

Sledding banned on Sequoia Dam

by Ellen Marcus
 Times Reporter



The rare heavy snowfalls this winter sent families to the nearest slopes to sled — including the face of Sequoia Dam. One resident teenager's back was broken when she sledded into one of the toe drains at the bottom of the dam.

In an attempt to prevent similar accidents in the future, The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors

voted, in a four-to-one decision during the Wednesday, April 30 open meeting, to prohibit residential access to the dam. No trespassing signs would be erected to reinforce the new rule. The ban will apply not only to sledding, but also to foot, ATV, and vehicular traffic.

Manager Ray Sohl reported that the new measures were recommended by the Lakes and Dam Committee.

"The reason is: the slope is not designed for sledding," Sohl said. "We have to main-
 (See "Sledding," p. 26)

West Side ponders yard art standards

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



"Someone is going to buy the polka dot pig. It will happen," Director Dan Blue told the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board during their Tuesday, May 6 regular meeting.

Blue presented the Board

with a set of guidelines for yard decorations that had been crafted by the Architectural Review Committee [ARC].

"There has been a lot of conversation about this, ad nauseum," Blue said. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. We have tried to give a series of guidelines without going into what is pretty or not."

The proposed rules, if
 (See "Yard art," p. 25)

Derby Day in Seven Lakes



Helen Mantila and Mandy Martin of FirstHealth Family Care Center - Seven Lakes were the pinnacle of "hat couture" at the Saturday, May 3 Spring Fest and Derby Day sponsored by the Seven Lakes Business Guild

New superintendent named

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



Dr. Robert P. Grimesey, Jr. will has been a p p o i n t e d Superintendent of Moore County Schools [MCS]. The Board of Education appointed Grimesey by unanimous acclamation during their Monday, May 12 meeting. He will take office on July 1.

School Board Chair Kathy Farren said board members are "confident that he will lead Moore County Schools to an even higher level of achievement."

Grimesey's brief acceptance speech made it clear he had done his homework on MCS. He praised the digital learning

initiative, the new master facilities plan, and the Growing to Greatness strategic plan that the board would approve later in the meeting, as well as noting the progress the district had made in improving student achieve-

ment.

Grimesey also mentioned the "economic and political challenges" the district faces, and the lack of significant salary increases for North Carolina teachers in the past
 (See "Superintendent," p. 18)

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Got Grads? We want 'em!

The Times will be publishing photos and vital stats on graduates in our May 30 edition.

To make sure your grad is included, get us the following by Thursday, May 22: a photo of the grad, full name, name and location of school, degree, names of parents, grandparents, or other Seven Lakes/West End/McLendon Hills/Foxfire connection, something about the grad's next big step in life (college, job, etc.) and anything else you think brag-worthy.

See the box on page 2 for our address, location, email address, and phone number.

McKenzies Mill performs May 30

The Harris brothers, Ryan and Justin, better known as McKenzies Mill, will bring their high-energy brand of "Southern Fried Rock and Roll" to Seven Lakes Village on Friday, May 30, in a free concert sponsored by Seven Lakes Business Guild.

Sons of Rick and Sharilyn Harris of Harris Printing, the Nashville-based brothers drew the largest crowd ever to a Business Guild event last Fall.

The band's high energy performances, hard-rocking tunes, and heartfelt original lyrics have wowed crowds and won awards from Nashville to Las Vegas.

"McKenzies Mill came out of nowhere and smacked this Vegas crowd right upside the

head," said Mark Prows, Director of Entertainment for MGM Grand Las Vegas. "they didn't see it coming. McKenzies Mill rocked it hard!"

The Seven Lakes concert runs from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Sarah Price opens at 6:00; McKenzie's Mill takes the stage at 6:30 pm.

The rain date for the concert is Sunday, June 1.

Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs to Village Central — the grassy area between Lake House Bar and Grill and TempControl that has become the headquarters for Guild events.

Wine, beer, soft drinks and water will be available for sale, with the profits going to support Guild projects to spruce up Seven Lakes Business Village.

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CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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.

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With God's help and your prayers, I will be able to make decisions necessary to keep Moore County one of the finest places in the world to live.

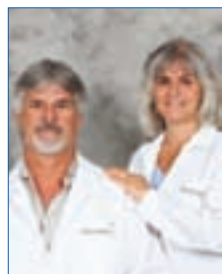
To those of you that went the extra mile to help me during my campaign, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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Changing water rates to encourage irrigation

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It was fire and water at the Tuesday, May 13 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council. Councilman Steve Durham proposed an overhaul of the Village's water rates and Councilman Mick McCue suggested strengthening the rules on open burning.

