets for next year:

- Implement a single County-wide tax rate, funding departments at current levels plus growth for FY 2015 until the fire commission can establish a long term funding strategy.
- Stay with the current system, setting a separate tax rate for each district, until the new Commission establishes a plan.
- Implement a single tax rate, asking the new Commission to come up with a

(See "Public Safety," p. 21)



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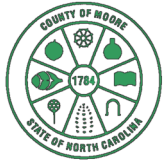
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Commissioners' Retreat

More water from Harnett Co awaits loan approval

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Public Works Director Randy Gould provided the Commissioners with an update on current Public Works projects during the Board's Thursday, January 9 Annual Retreat:

Harnett County Water. The County has an application pending with the state for a no-interest \$11 million loan that would cover the cost of bringing additional water from Harnett County to Seven Lakes and the surrounding area. Gould said the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources is forming a committee to evaluate that and similar applications. The Committee will deal with sewer projects first, but expects to consider applications for water projects in March.

New Wells. The County water system currently includes twenty wells, Gould told the Commissioners, "and we are looking to drill more." Of three proposed new wells on Linden Road, two tested positively, while the third did not prove viable. Gould said there is another potential well site in the McCallister subdivision off Chicken Plant Road. "We have secured an

easement for a test well," he added.

Pine Forest. The developer of the proposed Pine Forest community faces a September deadline to put in place water and wastewater treatment agreements with the County, or see his permit for the PUD expire. The original plan was for the developer to build a private wastewater treatment plant, but Gould said they now plan to focus on developing a hotel and some commercial properties initially. They have proposed installing a sewer line that will connect with the County system, carrying wastewater to the County treatment plant. Gould said the same line could eventually be used to carry wastewater to the private Pine Forest plant, if it is built.

"Technically, it's doable," Gould said, "but some issues have to be addressed through Planning."

The same developer is responsible for the Dormie Club development near the intersection of Beulah Hill Church Road and NC Highway 73. That project received funding through the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center that funded the connection of the development to the County water system. In exchange, the developer promised to create a specific number of jobs.

"It looks like they are going to be short six jobs," County Manager Wayne Vest told the Commissioners. "They have acknowledged that they will have to do a reimbursement for the grant." What remains to be sorted out is to whom they pay that reimbursement, since the Rural Center has been disbanded.

Vest added that the Pine Forest water and sewer agreements, as well as the Dormie Club Rural Center grant reimbursement, must be in place before moving forward with the proposed sewer line.

"We specifically pointed out that they had to do the agreements before they could move forward with anything," Commissioner Nick Picerno added.

Other Projects

Other Public Works projects either underway or planned for the near future include:

- A \$1 million sewer lift station at Pinehurst number eight.
- Improvements to portions of the Vass water system in order to serve a new subdivision.
- Replacement of the Coun-

ty's central sewer interceptor at the Pinehurst traffic circle, which is currently underway and should be completed in February.

- The expansion of the County's Addor wastewater treatment plant, which is complete, but awaiting formal closeout pending negotiations of the size of the final payment with the vendor.

Solid Waste

Solid Waste Manager Chad Beane told the Commissioners that the County has been

(See "Public Works," p. 21)



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Board resolves 4-H Club & ADA issues

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

A proposed Seven Lakes 4-H Club and compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act [ADA] were on the agenda for a Special Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors, called for Tuesday afternoon, January 21.

During the Board's Monday, January 6 Work session, Director Bob Darr asked the Board to allow Stables Manager Kate Pennington to start a local 4-H chapter. The January 21 Special meeting aimed to flesh out the implications of that request, in terms of responsibility, requirements, and potential liabilities.

Because children who are not SLLA members would be permitted to join the club, also on the table was the question of whether that would trigger a need for the stables and other SLLA facil-

ities to be ADA-compliant — a question that has been raised previously regarding other activities, for example, the use of the Northside swimming pool for swim meets.

Pennington explained that many of the concerns expressed by Board members

during their Work Session were unfounded. The proposed 4-H group would meet once a month in the evening, when Pennington and another staff member were off the clock. The classes would range from etiquette to self-defense.

The group would meet only

during the school year. The projects undertaken by individual 4-H Club members could be horse-related, if desired, but there would be little riding time.

"Riding time would be a maximum of three to four times a year," Pennington said. "At McLendon Hills, they don't ride at all and are still considered a horse club. For example, they do things on anatomy of a horse or hoof."

President Steve Ritter worried that it would be difficult for Pennington not to mix her work time with volunteering.

"This could potentially be a slippery slope," Ritter said. "You are not allowed to do

anything on company time. It all has to be volunteer time."

Pennington confirmed that that was her understanding, adding that she was not on the clock while attending the Special Meeting.

Several residents wondered whether a resident parent might be willing to head up the program. Darr and Pennington both said there were several parents that had agreed to organize the group. Background checks would be required of all volunteers.

Board Director Bill Hirsch suggested that a resident parent, instead of Pennington, could organize the group without involving SLLA in

(See "SLLA," p. 15)

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is February 8

Seven Lakes Kiwanis will hold their 31st Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 8 from 7 am to 11 am, at West End Elementary School.

Breakfast will include pancakes, sausages, orange juice, coffee and tea. Take-outs will be available. There will also be an opportunity to win a 42" flat screen TV.

Tickets for the breakfast are only \$8 and are available

from any Kiwanis member or at the WEE school office, Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Quality Care Pharmacy, Sandhills Winery, Lakeside Barber Shop or at the door. Money raised by the Kiwanis Club will be donated to West End Elementary School and West End Boy Scout Troop 98, as well as other children's charities in Moore County.



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This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. Space is limited.

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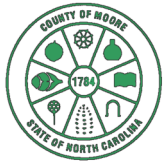
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Sand Mine gets O.K. from Planning Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A sand mine on NC Highway 211 opposite West Pine Elementary and Middle

Schools was approved by the Moore County Planning Board during its Thursday, January 9 regular meeting.

The Conditional Use Permit was requested by Hammill Construction Company, Inc. and included fourteen acres of an eighty-nine acre parcel owned by McDonald Family Farms, LLC.

David Miller of Hammill Construction told the Board that activity on the site would be relatively limited. The company would spend a week preparing the area to be mined, and, afterwards, would screen sand once every two weeks. Two or three drivers each day would enter the site, load their tractor trailers with screened sand, and depart. No extensive nighttime activity is expected.

The site adjoins the Pine Valley subdivision, and resident Tony Hill asked whether the operation would disturb wetlands in to the degree that it would negatively affect a Pine Valley Lake. Planning Board Chairman Robert

Hayter assured him it would not.

Hill also asked whether activity on the site would threaten the wells of Pine Valley residents. Hayter said he was not qualified to speak

on whether the mine might affect groundwater, but added that consideration of those impacts would be part of the application process for a state mining certificate.

Hammill has operated a

sand mine on a nearby property for 25 years, Miller said, with no problems. Mike Wilson, whose property adjoins that mine, said Hammill "is operating over our property, and you hardly know they

are there."

The Board unanimously approved the conditional use permit, waiving requirements for additional buffer plantings, given the existing vegetation on the site.



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Reagan Dinner

The Moore County Republican Party will host a Ronald Reagan Birthday Dinner on Thursday, February 6.

Social time at 6:00 pm; dinner served at 7:00 pm at Pinehurst Country Club. Cost is \$75 per person. Speakers include Lt. Governor Dan Forest, Republican Party Chairman Claude Pope and Psychologist and Author, Dr. Timothy Daughtry (Waking the Sleeping Giant). Cash bar and music provided by Clarence Levine. For reservations and details visit Moore County GOP website, www.mcncgop.org or call 910-673-4029.

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In memory of . . .

Sarah Brumagin Dickson, 87, of Seven Lakes died Saturday, January 18, at FirstHealth Hospice House with her family by her side.

Mrs. Dickson was born in Jamestown, NY daughter to the late Myrl Brumagin and Clara Craig Brumagin. She attended college in Ohio where she was a home economics major and received a four year degree.