Using water rates to manage water usage

Durham suggested modifying the village's water rate schedule to make it less expensive for residents to care for their landscapes and thus add to the overall appeal of the village.

Linking to a Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis Model developed by the Environmental Finance Center at UNC School of Government allowed Durham to plug in different water rates to determine their impact on water usage.

He was able to draw comparisons with Moore County water usage and rates and with the town of Robbins,

which has a slightly larger population.

The village currently uses an increasing rate block schedule — in other words, as a home uses more water, at certain intervals, the cost per gallon increases.

Durham advocated maintaining that structure, but suggested that it would be appropriate to revisit the number of block rates currently used and review the cost of water per 1000 gallons beyond the minimum usage level.

"My point in showing this to you is that we are pretty fair, equitable, and appropriate at the bottom rate," Durham said. "As we go up, our water is more expensive than Moore County and Robbins."

Durham presented several charts that illustrated the impact of collapsing the two top rate blocks — 15,000 and 25,000 gallons per month — on water revenues to the Village, as well as the financial impact on the customer.

Foxfire rates for residents using the minimum amount of water compares favorably to both Moore County and

to Robbins. However, as consumption reaches 9,000 gallons per month and beyond, the cost to a Foxfire resident is considerably higher.

Durham indicated that, in his review of the water rate trends throughout the state, Foxfire water rates are consistent with most other water systems with a similar number of accounts — particularly at the lower usage levels.

Durham served on the Long Range Planning Committee prior to being elected to the council. During data collection for the Long Range Plan, many residents commented that the cost of water was fair and appropriate at the lower usage levels, but became too costly toward the higher consumption levels.

The high price of water at the high end of the rate card conflicts with the Long Range Plan recommendation that the Village explore ways to encourage residents to better care for their landscapes, improving the overall appeal of the Village.

Encouraging irrigation

Durham suggested that some minor changes in the

water rate schedule might be one way the Village can help residents contribute to the beautification of the Village.

"The more familiar I get with this analysis tool, the more I realize what we can do," Durham said. "We can look at the entire water rate schedule, but leave the bottom alone. It all comes down to conservation. That is the primary objective — and should be. Conservation doesn't just mean not using water. There are a lot of other things we can do to promote conservation, including changing habits, but still use water for appropriate purposes."

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco encouraged Durham to

continue his research.

"I actually would like to explore doing something with that middle section of the rates," Frusco said. "My reasoning for that is, in all of this literature presented, eighty percent of Foxfire customers are using less than 15,000 gallons a month."

"Lowering the water rate might encourage more people to take care of their lawns."

Frusco reminded the council that lower rates could reduce revenue to the water department.

Durham noted that revenue is a concern, but added that revenue losses from lower rates "could possibly be offset if people buy more water."

(See "Foxfire," p. 14)

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Parents question rules on basketball goals

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The times they are a-changing for the Seven Lakes Land-owners Association [SLLA], as a growing number of younger families moving in to the community push up against rules developed when the community was marketed primarily to retirees.

That friction was in evidence during the Association's Open Meeting on Wednesday, April 30, when a number of young parents came to speak up against a rule that prohibits basketball goals at the end of driveways or on Association common areas at the end of streets.

One parent said a formal complaint was made against her when she forgot to roll back her son's goal in the evening after work.

"I live at the end of a quiet street with little traffic," she said. "The goal is structurally sound, weighted, and is on rollers. During the day, I would roll it out for my son to play. One night in December, I forgot to roll it back in when I got home from work, and it was reported by a neighbor."

One resident said she was sent a certified letter citing the rules violation. Due to her work schedule, it was

several weeks before she could make it to the post office. By that time, she had accrued daily fines, which she is in the process of appealing.

Another family was also reported for having a basketball goal.

"I am probably the one who got this whole thing started," the father said. "A neighbor called security when my kids and I were playing basketball at the end of our driveway."

The resident was told by SLLA management that he must move the goal five feet from the edge of the payment. He said he then received another letter saying the goal must be thirty feet from the easement.

"I ended up moving it in the side yard," he said, adding that the Association basketball courts are too far from his home for his children to walk by themselves. "Especially when they can go right outside and play where we can watch them. This is a young community. I think the ordinance should be read-dressed and made more family-friendly."

In all, four different parents said their children are not old enough to use the basketball courts at Northside Park unattended. One mother said her son was bullied by teenagers at the park.

A "recreation community"

According to the parents who attended the meeting, they, not the Association, maintain the Association's easements along streets and cul-de-sacs. The upkeep is done by residents, including mowing, replenishing pine straw, and picking up debris, they said.

"We live on a quiet street with little traffic," one parent said. "The area has never been mowed. It has no grass. I pick up sticks and replenish the pine straw."

We are a recreation community," she added. We should encourage our children to exercise and be out in the fresh air."

Show Up and Be Heard

Though an unusual amount of input from residents opened Bob Racine's first Open Meeting as the new SLLA President, Racine welcomed the feedback.

"I am happy to see you come tonight," Racine said. It is good to have reinforce-

(See "Basketball," p. 28)

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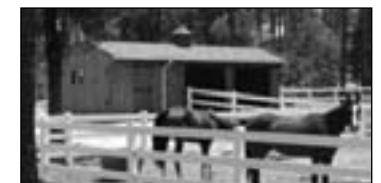
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ARB suggests allowing only split rail fences

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Director Rich Faraci has resigned from the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board, citing personal reasons.

"It has been a privilege to serve with all of you, and the best to you in the future," Faraci wrote in his letter of resignation, read by President Bob Racine during the Board's Monday, May 12 work session.

Purposeful Fencing

Split rail is the fence of choice in Seven Lakes North and South. Director Bill Hirsch reported that the Architectural Review Board [ARB] is in the preliminary stages of better defining SLLA's fence policy.

"It is a stricter policy," Hirsch said of the proposed rules. "All fences must be approved by the ARB before erecting. Picket, round rails, and plank fences are not allowed."

"The split rail fence is pervasive throughout our community," Hirsch said. "That's why we are determining that it will be the preferred fence."

A split rail can be made secure for pets by installing a black wire mesh, Hirsch said. "Split rail fences with or without black wire will be permitted. If wire is used, then the black wire needs to be on the inside of the fence — not the outside."

Perennial Privacy

A split rail fence offers little in the way of privacy, but Hirsch told *The Times* that privacy fences would not be permitted under the proposed rules. Planted barriers of shrubs would be the only screening allowed.

Residents with lake front property will be allowed fences running along property lines down to the lake, but not parallel to the shore.

If the proposed rules are approved, the ARB will review all requests for fences.

"It will be reviewed case by case," Hirsch said.

Seven Lakes North and South already have a number of fences of various types. Hirsch said that, under the proposed rules, those fences may remain, but cannot be cited as a precedent by applicants for new fences.

"There is a big problem with precedent," he told the board, recommending that "no fences that have been erected prior to the policy or without the ARB approval will be used to set precedent. The ones that are already there are grandfathered in."

Carte Blanche Barking

A resident in the audience spoke up: "I am opposed to fencing. The policy will provide a pretty free opportunity for people to put up fences."

"Residents are using fences as dog sitters, rather than being responsible dog owners," the resident reported.

"A free fence policy encourages residents to own dogs," he said. "The house next door to where we live puts their dog out shortly after 6:00 am for fifteen minutes. The dog barking encourages other dogs to join in."

"The house we intend to move into has also has a dog lady," he said. "She has three little rodents that have the yippiest barking that you can imagine. We can't be on our property without those dogs incessantly barking at us."

Corralling the Issue

Dogs and fencing are two separate issues, Hirsch said. "You could have invisible fence out there and have the same exact problem. This fence policy is clarifying what kind of fences can be used and in which case they can be installed."

President Racine thanked Hirsch and the ARB for their work.

"I would like to see it go forward," Racine said. "We should also consult with the attorney and get feedback."

More community input is needed before any decision is made, Director Ritter suggested.

"I understand the need for fences, and it is more than the aesthetics," he said. "What looks nice to one resident won't look nice to the other. I don't know what best way to go with this is. We are trying to do what is right and represent the community with what their wishes are generally."

Reducing Renter Fees

During a discussion of fees last year, Director Chuck Leach questioned the \$100 administrative fee that the SLLA charges renters each year.

Community Manager Ray (See "SLLA," p. 24)



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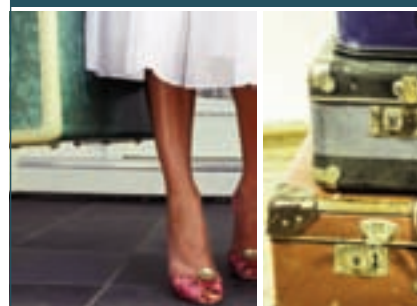


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Four-lot recombination sparks Westside debate

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



An unusual request to recombine four Westside lots sparked considerable debate during the Tuesday, May 6 meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

Jack Lattin, a member of the Architectural Review Committee [ARC], told the Board that allowing lot recombinations, by reducing the total number of lots in the community, effectively increases the costs borne by all other landowners.