She met the love of her life, John M. Dickson, a WWII Veteran, and they married in 1948. She and her husband retired to Seven Lakes in 1986, where they enjoyed the game of golf, dinner social clubs and friends. Mrs. Dickson was an avid bridge player, enjoyed cooking, loved her Seven Lakes home and her view of the lake.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held Thursday, January 23, at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. Celebrant Jim DeKornfeld officiated.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John M. Dickson, Sr. and two brothers.

Survivors include sons: Timothy Dickson and wife Nancy of West End; John "Mack" Dickson, Jr. and wife Annette of Fayette, Ohio, and two grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Marianne Anstey, 83, of Lynchburg, VA, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Friday, January 10.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 19, at Brig-

gs Funeral Home Chapel, Candor. Burial followed in the Pines Cemetery.

Together with her husband, Mrs. Anstey raised her family predominantly in Hicksville, NY. Upon their retirement, they moved to Seven Lakes. She loved the area and enjoyed many years there. It will serve as her final resting place.

She was preceded in death by her husband Lloyd Anstey.

Survivors include her children, Carolyn (Roy) Fleming, of Gilbertsville, PA; Wayne (Kim) Anstey, of East Northport, NY; Leslie Gryder, of Lynchburg, VA; and her grandchildren.

Matilda Nestle, of Seven Lakes North, died at Carolina House of Pinehurst, Sunday January 5.

A Celebration of Life, Death,

and Resurrection was held at West End United Methodist Church, Saturday, January 18.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years Shirley Nestle.

Survivors include her son Arthur (Nancy) Nestle of Ira, Michigan, and daughter Carol (David) Woodward of Whitehouse, Ohio; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and her companion Tippie.

Memorial donations may be made to West End United Methodist Church, PO Box 276, West End, NC 27376 or First Health Foundation, designate either Cancer Care Fund or First Health Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Rhyne Center open to the public for tours

Sheriff Neil Godfrey announced that the Sheriff's Office will be providing tours of the Rick Rhyne Public Safety and Detention Center.

The tours will be conducted every Friday afternoon from January 17 through March 1. Tour times are 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm.

Tours will include the Sheriff's Office, 911 Center and the Detention Center. Each tour will last approximately 90 minutes.

Anyone wanting to visit

the facility should contact the Sheriff's Office at 947-2931 to reserve a spot on one of the tours. The Sheriff's Office is encouraging visitors to sign up for a time in order to make sure that they have sufficient staff available for the tours.

Special arrangements will be made for any civic clubs or organizations that wish to tour the facility.

Visitors should park in the parking lot located directly in front of the facility.

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McDonalds Community embodies 200 years

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

There are precious few uninterrupted stretches of rural road left — roads where the only greens are pastures, the gates serve to keep livestock in the pasture, and "tea time" is sweet, iced with a wedge of lemon on the front porch.

An even rarer find is a road that traces the two century history of a single family and the community they built.

In the sandy longleaf pine forest on Deep Creek, Scottish Highlander Alexander McDonald and Catherine McRae made their home and worked their farm near the path of what is now Foxfire

Road.

The McDonald cemetery — a small clearing on top of a hill — came long before the church, McDonalds Chapel. The graves were originally marked with thick wood planks. Many have since been replaced with longer-lasting granite stones.

"They were farmers and worked in timber," David McDonald explains. It is Sunday after church. David and his wife Amy raised their family within walking distance of their descendants' resting place.

Their land is McDonald land — as is so is much of the land around them, hand-

(Continued on page 13)



Sharon McDonald proudly lives in — and cares for — the house her grandfather built.



An angel stands guard over the McDonalds Cemetery.

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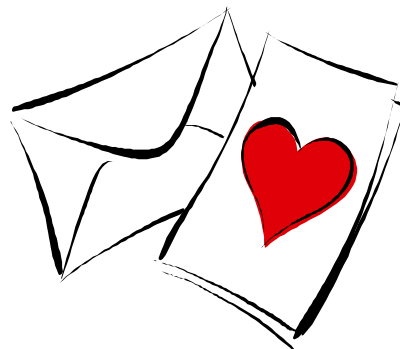
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of one family's love affair with the Sandhills

ed down generation after generation. David and Amy's youngest son Duncan is a senior at Pinecrest and grew up surrounded by first cousins who were also his best friends. Duncan often plays his guitar, along with his father, aunt, cousins, and friends, at the acoustic music circle at McDonalds Chapel.

Musical talent seems to run in the genes. David's sister, Jane Cummings, plays the piano and organ for church services. Their cousin Sharon McDonald plays several stringed instruments. Both Jane and Sharon live in well-loved, hand-me-down houses.

Jane and her family live in her grandparent's old farmhouse, tucked neatly back in the woods. In the 19th century, because of the threat of fire, the kitchen was often a separate building behind the house. At some point, Jane's kitchen was moved forward and joined with the main house.

"It is a very small community," Jane said. "My dad knew whose car was coming down the road by how it sounded. One of the reasons the Community Chapel started was that people couldn't get to town for church." Many of the original clan were mem-

bers of Mineral Springs Presbyterian in Jackson Springs.

Amy gives a tour of the McDonalds Chapel foyer. One of the original brass oil lamps hangs in the corner. A framed early 20th century photograph shows the children in the McDonald Community dressed for Sunday School, held at the home of Archie and Alice McDonald, so children wouldn't have so far to travel. The Sunday School was so popular that the community felt it was ready to

build its own church.

McDonalds Chapel was built on three acres of land adjoining the cemetery. Sharon's brother Paul McDonald has recorded the history of the community and church.

"In 1939, the doors of McDonalds Chapel opened as a chapel of the Community Presbyterian Church of Pinehurst," his account reads. "In the late twentieth century, it became a fully operating Presbyterian Church on its

own. The families loved this church in the wildwood."

Since then, twenty-seven acres were donated to the church. The crisp white one room chapel is bright and cheery. The clear glass window panes provide worshipers a view of the peace garden, surrounding forest, and occasional wildlife.

It is this view that Amy wants to preserve.

"Once you build your house on family land you have made a commitment," Amy said. "I really hope that our land will stay in the family and not to be sold or developed.

I care about maintaining our land and hope to plant longleaf."

In the 19th and early 20th century much of the Sandhills longleaf pine forest was tapped, bled, and cut. Scottish settlers sought to make their living selling tar, pitch, and turpentine for use in shipbuilding. After the tree died, they would cut it for lumber.

Restoring the native forest doesn't happen overnight. Across the way, Sharon McDonald has cared for her longleaf pines since they were

(See "McDonald," p. 19)



The McDonald clan's history in Moore County stretches back before the birth of the United States.



The original McDonalds Cemetery markers were simple wooden planks.

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Cruise Planners' Darwell & Rogers at Kiwanis

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Cheryl Darwell and Sharyne Rogers spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, January 14, regarding the money-saving potential of planning a holiday via the "Cruise Planners" agency.

Everyone knows that travel agencies deliver "value" through their service whenever problems and difficulties arise before or during a trip.

"Most people, however, are unaware of the numerous ways that Cruise Planners can save everyone money during the programming and purchase of a cruise," Darwell said. "For example, as sailing dates approach, sometimes the cruise line will reduce their fares."

Cruise Planners has an arrangement called "fare-match" which allows them to let their already booked passengers participate at the reduced rates. This applies to land-based tours and hotels, as well.

Many cruise lines have other perquisites, but you must ask for them. On river boat tours if you have a group

that purchases five cabins, one customer gets a free fare. On sea-going vessels customers can get one "freebie" for eight cabins.

Veterans on trips of seven days or more can ask for a \$100 credit. Other amenities that may be available sometimes include free tips for room stewards and dining room service. Credit for some onboard liquor along with welcoming champagne & cheese in the travelers stateroom is another possibility.

Cruise Planners is a large organization that has more than 800 agencies nationally. Darwell reported that last year her agency ranked third in competition among 300 of their new operations.

American Express Company gave her company a special award in recognition of that performance.

Cruise Planners won an unprecedented eleven 2013 Magellan awards from *Travel Weekly*, including one for Community Involvement.

The Kiwanis Club meets at Seven Lakes Country Club on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. Their mission is to "serve the

community and its children." New interested members are invited to attend anytime.



Cruise Planners Sharyne Rogers, Associate, and Cheryl Darwell, Cruise Director

'Pamper the Ladies' at Women of Seven Lakes

The Women of Seven Lakes will meet on Thursday, February 6, at 2 pm, in the Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall.