The meeting agenda included two recombination requests. First up was the recombination of lots 6152 and 6151, which the board approved with little comment.

Former Director John Hoffmann asked whether the applicant was aware that the recombination is irrevocable.

SLWLA rules state that recombinations cannot be undone, apparently relying on a provision of the Westside covenants that reserves the right to subdivide lots only to the developer — and only for lots that have not yet been sold by the developer.

"It was discussed," replied ARC Director Dan Blue.

Four lots into one

The second recombination request involved four lots — 5529, 5530, 5531, and 5534 — that together will encompass approximately 2.6 acres. The resulting combined lot will touch three streets: McCracken, Fawnwood, and Winston Drives.

President Bruce Keyser asked whether the owners were aware that the combination is irrevocable.

Blue replied that the permanent nature of the change had not been a part of the conversation with the applicant, but that the rule is clearly stated on the appli-

cation form for lot recombinations.

"The owner has a responsibility to know the implications of their actions," Blue continued. "Once done, it cannot be undone."

He suggested that the Board might be able to undo a recombination during the life of the current owner; but, once the property changes hands, through inheritance or a sale, "there is no history of it being anything but a single lot, and it can't be subdivided, according to the covenants."

Responding to a question from Director Mandy Goodman, Blue confirmed that the Association charges a \$2000 fee for combining lots. The four lot combination will cost \$6000. He also noted that the Association would

continue to charge dues on each lot until the fee is paid and a new plat showing the combination is received.

One of the owners of the four lots in question, Nancy Hosey, said her motivation in seeking the combination was that she wants "it all as one big back yard." There is currently a home on lot 5529.

Later in the meeting, co-owner Connie Fecik said the motivation in combining the the lots was "quality of life." Noting that she spends "six months of the year in her backyard" and has a swimming pool, she said she enjoys waking up and listening to birdsongs rather than the hum of a neighbor's air conditioner.

Costly for Landowners

The most strenuous objec-

tion to the proposed recombination — and to lot combinations in general — came from ARC member Jack Lattin, who argued that allowing lot recombinations, because it reduces the number of dues-paying lots, inevitably increases the burden on the remaining landowners.

Lattin spoke twice, once to protest the four-lot combination, and again at the end of the meeting to urge the Board to reconsider allowing lot recombinations — particularly when avoiding paying dues on a second lot is the primary motivation for the request.

"If you say, conservatively, that over the past three years, we have combined thirty lots," Lattin said, "over a ten year period of time, that equates

(See "Lots," p. 28)

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Construction picking up in Seven Lakes West

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Construction of new homes is picking up in Seven Lakes West, Director Dan Blue reported, during the Tuesday, May 6 meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

Blue, who has responsibility for the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] said nine projects are currently underway and several more either await approval or almost ready to be submitted.

"Within thirty to sixty days," Blue said, "we will have fifteen

or sixteen new homes going up."

Blue said that number includes both custom homes and developer projects, but all are prestigious designs in keeping with the architectural standards of the community, "not cookie cutter."

Driveway turnarounds encouraged

Blue presented, and the Board approved the first reading of an amendment to the Architectural Standards that aims to reduce the hazard posed by folks backing out of their driveway into the street.

The new rule reads: "Dri-

veways which require vehicles to back into the street are discouraged. Where feasible, every garage should have a back out/turn-around area."

McDermott resigns Goodman named Secretary

President Bruce Keyser reported that newly-appointed SLWLA Secretary Jim McDermott had resigned from the Board effective April 17, due to an unexpected significant increase in the time required by his consulting business.

Director Mandy Goodman will take over McDermott's post as Secretary and Communications Director, leaving a vacancy for a Lake & Dam Director. The board is seeking

volunteers interested in filling that slot and serving out the two years left in McDermott's unexpired term of office. Interested members should contact the Nominating Committee.

Overdue dues growing

Treasurer Mercedes Herdrich told her fellow directors that she had good news and bad news to report.

The good news is that revenues through the month of March are tracking ahead of budget, while expenses are under budget, resulting in a positive variance of \$91,000.

The bad news is that the association has just under \$80,000 in overdue accounts,

up from \$74,800 in January.

"I hope to focus on management of this number in the next couple of months," Herdrich said. She noted that a \$20 late payment fee begins this month, which should encourage some folks to pay up.

"It's not fair to those who pay their dues on time," she added.

Nature trail open

SLWLA Manager Jeanette Mendenhall reported that the nature trail at West Side Park is now open and thanked John Hoffmann and Dan Lambert for their work on

(See "SLWLA," p. 21)



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In memory of . . .