The Women invite the community to join them for a "Pamper the Ladies" day.

This will be an "An Afternoon of Tasting and Feeling."

Presentations will be made by: Leslie from Sandhills

Winery. She will be pouring wine samples for everyone to taste, Red and White.

Janet from The Cold Stone Creamery, will be providing chocolates that complement the wines, and Lorraine from The Healing Place Massage and Wellness, will be demonstrating massage with her magic touch.

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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Broccoli & Cheddar Soup Baked Spaghetti Dinner	4 Curried Chicken Soup Chicken Fajitas Dinner	5 Beef Vegetable Soup Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	6 New England Clam Chowder Lemon Butter Tilapia Dinner	7 Tomato & Rice Soup ♥ Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥
10 Macaroni & Peas Soup Macaroni with Meat Dinner	11 Chicken Noodle Soup ♥ Chicken with Tomatoes & Peppers	12 Beef Barley Soup Beef Stew over Rice Dinner	13 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Linguine with Shrimp & Roasted Tomatoes	14 Lentil Soup ♥ Spinach Ravioli with Marinara Sauce Dinner ♥
17 Minestrone Soup ♥ Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	18 Chicken & Stars Soup ♥ Broccoli Rabe with Sausage Dinner	19 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Spiced Pear & Pork Chops Dinner	20 New England Clam Chowder Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	21 Tomato Basil Soup Five Cheese Pasta Dinner
24 Curried Carrot Soup Mexican Cassarole Dinner	25 Chicken Brunswick Stew Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	26 Corn Chowder Spicy Beef with Peppers Dinner	27 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Sautéed Shrimp with Peppers Dinner ♥	28 Spinach & Rice Soup Bowties & Broccoli Dinner ♥

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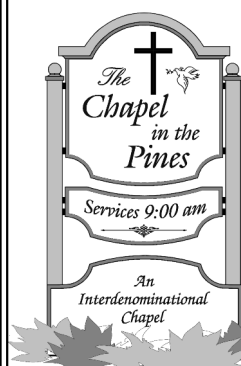
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SLLA

(Continued from page 8)

any way as a sponsor. He recommended the item be taken off the table completely.

"Once a resident forms the group, then they can submit a request for very specific uses [of SLLA facilities]," Hirsch said. "It takes us away from the whole thing."

Ritter agreed: "We don't really need to be involved if someone wants to start a 4-H club. That is not up to us. Once they are up in place then they can make a specific request like any other local group. Then we could ask the Board if they could approve or not approve those functions — once they are a club and know their focus and what they want to do specifically," Ritter said.

Consenting to the concept proposed by Hirsch and Ritter, the Board voted to remove the item from consideration.

Available to all Residents

Board Director Chuck Leach asked the Board to consider putting in place a plan for ADA compliance.

Giving examples of what the plan could include, Leach suggested: "Implementation of swim meets, parking assistance, access to changing facilities, implementation of food snacks available . . . It should be detailed among those different categories and provide the disabled with a plan, so that they know that we are sensitive to others' needs and that we are trying to address it."

Director Conrad Meyer agreed. "It would be nice for our association to be ADA complaint — for example, making the stables accessible and pool accessible," Meyer said.

"Personally, I would like to see our community be accessible, because we have people with disabilities living here," he added. "It would be nice if they could have access the facilities they would like to."

"The first priority should be the [North] Clubhouse," Hirsch suggested. "From a

sensible view we should think about making the Clubhouse facility ADA."

Hirsch, an architect by trade, has past experience in ADA construction.

"All of it is manageable in one form or another," he said.

"It doesn't have to be done all at once. Planning it out makes sense. Even the stables may not be that hard to make accessible."

The Board agreed that Hirsch and the Leach would begin to look at some of the

SLLA facilities to see what needed to be done.

"We have talked about putting this together in a five year plan," Leach said. "We might prioritize the stables because of Prancing Horse is very high on the agenda."

The Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding Group makes regular use of the SLLA Stables.

The Board agreed to have a compliance plan in place before actually modifying any facilities.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Book Thief*, starring: Sophie Nelisse & Geoffry Rush. Tickets: \$7. While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Book Thief*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

- **Zumba Class** – 10 am to 11 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Pruning Workshop at SCC** – 10 am until noon, Moore County Extension Agent Taylor Williams will conduct a workshop and demonstration on how to correctly prune. Free workshop at Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Tricia Mabe (910) 695-3882.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *The Book Thief*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long Show** - 7 pm, at the James H. Garner Conference Center, 210 Burnette Street, Troy. Listen to bluegrass favorites. Tickets \$20 reserved or \$15 at the door. Tickets 704-985-6987 jbranch205@windstream.net Information www.bluegrassintroy.com

- **Turkey Shoot** – Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. *12 Gauge Shot Guns only*. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

- **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 Dr., 673-3838.
- **History of Aberdeen Book Presentation** – 2 pm, A free talk about a new historical photograph book published about Aberdeen. Bethesda Presbyterian Church, U.S. 1 in Aberdeen. (910) 692-2051.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *The Book Thief*, starring: Sophie Nelisse & Geoffry Rush. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **EXPLORERS! A New Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet on Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5. Children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the

youth.

- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group invites all youth to join them as they meet each Sunday in the Youth Room at the church. Led by Mandy Allen, Youth Coordinator and is open to all Youth in 6th – 12th grades. Fellowship, study and a meal with the youth.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show at 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Little Country Giants*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting at 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Bruce Sorrie, author of *Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region*, will speak on Birding and Botanizing in Southern Brazil. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Book Thief*, starring: Sophie Nelisse & Geoffry Rush. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern

Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

- **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 West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.
- **Zumba Class** – 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

- **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. Weekly gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Facilitators: Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. No cost for participation. Contact Fran Stark 910-673-5493.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 6 to 9 pm, *Grand Opening Reception* for area artists, in the Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church building, 1145 Seven Lakes

Drive. Community welcome to meet artists – Magda Sonderfan, Jane Morelli, Susan Thomas, Roy Horton, Eileen Strickland, and Andrea Schmidt.

- **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 Drive.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Forgiveness Bible Study** – 7 pm, Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will begin a four week Wednesday evening Bible Study Class on Forgiveness. West End United Methodist Church, 673-1371.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

- **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

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- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines 692-3611.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1

- **Zumba Class** – 10 am to 11 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Black History Month Celebrations at Museum of the Cape Fear** – with April C. Turner at 2 pm. Dancing Stories with Turner will include dances, stories and songs from traditional West African culture to affirm community building concepts such as working together, integrity, and perseverance. Program is free. www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines 692-3611.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **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.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 and 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet on Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5. Children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth.
- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth

Group invites all youth to join them as they meet each Sunday in the Youth Room at the church. Led by Mandy Allen, Youth Coordinator, open to all Youth in 6th – 12th grades.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – show at 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Flatland Harmony Experience, Jeremy Gilchrist (opens)*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910) 944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

- **Zumba Class** – 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **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 Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meet the Candidates** – 7 pm in the North Clubhouse. A pre-election event to provide residents of Seven Lakes Landowners Association the opportunity to meet and question candidates who want to serve the community as Board of Directors.
- **Forgiveness Bible Study** – 7 pm, Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will begin a four week Wednesday evening Bible Study Class on Forgiveness. West End United Methodist Church.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **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.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** - meeting 2 pm, in the Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. Community is invited to join for a "Pamper The Ladies" day. "An Afternoon of Tasting and Feeling."
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Moore County Republican Party** – Ronald Reagan Birthday Dinner. 6 pm Social time; dinner at 7 pm, Pinehurst Country Club; \$75/person. Speakers: Lt. Governor Dan Forest, Republican Party Chairman Claude Pope and Psychologist and Author, Dr. Timothy Daughtry. Cash bar and music. Reservations www.mcncgop.org 910-673-4029.

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Museum celebrates Black History Month

The Museum of the Cape Fear invites you to kick off your Black History Month celebrations with April C. Turner on Saturday February 1, at 2 pm. Dancing Stories with Turner will include dances, stories and songs from traditional West African culture to affirm community building concepts such as working together, integrity, and perseverance. The program is free!