Alfred Gould Kohn, 91, of Seven Lakes North, died Saturday May 10.

He was born in Norwich NY, the son of Thomas Alfred and Charlotte Gauger Kohn.

Mr. Kohn graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1943 and served in both the North Atlantic and South Pacific theaters in World War II. While on the USS Canberra on October 13, 1944, he narrowly survived a torpedo attack off the coast of Formosa that killed many of his fellow sailors.

After returning home from the war, he enjoyed careers in candy manufacturing and electronics before spending his time as a stock market analyst.

A memorial service will be held at the West End Presbyterian Church on Saturday May 17 at 2 pm officiated by Dr. Larry Lyon.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Robbie

Survivors include his wife Honey, five sons - Robert (Jackie); Richard, Roger (Ramona); Roy (Sue); and Randall (Kim); nine grandchildren; and four great grandsons.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Liberty Home Care and Hospice 300. W Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387 or West End Presbyterian Church, PO Box 13, West End, NC 27376.

John "Jack" Stafford Vaughn, 89, of Athens Township, PA, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Friday, May 2, at the Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, PA.

"Jack" as he was known by his family and many friends was the son of Truman and Anna Stafford Vaughn.

He was a graduate of Sayre High School class of 1943 and later served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Lexington in the South Pacific during World War II. Mr. Vaughn was employed as a draftsman for the Ingersoll-Rand Tool & Hoist Division from 1946 to 1956. In 1957, he began working in the Management & Development Division and eventually served as manager of product engineering. He held eight patents to his credit.

Following his retirement in July of 1982, he and his wife Lois Wood Vaughn moved to Seven Lakes. He was a skilled woodworker and craftsman who operated his business,

Wood by Vaughn, in Seven Lakes for many years. Mr. Vaughn was a life member of the Sayre Elks Lodge and was a member of Skiff-Bower VFW Post in Sayre.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois.

Survivors include his sister-in-law, Anna Wood of Athens Township; nieces; great nieces, great nephews, cousins and friends in North Carolina.

A mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Saturday, May 10, at the Church of the Epiphany, South Elmer Ave., Sayre, PA. Interment followed in Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens, PA with the Valley Color Guard with full military honors.

Memorial contributions be directed to the Sayre Elks Lodge Antlers Youth Program, 117 S. Elmer Ave. Sayre, Pa 18840 or to the Sayre Historical Society, 103 N. Lehigh Ave. Sayre, PA 18840 in John "Jack" Stafford Vaughn's memory.

Phyllis Margaret Johnson Heubel, 86, of Columbus, OH, formerly of Seven Lakes, died April 24.

She and her husband enjoyed their years in Seven Lakes taking advantage of swimming in the lake, boating, golf, and as members of Seven Lakes Country Club.

They moved back to Columbus, OH to be closer to family in 2009.

Funeral Mass services were held Saturday, May 3, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Avenue, Columbus, OH.

Survivors include her husband of nearly 65 years, Herman Francis Heubel; children, Janet (Ralph) Rosenfield; Mary Frances (Dennis) Tachibana; John Heubel; and Brian Heubel; her grandchildren, Joshua Rosenfield, Douglas Rosenfield, Annie (Casey) Radcliff, and Bodhi Walker Heubel.

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Ritter, Graham, and Godfrey win in primary

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Commissioner Otis Ritter successfully fought off a challenge from Seven Lakes West resident Louis Gregory in the District 3 County Commissioner race, according to official primary election results posted by the State Board of Elections after the Tuesday, May 12 formal canvass of the results.

Ritter captured just under 52 percent of the ballots cast, pulling in 332 more votes than Gregory, a former police chief for Whispering Pines.

There was considerably more daylight between the contenders in the District 1 Commissioners race, where Carthage Town Commissioner and former Clerk of Court Catherine Graham captured 74 percent of the ballots cast and 4,101 more votes than

Oscar Romine of Cameron.

A similar gap separated incumbent Clerk of Court Susan Hicks, who won over challenger Doyle Markham with just under 70 percent of the vote.

Sheriff Neil Godfrey bested challenger Steve Leader Adams by nearly 5,100 votes, capturing nearly 79 percent.

Turnout for the primary was low, at just under twenty percent, which is typical of

primaries in non-presidential years.

In statewide races, Moore County results differed from the state polls only in the Democratic Primary for US House District 2, where Clay

Aiken prevailed over Keith Crisco statewide, but Crisco won more votes among Moore Countians. Crisco died in a home accident on Monday, before the official canvass was complete.

7 Lakes Chapel Lunch Bunch

The May Lunch Bunch at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines will feature Ken Rahal, who survived pancreatic cancer after extensive and aggressive surgeries and rehab.