"This is Turner's second time performing at the museum and we are pleased to have her return," says Leisa Greathouse, curator of education. "She's talented and really knows how to get the audience involved, and for the museum, that's very important. Getting the audience involved offers them an opportunity to experience history," concludes Greathouse.

"The meanings and uses of the songs and dances are demonstrated in a fun, high-energy, inspiring journey," Turner emphasizes. "The audience will have fun when the language Wolof, a West African language, is introduced to them."

Together, Turner and the audience will explore the language of African dance symbols. Dancing Stories explore African folklore and demonstrates ways that African stories can bring a community together. At the end of the presentation, audience members are invited to participate in playing music together as a community. The program is a well-rounded cultural experience focusing on the strength of art to inspire, unite and educate.

April C. Turner is a Dancer and storyteller, she lives in Charlotte, and works as a film/TV actress. Turner has had supporting roles in the made for TV movies, Ditch Digger's Daughters, Stephen King's The Night Flier and several others. She co-starred in the major motion picture based on Truman Capote's novel, Other Voices, Other

Rooms and was featured on the hit NBC drama, ER, in an episode titled Middle of Nowhere. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Turner tours theatre productions, concerts and residencies to communities throughout the country

– using performances as tools to facilitate cultural education, promote literacy and build community with the arts.

For more information, www.museumofthecapefear.ncdr.gov



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LONG OR SHORT TERM RENTALS!

McDonald

(Continued from page 13)

seedlings. She stands proudly next to the straight young tree with a healthy mop of needles. At some point, the young trees will need a controlled burn to continue their growth into adulthood.

Sharon considers herself a transplant, even though she has attended McDonalds Chapel all of her life.

"I grew up in Pinehurst," she explains. "I'm a newcomer. But I went to church here all my life, and my grandparents were over here."

Sharon lives in the house that her grandfather started. Her father remodeled it at some point. She laughs: "Now it is warm on the inside."

Sharon, who made her career in social work, is an artist at heart. She has preserved the craftsman skill of the carpenters who built her house. Her home is cozy, welcoming, and is stylishly un-modern. In the kitchen is an exposed wall revealing the original unpainted tight grain planed boards. Painted wood valances frame the win-

dows on each side of the fireplace. She has an uninterrupted view of the woods from every window.

For Amy, it is important to be a good steward of the land. The five mile stretch of land bordering Foxfire Road was farmed long before Pinehurst was built.

"I like supporting our local farms," she says. "The people on this road have always raised crops, chickens, and livestock. I don't want to see that go away. I want that to remain for my neighbors,

myself, and my children. Forestry is also a type of farming."

Amy's traditional views are actually more contemporary than old-fashioned. There is a strong movement nationwide to not only preserve rural farmlands but encourage new small "micro-farms." A large garden, a flock of hens, smaller energy-efficient homes, and a clothesline are now considered amenities.

Not everyone that attends McDonald's Chapel is a farmer — or a McDonald, for that matter. The church has a small diverse congregation. "That has been the strength of our community church," Sharon said. "It is not a family church."

On any given Sunday, after church everyone is invited to the fellowship hall. A different family plays host each Sunday and prepares hearty refreshments for the congregation: from crockpots of stews in winter to late spring

stack your own strawberry shortcakes.

There's a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday and a standing room only candlelight service on Christmas Eve. On Easter, children search for brightly covered eggs full of candy among the blooming azaleas and dogwoods in the old cemetery.

In the late 18th century, Alexander and Catherine McDonald homesteaded and began one of the oldest communities in Moore County. On a sandy path the two-lane road winds its way through 200 years of history. Hemmed by Old Pinehurst and recently-incorporated Foxfire Village, it occupies a vulnerable position. Annexation and changes in zoning could unravel its rural and historic fabric.

"I don't want it to go away," amy McDonald says. "I want it to remain and be here for our neighbors and our children to live on and to farm."



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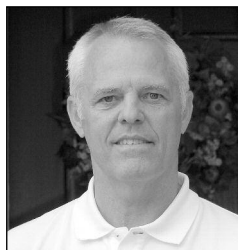
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Calcutt named region's Principal of the Year

New Century Middle School Principal Robin Calcutt was announced Monday as the Wells Fargo Sandhills/South Central Region Principal of the Year during a special ceremony at her school with the entire student body, staff and representatives from the district administration in attendance.

The recognition was a complete surprise for Calcutt who, without advance warning, walked into a gymnasium full of cheering students and staff. Martha Anderson, Regional Education Facilitator with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, made the announcement, and Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence presented Calcutt with a

plaque from the school district in honor of her recognition.

Also on the program, seventh grader Trinity Balloue read "Leaders vs. Followers" by Phil Gambrell. The eighth grade band, led by Jessica Traversino, then played a musical piece entitled "Achievement." Eighth grader Ryan Walker wrote a personal tribute to leadership and Calcutt. To end the celebration, there was a video montage of congratulatory wishes from staff and students.

Calcutt holds a B.S. from Wingate College, an M.Ed. from UNC-Greensboro, and a Master's in Administration from East Carolina University. She has served her entire

29-year career in Moore County Schools starting out in 1984 as an itinerant visual arts teacher in various elementary schools before taking a teaching position at Union Pines High.

During her 20 years there she was a visual arts teacher, digital communications system teacher, career technical teacher, digital literacy teacher, English teacher and, for her last four years there, served as assistant principal. She has also served as Instructional Technology Facilitator for the district. In 2011, she began her tenure as principal of New Century Middle.

Calcutt will now go on to compete against seven other regional Principals of the Year for the State Principal of the Year honor.

"Certainly, Mrs. Calcutt is an outstanding principal and a model leader who very much deserves this recognition," said Spence.

"She is a Moore County native, a product of Moore County Schools and has spent all of her career in this system excelling in each position she has held. We couldn't be more proud of her or more privileged to have such a talented educator working with our students."



New Century Middle School Principal Robin Calcutt with Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence.

Pinehurst Chocolate Fest

Celebrate chocolate and charity at the second Pinehurst Chocolate Festival on Saturday, February 8, from 10 am to 4 pm at Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

Events include a cupcake competition open to the community, homemade chocolate treats, chocolate-themed gifts, a silent auction, gift baskets, and candy making and cake decorating demonstrations. Lunch will be available.

A new feature will be the

sale of a Chocolate Cookbook with over 200 member-tested recipes plus six from area professional bakers and chefs and Chocolate themed tee-shirts.

This event will benefit Bethany House of Moore County, Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills, The Methodist Children's Home, and other Pinehurst Methodist Women's missions.

For details and a cupcake registration form see the website: www.pinehurstchocolatefestival.com or call 910 215-04559.

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Public Safety

(Continued from page 6)

means of allocating funds among different departments.

When Commissioner Randy Saunders asked if the last option was even feasible, given the tight budget timetable, Phillips replied "it could happen, but I don't feel it is the best option."

VIPER

The county is converting its emergency radio network to the VIPER system created and administered by the State Highway Patrol [SHP]. But the Patrol has thus far failed to provide enough unique radio identifiers to meet the County's needs.

Phillips said the County is still short 230 of the 880 IDs that are the minimum needed, adding that, ultimately, 1200 will be required.

The Sheriff's Office has been converted to VIPER, as has the Pinehurst Police Department, which had a failing conventional system. Public Safety is currently

working to bring Southern Pines Police onto the system, Phillips said, and plans to have all law enforcement agencies in the County on the system by March 2014. Fire and EMS will be migrated to VIPER by late June or early July, he said.

Phillips said he is working with American Tower to rent space for VIPER antennas on a cellular telephone tower recently approved for a location near Vass, and will also be interested in locating an antenna on a tower planned for NC Highway 705 north of Robbins, if that tower is permitted. Unlike some counties, Moore County does not require that tower companies provide space for emergency radios as a condition of obtaining a tower permit.

In response to a question

from Commissioner Nick Picerno, Phillips explained that the County bears the cost of installing the antennas, but the Highway Patrol then takes over maintenance costs.

Other Public Safety matters

Turning to other Public Safety projects, Phillips briefed the Board on progress toward completing and equipping the new fire and EMS substation on Carthage-Glen-don Road.

He also reported that Public Safety has moved to a continuous recruitment process that allows them to identify promising applicants and hire them on a part time basis in order to evaluate their performance before moving them to full time.

Public Works

(Continued from page 7)

dealing for some time with problems related to the emission of methane from County landfill closed in 1993. Dean said he will be bringing the Commissioners a proposal to install vents in the landfill.

When the landfill was closed in 1993, the County reached an agreement with its municipalities under which the County does not charge towns and villages for the disposal of yard waste. That agreement expires in 2013.

Beane said Moore County is the only County in the state that doesn't charge municipalities for the disposal of yard waste. The typical charge is \$30 per ton, and operating the the yard debris site costs the County \$250,000 each year. A new charge for the municipalities will be included in the fee schedule that is part of the County's FY2015 budget process.

Beane said he had switched vendors for electronics recycling, saving the County as

much as \$25,000 this year. The new vendors will either provide containers for the electronics waste, or will shrink wrap and palletize it.

Cell Towers

Planning Director Debra Ensminger briefed the Board on the current status of nine applications for cellphone towers submitted by American Tower — five of which were withdrawn because they ran afoul of County regulations that require the concealment of towers within a mile of NCDOT-designated Scenic Byways.

Ensminger told the Board that the Planning Board was scheduled to review the draft Unified Development Ordinance, including the regulations affecting cell towers that same night. [See story on front page].

Other Business

In other business during the retreat, the Commissioners were briefed on Information Technology projects and plans by IT Director Darlene Yudell, on Facilities projects

by Property Management Director Bobby Lake, and on the Moore Opportunity entrepreneur recruitment effort by Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Caleb Miles and partners in Progress CEO Pat Corso.

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

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SEVEN LAKES

Why are there so many hypocrites?

Have you ever been called a hypocrite? Perhaps no one had the audacity to call you a hypocrite to your face, but you have felt like a hypocrite without anyone having to say a word.

We call ourselves Christians, and most of the time we act like Christians. But, sometimes, we just mess up. I know that I have played lots of sports, and I have been known to blow a gasket while playing, every once in a while.

I am the pastor of a church and it is rather embarrassing to realize that you have just blown it in front of people who are looking to you as their spiritual leader.

Maybe you don't struggle with a temper, but maybe we talk about someone behind her back. The children drive you to your breaking point and you say something

that you regret. You have never said something that is not quite true in order to get your way, have you? We grow tired of people saying one thing and living something



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

completely opposite, especially if that person is me!

The word "hypocrite" comes from the ancient Greek theater, where one actor would often play two parts. When saying something humorous, he would put up a mask with a smiley face; when playing a tragic part, he would hold up a mask with a sad face.

A good actor could imitate the speech, mannerisms, and conduct of the character he was portraying. The word literally means, "one who hides behind a mask."

Somewhere along the lines there has developed this idea that, if you are a Christian, you never sin anymore.

I hate to say it, but many of us walk around holding up our Christian mask. We walk around the community as if everything is perfect, but struggle privately where no one can see. We can become modern day Pharisees if we are not careful!

The truth is that Christians are not perfect. In fact, one

of the requirements for becoming a Christian is that I must confess that I am a sinner.

Think about it. What other organization is there where you must confess your faults before they let you become a member? Can you imagine going to a job interview and telling the company that you are a great person, but you are a little lazy. I don't think that would work out very well.

Even the Apostle Paul said of himself, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst." *1 Timothy 1:15*. Notice that Paul didn't say that he was (past tense) the worst sinner, but that he currently is the worst sinner. He may have been the most faithful Christian of all times and

yet he saw himself as the worst sinner. The truth is that, as a Christian, I am far from perfect. I am just forgiven. John said in *1 John 1:8* "if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

So the next time that you feel like a hypocrite, remember that you are only a hypocrite when you hold up the mask. If you are authentic, you will be able to admit your faults, ask forgiveness, and move on. If you are not a Christian, please accept my apology for not always acting like a Christian.

I am a work in progress, not a finished masterpiece.

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

Trash clean-up crew needed

Dear Editor:

I have been coming to visit family in Seven Lakes for many years. I have now moved here and am proud to call this my new home.

Recently, I read that Seven Lakes West will be building a new guard house at a cost of \$500,000.

While I think this new

building is a welcome and necessary upgrade, I still see a need for improvement in the area.

I have noticed, as I'm sure many of you have, the roadsides outside of our gates are littered with unsightly trash. The situation has remained unchanged for the last three months and seems

to be getting gradually worse. With the US Open around the corner, I feel this situation needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

I want the visitors coming to the area to get the best possible impression of our beautiful Moore County community.

Solution: I propose the

donation or loan of three gas powered golf carts, the cost of gas, and a decent hourly wage for three hard-working Moore County residents.

I would like to be part of this crew. We will bag all trash, separate recyclable materials, and transport these items to the dump for proper disposal. This is some-

thing you can do for our community right now. This is not necessarily intended to be a long term solution, but I am willing to make the effort given your support.

Contact me at 910-673-8207. Thank you for your interest and your help.

*Curt Stoddard
Seven Lakes West*

SEVEN
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Letters to the
Editor

Your letters
welcome!

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

We prefer to receive letters via email at mail@sevenlaketimes.net, but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, The Executive Center.

Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

they need to make them employable.

"If you want a second chance to get out into the world and be productive, we are that second chance," Thomas said.

She told the Commissioners that the group served 100 participants in Moore County last year who entered the program with no income. Of those, 72 obtained jobs for at least 90 days. Thomas said SCAP partners with Sandhills Community College, the Employment Security Commission, and other local organizations to help participants find training and jobs.

She recounted several individual success stories, including a young mother of two who was able to return to school and obtain a certificate as a polysomnography technician [assisting in sleep disorder studies] and is now making \$22 per hour.

Duplicating efforts?

Congratulating Thomas on the success her program had achieved, Commissioner Picerno expressed concern that it duplicated efforts of other agencies, specifically the County's Department of Social Services [DSS], which also provides, for example, child care services.

"If you look and work with young ladies," Thomas replied, "you will find that DSS has a waiting list that is three years long. We provide daycare assistance when DSS can't pick it up."

"DSS won't provide child care for people who are just in school," Thomas continued, noting that DSS requirements insist that the parent also be employed.

"We have a woman who lost her job and thus lost her daycare," Thomas explained. "We want you to continue to go to school. But we only pay for day care when people are in school. All our people pay a percentage of the daycare cost."

Late in the meeting, Picerno returned to his concern that many social welfare programs are duplicative efforts.

"As a Commissioner, we

have to deal with a lot of different issues, as you saw with the Community Action Program tonight, which really confounds me. Because I think there's agency after agency after agency, and money, money, money, being spent on the same, same, same problem, and yet we have high unemployment, and it seems like we are just spinning our wheels."

"We feel good, because we are spending a lot of money, and we are doing a lot of things, but I wonder how many people work at that agency and how much money stays in employing the seven or eight staff members."

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday January 21 the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Awarded Legacy Inmate Communications a contract to provide inmate telephone service at the new Moore County Detention Center. Sheriff Neil Godfrey explained that Legacy offered the County a competitive commission rate on charges for calls, as well as a \$25,000 signing bonus. In addition, the company provides a live operator to answer incoming calls and GPS tracking of the location of the inbound caller.

- Award Golder Associates Inc. the contract to install three gas vents in the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill the County closed in 1993. The

landfill has had problems with the migration of methane gas, and the vents are an effort to address the problem. Solid Waste Manager Chad Beane said the cost of the project should not exceed \$58,200 and noted the plan had been approved by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- Waived the tap fees for sixteen lots in the Jackson Hamlet neighborhood in Pinehurst in exchange for easements that allow the County to lay pipe and provide sewer service to the neighborhood.

- Approved the waiving of tap fees as a general approach to compensating landowners for sewer easements. Public Works Director Randy Gould explained that having this option available would speed negotiations with landowners.

- Approved a timetable for the creation of the FY2015 budget, with the goal of holding a public hearing in early June.

- Reappointed Rev. Richard Rodda to the Moore County Library Board of Trustees, waiving, in his case, the two-term limit for members of that Board.