Rahal had been told by doctors that there is no medical reason why he is alive and cancer free, but he attributes his healing to his "faith and trust in God." He is the chaplain at Manor Care and chaplain on call at Carolina House. Rahal works with a wide variety of community outreach organizations, procuring supplies and donations of furniture, food and clothing to help those in need.

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, May 21 at noon.

There is no cost. To make a reservation for lunch or transportation please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.

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School Board presents local budget request

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Moore County Board of Education is seeking an additional \$2.3 million in funding from the county for Fiscal Year 2015. School Board Chair Kathy Farren, along with Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Aaron Spence and Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin, presented the budget request during the Monday, May 5 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

"Thank you for working with us," Farren said. "You work hard to keep us where we need to be."

Farren and Griffin have been working behind the scenes with Commissioners Nick Picerno and Randy Saunders, as well as the county budget team, to develop a funding formula that would add predictability to local school funding by allocating a fixed percentage of county tax revenues to the schools each year.

"That way, as the county grows and our tax revenues grow, they will benefit," Saunders told *The Times* after the meeting.

But remaining questions about state funding will likely delay the implementation of that formula until FY2016, Saunders said.

It is not clear whether MCS is receiving the full amount of funding the system is due from the state, he explained. MCS and the commissioners are working with state legislators and school officials to answer that question. But, until it is answered, it is impossible to determine the exact percentage of county tax revenues that should be allocated to the schools.

Recently, Saunders discovered that Cumberland County uses a similar funding formula for its schools.

The funding formula would also allocate a fixed percentage of the county's capital reserve fund to school facilities.

Saunders told *The Times* that the commissioners have already reached an agreement in principle with Sandhills Community College [SCC] that, when ratified in the county budget, will allocate five percent of tax revenue

to funding the college — and a similar percentage of the county's capital reserve fund to the SCC's capital needs.

State funding per student falling

Griffin presented a slide show packed with bar charts detailing MCS funding since 2008. The bottom line is that state funding has failed to keep up with the growing student population in the county.

MCS was responsible for 12,190 students in FY2009, and anticipates 13,074 next year. State funding per student was \$5,508 in FY 2009, but dropped off sharply the following year, to \$4,940 — a result of the economic downturn.

Though funding per student has increased in each of the past two years, it still has not reached pre-recession levels. MCS expects \$5,048 per student in FY 2015.

Meanwhile, the cost of state employee health and retirement benefits have increased significantly. Health plan expenses are up 14.7 percent since FY2009, and retirement costs are up 74.8 percent.

As a result, MCS's state benefit costs have increased by \$5.6 million over the past four years, despite cuts in the number of school system employees.

MCS plans to eliminate 35 positions in the coming year, Griffin said, a \$1.6 million savings that will be combined with \$200,000 in cuts in other areas.

Not including debt service, the county provided \$26.6 million in funding to MCS in the current fiscal year. The school board is seeking just under \$29 million for next year.

County Manager Wayne Vest is scheduled to present the county budget to the commissioners on May 20; a public hearing on the budget is scheduled for June 3.

Lottery funds approved for Pinecrest tennis courts

At the request of MCS's Griffin, the commissioners (See "Budget," p. 24)



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'No turning back' on deal for Harnett water

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The deal to bring more Harnett County water to Moore County is still on, even though Moore County was not selected earlier this year to receive a zero-interest state loan to fund the project.

During their Monday, May 5 regular meeting, members of the Moore County Board Commissioners were anxious to correct what they felt was incorrect information being circulated during the current election campaign about the County's agreement to purchase additional water from Harnett County.

Moore County, which already purchases water from Harnett County has agreed to purchase a stake in Harnett County's expansion of its water treatment facility. The deal guarantees Moore County access to more water, at a lower price.

The County was seeking an \$11 million zero-interest loan from the state in a competitive process that included scores of other water and wastewater projects across the state. Moore County's project did not prevail in the process, but the agreement with Harnett County is signed and will move forward, Commissioner Nick Picerno said.

"We got turned down for our loan request," Picerno said. "We still have a contract;

we just need to find a different way to finance it."

"The loan we were turned down for had nothing to do with the financial stability of the county," Commissioner Randy Saunders added, noting that Moore County has a AA rating.

In addition, the financial projections the county used to evaluate the feasibility of the project were based on a four percent interest rate — not the zero percent loan, Chairman Larry Caddell said.

"Even if we had to go on the street and borrow this money, we could get that," he added.