- Heard from County Manager Wayne Vest that the Planning Board has completed its review of the Unified Development Ordinance and were invited to meet with Planning Director Debra Ensinger to review changes made to the document.

Holistic Health

with BOBBIE SALANG FELDER



DECONSTRUCTING CRAVINGS

Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself.

— Cicero

The body is an amazing source of intelligence. It is always there for you, pumping blood, never skipping a heartbeat, digesting whatever food you put in it and maintaining homeostasis. Is this reliable, intelligent bio-computer making a mistake by craving ice cream or a hamburger or chocolate? Are cravings due to lack of will-power or discipline? I'd like to suggest that cravings are not a problem. They are critical pieces of information that tell you what your body needs.

The important thing is to understand why you crave what you crave. Perhaps your diet is too restrictive or devoid of essential nutrients. Perhaps you are living a lifestyle that is too boring or stressful. Your body tries to correct the imbalance by sending you a message: a craving. A craving for something sweet could mean you need more protein, more exercise, more water or more love in your life. The key to stopping the sugar craving is to understand and deliver what your body really needs.

Your body knows best and is always trying to create balance. However, products like refined foods, sugar, caffeine, alcohol and drugs (which have little or no nutritional value) are confusing to the body. They throw the body off-balance and can create serious cravings as your body tries to get what it needs to restore internal harmony. The more your food is whole and healthy, the easier it is for your body to stay in balance and provide you with a happier, healthier life.

No book or theory can tell you what to eat. Only awareness of your body and its needs can tell you. Of all the relationships in our lives, the one with our body is the most essential. It takes communication, love and time to cultivate a relationship with your body. As you learn to decipher and respond to your body's cravings, you will create a deep and lasting level of health and balance.

The next time you have a craving, treat it as a loving message from your body instead of a weakness. Try these tips to respond to your body:

- Have a glass of water and wait 10 minutes.

- Eat a healthier version of what you crave. For example, if you crave sweets, try eating more fruit and sweet or root vegetables.

- What is out of balance in your life? Is there something you need to express, or is something being repressed? What happened in your life just before you had this craving?

- When you eat the food you are craving, enjoy it, taste it, savor it; notice its effect. Then you will become more aware and free to decide if you really want it next time.

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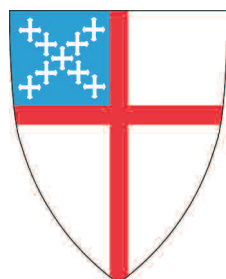
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School Board

(Continued from front page)

uary 13 School Board meeting to express the town's concerns.

Sheffield, who also serves as the town's Police Chief, read a resolution approved by the town commission opposing the closing of Elise.

"Members of my department go there every morning to provide security," Sheffield said. "We walk the halls with the principal every morning."

The new location would put the school outside his jurisdiction, Sheffield said, so MCS resource officers would have to handle those safety duties.

Sheffield reminded the Board that Robbins has just constructed a new fire and EMS facility near the school.

"What are you going to do with the building?" Sheffield asked. "Robbins cannot accept the facility. And we have enough eyesores now. Look at the old Robbins primary school — which was sold to an individual. It is an eyesore. It is deteriorating."

Speaking as a former Elise student, Sheffield said, "Sometimes it is not all about the money, you have to think about the heritage and the history." He invited School Board members to visit the school to inspect its condition firsthand.

Mayor English also called the Board's attention to the deteriorating condition of the old primary school.

"I don't want Elise to become something that looks like that in my community," he said.

"To move Elise out of the heart of town would be an economic disaster," Commissioner Stewart said. "We depend on the parents and students to patronize our businesses. It would be the equivalent of putting a big bypass around Carthage."

Support for expanding athletic facilities

Two North Moore High School parents — Germaine Richardson and Keith Grant — urged the Board to accept the Task Force's recommendation for a new "wellness

center" at North Moore, which they hoped would provide additional practice space for the school's two dozen athletic teams.

"An extra gym is very needed," Richardson said. "Other schools have it, and we need one, even though we are small in number. We have varsity players coming in at 5:30 am to practice. Some are leaving home at 4:45 in the morning. This is much needed. Other teams are there until eight in the evening. They are practicing in the auditorium."

"Along with our students practicing in the auditorium and concession areas — they're practicing in the field house," Grant said. "We need a larger area for them to wrestle in. The North Moore wrestling team was honored in this last year — and they're wrestling on a used mat that doesn't even match our school colors."

The trouble with closing schools

During the time set aside for comments from Board members, former Chairman Ed Dennison said he would like to see MCS resolve the

fate of the building that formerly housed Academy Heights Elementary.

Noting that the NC Constitution requires that the School Board sell the building for fair market value — estimated to be \$500,000 — Dennison said he hoped the Moore County Board of Commissioners would purchase the building from the Board of Education at that price, while perhaps decreasing the county contribution to the MCS budget by that same amount.

"I have talked with Commissioners," Dennison said, "and their attitude seems to be 'Why should we buy property that we have already paid for?' I would like for us to do something. We are going to have more property [through school closings] coming up."

Dennison added that he would also like to have the Board finalize its strategic plan adding two additional areas of focus: finance and facilities.

Chromebook order approved

At the request of Finance Officer Mike Griffin, the Board

approved the order of up to 3,400 Chromebook laptop computers. Those will be distributed to students at Union Pines and North Moore High Schools; Elise, Crains Creek, and New Century Middle Schools, and the sixth-eighth graders who attend Westmoore and Highfalls elementary schools.

The computers will be leased rather than purchased, Griffin explained, at a cost of \$300 to \$350. The final amount was to be negotiated with the vendor after the purchase was authorized by the Board.

Additional testing of devices will be done prior to the roll-out of computers or tablets to the remaining MCS schools next year. Griffin said the current thinking among MCS

staff is that every student in grades 3-12 will receive his or her own laptop or tablet. The experience of teachers and students at Carthage Elementary is being studied to determine whether grades K-2 should have one tablet per student or some other density.

In related business, the Board approved technology fees of \$35 per student per year at each school for those who have laptops or tablets to take home. If a device is damaged, a fee of \$50 will be incurred for the first incident, with a fee of \$100 for the second. The lost device fee is \$100 for the first instance, \$200 for the second.

(See "School Board," p. 25)



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School Board

(Continued from page 24)

Lawsuit over private school vouchers tabled

After discussion, the Board tabled a decision on whether to join a suit brought by the North Carolina School Boards Association [NCSBA] that attempts to have a new private school voucher program overturned, arguing that it violates the state constitution.

Passed as part of the state's FY 2013-2014 budget, the new program provides up to \$10 million for low-income families to send their students to private schools.

Board member Bruce Cunningham, a practicing attorney, told fellow Board members that the program is "a clear violation of the state constitution, bad policy, and the camel's nose under the tent," as the first step in diverting public funds to private schools.

"I certainly don't support school vouchers," Enola Lineberger said. "I don't sup-

port lawsuits, as well. Could we find out more about the litigation?"

Charles Lambert pointed out that the revenues of the NCSBA come from dues paid by member boards — and thus, ultimately, from taxpayers.

"Do you see a problem with tax dollars going to litigation?" he asked.

The Board is expected to take up the matter in a special work session on Wednesday, January 22, when the Board's attorney will prepare a summary of the suit.

Other business

In other business during the Monday, January 13 meeting of the Moore County Board of Education:

- After hearing a presentation from the North Carolina School Board Association [NCSBA] during a Work Session that preceded their regular meeting, the Board voted to hire the group to manage the search for a

new superintendent to replace Spence, who will leave at the end of the school year. The NCSBA assisted the Board in recruiting Spence, who will have served only two years in the post.

- Spence announced that New Century Middle School Principal Robin Calcutt was named the Wells Fargo Sandhills/South Central Region Principal of the Year. She will compete with seven other regional winners for statewide honors.
- Superintendent Spence presented West End Elementary Principal Leigh Ann McClendon with a Growing to Greatness Award.
- The Board presented Growing to Greatness awards to Robbins Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Savannah Ribet, Southern Pines Primary Custodian Errie Andrews, Westmoore Elementary Volunteer Jill Brown, and Pinckney tenth

grader Shelby McGregor.

- Associate Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter, with the assistance of students from around the system, highlighted the role that extracurricular activities play in student development.
- The Board received a clean audit of the FY 2013 financial records from Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP.
- The Board acknowledged the first reading of twenty-nine policy revisions, including one that allows individuals with a concealed carry permit to bring a gun onto school property, as long as the gun is kept in a closed container in a

locked vehicle. Cunningham, who chairs the Policy Committee, noted that he was personally opposed to the change, but it is required by legislation approved by the General Assembly.

- The Board approved a number of fee increases, including:
 - From \$35 to \$40 per week for afterschool.
 - From \$45 to \$55 for Driver's Ed.
 - Parking permits fees of \$25 for North Moore and \$75 for Pinecrest. Griffin explained that the Pinecrest parking lot is paved and supervised by an attendant.

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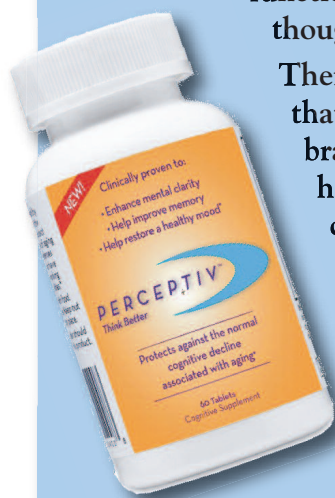
The new 2014 Seven Lakes EMS Phone Books are available now for purchase at the Seven Lakes North Landowners Office, Seven Lakes West Side Landowners Office, Quality Care Pharmacy, and Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe. The cost is only \$10 dollars each.

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UDO

(Continued from front page)
nance.

It was approved by the Planning Board in April of 2012, but the Commissioners decided to await the finalization and approval of the County's new Land Use Plan before taking up the UDO. Planning Board personnel changed significantly during the interval, leading Chairman Robert Hayter to reopen the UDO for review.

The Planning Board's final draft will move to the Board of Commissioners for possible approval in February.

Compromise on Cell Towers

The Board's extended discussion of wireless communications towers focused on distance: how close the tallest towers should be placed to neighbors, to roadways, and to historic properties like the House in the Horseshoe or the Bryant House.

After considerable debate, the Board reached a compromise that requires all freestanding, non-concealed wireless communications towers to be located:

- At least 500 feet from any roadway, with no special provision for Scenic Byways;
- At least 300 feet plus the setback required in the underlying zoning district from any home on an adjacent property,

- At least the height of the tower plus the setback required in the underlying zoning district from the property lines of uninhabited adjacent lots.

The required distance from a home is a new requirement. Both Chairman Robert Hayter and Vice Chairman Les Murray said they had received more calls from folks concerned about the possible proximity of a tower to their home than for any other concern.

The existing zoning ordinance required non-concealed towers to be sited at least one mile from roadways designated by the NC Department of Transportation as Scenic Byways. That resulted in the withdrawal of applications for several AT&T towers that were proposed for sites along NC Highways 705 and 24/27, the County's two Scenic Byways, and prompted the Board of Commissioners to direct the Planning Board to reconsider the ordinance.

Historic sites protected, but not scenic byways

The new ordinance will require a distance of one half mile from structures or properties identified as "historic" by federal, state, or local governments. No special provision was made for scenic byways.

"The citizens who live along a scenic byway are no more important than citizens who live along a secondary road four miles out," Board Member Aaron McNeill successfully argued.

Concealed antennas — those mounted on a water tank or concealed in a church steeple or silo, for example — are exempt from the setback requirements. Board members said they hoped that would encourage cellular telephone companies to use concealed towers rather than freestanding non-concealed towers.

Another significant change in the new ordinance is the removal of "breakpoint technology" in determining setbacks. Tower companies design towers to break at a point one hundred or so feet from the top, so that a catastrophic wind storm would knock off the top of the tower rather than flattening the entire structure.

The previous ordinance relied on the breakpoint to determine setbacks, rather than the full height of the tower. The new ordinance takes into consideration only the full height of the tower.

The old ordinance set eighty

feet as the maximum permitted height for a tower; applicants who wanted to exceed that height were required to provide special engineering studies. The new ordinance raises the maximum to 195 feet before special studies are required.

Taller towers can accommodate the antennas of more cellular service providers, and the new ordinance requires a specific number of such "colocations" based on tower height.

In a significant transfer of responsibility, the new ordinance moves the final decision on the conditional use permit for a tower from the Planning Board to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Hayter said he believed that all conditional use permits — because they

are by definition a departure from what is permitted by right — should receive final approval from the Board of Commissioners, who, unlike the members of the Planning Board, are elected by and accountable to the people.

Hayter asked Planning Director Debra Ensminger to pass along that recommendation to the Commissioners.

Other matters

The Planning Board's review of the UDO surfaced a variety of other issues, some dealt with on the spot and others deferred for later consideration by the Board.

- Molly Boggs asked why the general development standards in Article 8 of the UDO do not require devel-

(See "UDO," p. 27)



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UDO

(Continued from page 26)

- opers to submit a lighting plan or "some definite requirements for lighting." Ensminger suggested that the Board consider developing an ordinance amendment after the Planning Staff has had an opportunity to research the issue and brief the Board.
- Boggs also asked whether the planned unit development standards encouraged creating walkable and bikeable developments. Ensminger suggested taking up that question later.
 - The Board approved changes to the sign ordinance that permit the use of electronic signs capable of having changeable messages, while placing some restrictions on their use. Moving or animated images are not permitted, nor are flashing elements or "pyrotechnics." Images are required to remain static for at least thirty seconds, and the sign must be automatically dimmed at night.
 - Language dealing with flea markets was adjusted to allow them to remain in place for up to seventy-two hours, instead of being required to pack up every evening. And the sale of domestic and farm animals will be permitted.

Gallery Grand Opening Reception

The Gallery at Seven Lakes will host a Grand Opening Reception for area artists on Wednesday, January 29, from 6 to 9 pm in the Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church building, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

The community is welcome to come and meet the artists, that include Magda Sonderfan, Jane Morelli, Susan Thomas, Roy Horton, Eileen Strickland, and Andrea Schmidt.

The Gallery is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 4 pm. Watch for the open sign and flag.



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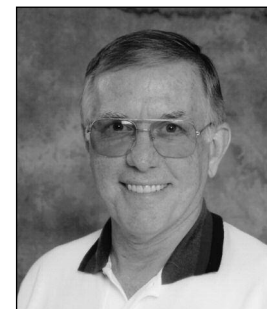
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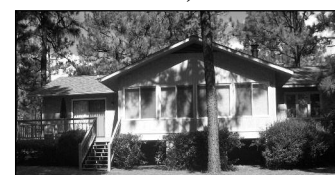
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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

shutoff valves were installed and protected with eight-by-eight foot concrete slabs six inches thick.

Those large covers now rise above the level of the roadway, and vehicles traveling Reynview Vista, according to residents, consistently swerve off the side of the road to avoid the slabs. The result is massive potholes — one right at the junction of Richmond and Reynview Vista.

"I don't know why they put this concrete structure and water valves in the middle of our road," resident Jeanne Gallagher said during the Council meeting public comment segment. "Everyone that comes in drives over this, and, as a consequence, what started out as the size of a dinner plate depression is now the size of a swimming pool. It looks like a sink hole."

"The people on the road feel the village has caused this problem, and they need to address it," she said. "I don't know what they were thinking. You hired engineers to put that water in. It seems like a very peculiar place to put such a vulnerable thing."

Resident Mike Cruse explained the hazard: "This culvert [slab] is at the beginning of the entrance. It causes the traffic to be routed around it, because no one wants to run over it, for fear of puncturing tire. All the traffic is channeled to this area."

be responsible for it. I don't feel like the cost should be pushed over to us."

"We have tried to work and fix it. It is not a fixable thing," he added. "Down the road is another one of these. They can damage a tire and bust a rim. We need to look at a long term solution to fix that. Whatever the reason, these two slabs are right in the middle and those are the issues for us."

Who owns Reynview Vista?

Councilman Vick Koos, who oversees street paving and repairs, disagreed that the Village should take responsibility, since the Village doesn't own the road.