"The board has signed a contract with Harnett County, and there is no turning back," Caddell said. "The only question is how we are going to pay for it. We have an ethical obligation to get that done as cheaply as possible."

Reviving "The Summit"

During the "Commissioners' Comments" portion of the meeting, Commissioner Picerno suggested reviving the Moore County Summit, a group started by the Chamber of Commerce more than a decade ago.

The Summit brought together representatives of the county, its municipalities, and business and community leaders to discuss various issues, including the water supply and the potential for cooperative purchasing.

Picerno suggested two areas

that could benefit from attention by such a countywide conversation:

- "Ongoing school needs, and how you pay for them."
- The possibility of combining Partners in Progress (the county's economic development) (See "Commissioners," p. 20)



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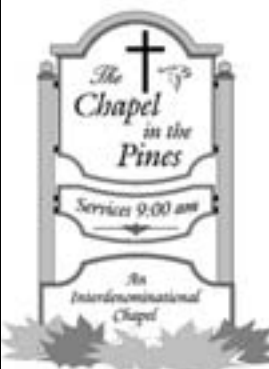
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Planning Board: Two rezonings & a cell tower

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



With little debate, the Moore County Planning Board voted in favor of two rezonings and a conditional use permit for a 250-foot cell tower during their Thursday, May 8 meeting.

All three matters will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. General use rezonings must receive final approval at the commissioner level. At the recommendation of the planning board, the commissioners recently voted to make themselves responsible for the approval of all conditional use permits.

New development in Murdocksville area

David Upchurch, along with other investors, is planning a substantial residential development on 120 currently-forested acres near the intersection of Juniper Lake Road and Murdocksville Road.

Upchurch, a principal in the Southern Pines engineering firm, Hobbs-Upchurch, won approval for the rezoning of a 59.45 acre parcel from RA-5 to RA-40 in that area in December of last year, and has received approval of a conceptual plan for a 58 lot Neighborhood Conservation Subdivision on that property. RA-5 zoning sets the minimum lots size at five acres; RA-40 reduces that to 40,000 square feet, which is about one acre.

During the Planning Board's May 8 meeting, Upchurch was back with a similar request to rezone an adjacent 60.43 acre parcel from RA-5 to RA-40.

Speaking on Upchurch's behalf, Bob Koontz of KOONTZDesign, a Southern Pines land planning firm, said the intention is "to extend the development into this parcel as well."

Koontz said the northern portion of the property abuts Nicks Creek and contains a large flood plain and wet-

lands. That area would serve as a buffer between the new development and undeveloped land to the north.

No one spoke in opposition to the rezoning. Members of the planning board voted unanimously to endorse the rezoning request and forward it on to the board of commissioners. Three members of the planning board — Buck Mims, Tom McGinnis, and Jules Latham — were absent from the meeting.

A commercial sliver on NC Highway 211

The second rezoning request reviewed by the planning Board during their May 8 meeting came from Angus McDonald, seeking to have a 6.82 acre portion of a 89.21 acre parcel rezoned from RA-

40 to B-2 Highway Commercial District.

The property in question lies south of NC Highway 211 across from Mary Road near West Pine Middle and Elementary Schools. Earlier this year, the county approved the conditional use rezoning of a 14.39 acre interior portion of the property so that it could be used for sand mining.

The 6.82 acre up for consideration on May 8 is a narrow triangle that lies between NC 211 and the tracks of the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway.

But, for most of its length, another 7.83 acre property, owned by Anne C. Monroe, lies between it and the highway.

Planner Jeremy Rust

explained that the widening of NC 211 bit off one corner of McDonald's property, which had the effect of increasing the parcel's

frontage on NC 211 to 150 feet.

Chairman Robert Hayter noted that the portion of the

(See "Planning," p. 14)

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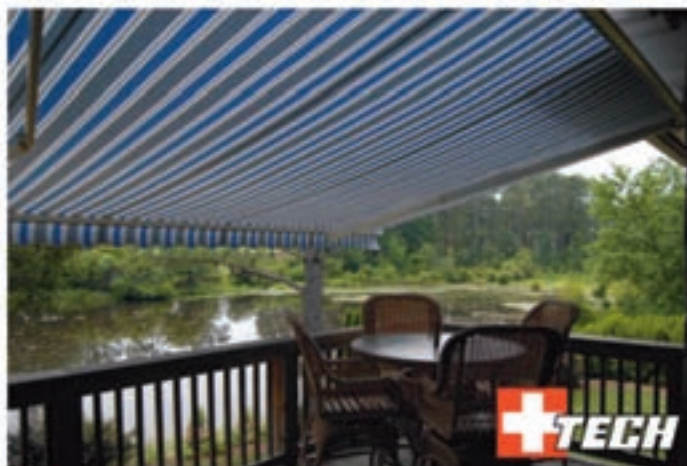
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FirstHealth Cancer Survivors Day May 29

The 27th annual FirstHealth Cancer Survivors Day will be held Thursday, May 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the FirstHealth Conference Center at Moore Regional Hospital (corner of Highway 211 and Page Road) in Pinehurst.