"I agree it needs to be paved and asphalted," Koos said. "But I can't expect the Village to pave a street we aren't responsible for. I want to make it clear. I am not going to give up my responsibility of fixing things I am in charge of fixing. The problem is: the Village doesn't own that road."

Gallagher spoke up: "You can't dump this on us. Why weren't we consulted about where this thing was to go? No one came to us and asked, 'Where would you like it?'"

We were never consulted about anything. It was done when the water lines were put in."

"I want to make it clear," Koos replied, "if I said it the wrong way or you misunderstood me. The roads needs to be repaired and something needs to be done. There is no question about that."

"But I am not saying 'Too sad, too bad.' I legally can only repair roads that are Village-owned. That's the problem. If we can get around it, we will get around it."

"You are not asking for the entire road to be repaired?" Councilwoman Leslie Frusco asked. "It's the entrance area, I think."

The residents agreed.

Frusco continued, "We obviously cannot make a decision tonight. We need to take it under consideration, do some research, and help you come up with a solution somehow."

Reynwood resident John Quella said, "I believe if someone puts the hazard in my road, then whoever put it there should correct the hazard."

After continued lengthy discussion Mayor George Erick-

son intervened: "Leslie, a couple of minutes ago, you summarized our task. We have a work session coming on. In the interim we will work with Vic [Koos]."

Quella raised the issue again late in the meeting.

"We have a twenty-five mile per hour speed limit on Reynview Vista, but police can't enforce it because it is a private road," he said. "I also don't get any road repair. I am paying taxes for something that I don't even get. I think it's wrong that we have to come here and present this when something is wrong."

"For some reason, we are having to pay repairs for everybody else," Quella continued. "We are only talking

about the entrance and the concrete bunker. The only benefit we have from the Village is water. We pay extra taxes for something we don't get. We are asking for help from the Village."

New Water Superintendent

As the Village tries to figure out how to address the problem created on Reynwood Vista Road by some very large slabs protecting water system shutoff valves, one person likely to be involved in thinking that through is the Foxfire Water Department's new superintendent, David McCue.

McCue was identified after an extensive search for a qualified person to replace (See "Foxfire," p. 29)



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 28)

retiring superintendent John Sedlak.

Councilman Steve Durham made the recommendation to hire McCue at the January open meeting.

"David McCue has been a resident in Foxfire for twenty-one years," Durham said. "He has spent a career in water systems, and he is highly qualified."

McCue has all but one of the licenses required by the state. Sedlak will retain his license and continue on in a paid capacity until McCue earns the appropriate license.

Durham reassured the Council that Finance Officer Frusco had blessed the arrangement.

"I met with Leslie and talked about the finances," Durham said. "We are well within our allotted budget to retain both positions. It is clearly part time. We contract out in emergency situations, because we do not have the equipment to do the digging."

Annexations approved

The Council approved the annexation of two Grande Pines lots that everyone — developer Pete Mace included — apparently thought were already part of the Village.

Mace attended the required Public Hearing via his wife's cellphone.

The Grande Pines lots annexed are identified as lots 10 and 11, totaling six acres. Mace wants to divide the two lots into three two-acre lots. In addition to the confusion about whether the lots had been annexed, they were also divided between two zoning districts: RS-40 and Residential Agricultural.

"When we were putting the water lines in, everyone thought it was zoned RS-40 anyway," Mace said. "There was a little sliver that wasn't. We were trying to get it consistent with everything else. The reason we are bringing

this to the Village is so we can get the water."

Foxfire has a policy of providing water only to lots that have been voluntarily annexed by the Village. However, Mayor Erickson made clear that providing water to these newly-annexed lots would not result in additional cost to the Village.

"The water is not an issue for the Village — he has already put the water lines in," Erickson said.

Tightening Ordinances

The Council agreed to forward to the Planning and Zoning Board several recommendations for new or revised ordinances proposed by Councilman Mick McCue.

Blue Tarps and Plywood. McCue expressed concern about the use of building materials including plastic, tarps, and unfinished plywood as semi-permanent coverings on homes.

"A particular instance in the Village gave rise to this issue," he said. "I am trying to address this overall and get the Council's agreement to refer it to the Planning and Zoning Board."

"I have already talked to Planning and Zoning [Chair] Mary Gilroy a little bit about that," he added. "I have a draft if they would like to use it."

Accessory Buildings. Another concern of McCue's was the location and appearance of accessory buildings.

"We do not have anything requiring a certain distance from the main building other than it can't be attached," he said. "Fire issues is one of the main concerns and appearance, quite frankly, is another issue."

Frusco commented: "I would like to add to that. Yes, I would like them to take a look at accessory buildings in general and the ordinances that the Village has for them already."

"I felt this area could be a

slippery slope," Mayor Erickson said. "Hopefully Planning and Zoning could work with this. My concern is, on certain lots, if you make an accessory building too far from the house, we could have a situation where people on both sides could have accessory buildings because of configuration of lots, but the people in middle could not. If we make it too restrictive, they wouldn't be able to do it. Maybe there is a way to work through that, but I think it should be considered."

Equestrian Zoning. McCue also expressed an interest in clarifying the Equestrian Zoning District. Currently, the minimum lot size in the Equestrian District is six acres, which allows the owner to stable two horses on the property.

McCue has previously suggested using Equestrian Zoning for smaller parcels, though without allowing owners of those parcels to stable a horse. Horse ownership would only be allowed on six acre or larger lots.

"It is another one that came up recently during discussion with Robert Edwards," McCue said.

Edwards owns a 200-acre tract on the Village's eastern border that has been annexed but remains unzoned. The Council has considered using Equestrian zoning for that parcel, but would like to offer Edwards the option of subdividing it into parcels smaller than six acres.

Solar Farming

The Council also referred to the Planning and Zoning Board a request from David Wilson that his property be zoned appropriately to allow for the installation of a commercial solar farm. Located near the intersection of Hoffman Road and NC Highway 211, Wilson's property is in the Foxfire Village Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction.

"He wants to know whether

or not the Council has any ideas of what zoning district solar would be allowed in and whether or not it would be a conditional use," Mayor Erickson explained.

"If we were going to do this we would need to do it with minimum size acreage of 20 acres," Frusco recommended.

"It can't be visible from neighboring properties or roadways," she continued. The only zoning district we might want to consider for this would be RA. I think it would be very important to have Planning and Zoning look at the size of the solar farm in relation to the whole piece of property. I am very much in favor of asking Planning and Zoning to take a look at this."



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Great home w/open floor plan
4 BR / 2.5 BA
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Immaculate, cozy golf front cottage
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214 Longleaf Drive



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3 BR / 2 BA
136 Otter Drive



Seven Lakes North \$155,000
Charming ranch home in private setting
3 BR / 2 BA
105 Fox Run Court



Seven Lakes West \$289,900
Wonderful 2-story home on cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
108 Rector Drive



Seven Lakes North \$168,000
Charming cottage on two lots- great privacy
3 BR / 2 BA
255 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes West \$475,000
Stunning custom waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
459 Longleaf Drive



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3 BR / 2 BA
117 Pinecone Court

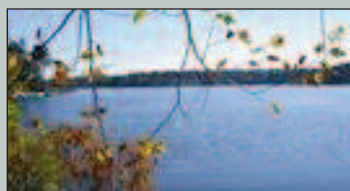


Seven Lakes West \$440,000
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
3 BR / 3 BA
109 Timber Ridge Court



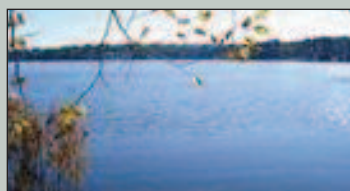
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600 Broken Ridge Trail

Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



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)



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Enjoy wide water views from this wonderful waterfront lot on Lake Auman! Cul-de-sac location! The perfect spot to build your dream home!



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Lakefront cottage w/custom upgrades
3 BR / 3.5 BA
103 Featherston Point



Seven Lakes West \$698,000
Gorgeous lakefront custom home
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Sun-filled home on well-landscaped lot!
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106 Somerset Lane



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Totally renovated on Longleaf Lake
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104 Rolling Hill 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 \$339,000
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3 BA
105 Tucker Court



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181 Firetree Lane



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122 Devonshire Avenue



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