Cancer survivors, their relatives and friends and the health care professionals who provide cancer care are invited to celebrate together.

"We hope that through this event we can not only celebrate with survivors but also raise cancer awareness in

the community and provide hope for those patients currently receiving treatment for cancer," says Dan R. Barnes, D.O., president of the FirstHealth Physician Group.

A program in the Conference Center's Monroe Auditorium will feature five speakers – three survivors as well as a speaker who will discuss cancer and nutrition and a speaker who will talk about cancer and fitness. Afterward, participants will be treated to a buffet meal and take part in activities that will include a photo booth.

Everyone attending the program will have the opportunity to place a fingerprint on a "Fingerprint Tree of Life," and survivors will be encouraged to choose from among colors that represent their particular cancer diagnosis: pink for breast cancer, light blue for prostate cancer, green for lymphoma and so on.

This will be the third fin-

gerprint tree for FirstHealth Oncology Services. The two done previously were framed and placed outside the Radiation Oncology department and in Medical Oncology. The 2014 version will also be framed and then placed on the Inpatient Oncology floor.

"They symbolize survivorship – of living and flourishing," says Margie Thomas, clinical director of Moore Regional's Radiation Oncology department.

National Survivors Day is a worldwide celebration of

life in which participants unite in a symbolic event to show that a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive. The National Survivors Day Foundation defines a "survivor" as anyone living with a history of cancer from diagnosis through the remainder of life.

The FirstHealth National Survivors Day celebration is free and open to the public, but registration is required since space is limited. To register, please call (800) 213-3284 or visit nccancer-care.org

Learn to Sail!

The Seven Lakes Sailing Club is pleased to announce the opening of enrollment for the Learn-to-Sail Program.

All residents of Seven Lakes, minimum age of sixteen (16), are eligible for enrollment.

The program is conducted annually for those persons who would like to (1) learn the basics of sailing, (2) improve their current skills or (3) apply their skills by racing competitively on Lake

Auman.

Previous sailing experience or boat ownership is not necessary for enrollment, as instruction will consider the needs and objectives of the individual student.

The program will be conducted from Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Contact Bill Mamel (673-8970) or by email wmamel@centurylink.net if interested in enrolling or for further information.



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Planning

(Continued from page 12)

McDonald parcel that could actually be built upon would be severely limited by setback requirements, and suggested that it could be fruitfully combined with the Monroe property.

McDonald said he had approached Monroe about purchasing the property or about joining him in the rezoning request.

"It hasn't happened," he said.

With no one speaking in opposition to the rezoning request, the Board voted

unanimously to recommend it to the commissioners for approval.

Board endorses 250-foot cell tower

The Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of a conditional use permit for a 250-foot wireless communications tower requested by American Tower, LLC, which is working with the cellular telephone carrier AT&T to expand its coverage in the County.

This was the first conditional use permit reviewed

by the Board since the approval of the county's Unified Development Ordinance, which included significant changes to the ordinances governing cell towers.

The facility will be built on a 100 foot by 100 foot section of a heavily-wooded 40.72 acre parcel south of NC Highway 24/27 and west of Alton Road, between Robbins and the county line.

American Tower's attorney Tom Johnson explained that AT&T coverage is very spotty in that part of Moore County, a condition the carrier is

working to correct.

With little discussion, the Board referred the matter on to the Commissioners for approval.

Construction picking up

Planning Director Debra Ensminger told the board that the pace of construction in the county continues to be strong.

"Building has not slowed down any," Ensminger said. "The throttle is wide open. Every week we are getting applications for five or six brand new homes."

Ensminger said her department met its revenue budget — which is comprised largely of permit fees in December, halfway through the county's fiscal year, something that hasn't happened since 2006.

Board member Les Murray, a homebuilder, said he recalled that, in 2006, there were as many as 600 homes under construction at once in the county, including the municipalities. He suggested that current activity hasn't quite reached those levels.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

Referring to the Council's recent lifting of voluntary conservation measures that had been in place for years, Durham added, "When we lifted the restriction, I know that I have been irrigating more."

"I was doing it exactly two days a week, and it wasn't sufficient to keep up the integrity of my landscape," he said.

"I am now using it more and spending more money. I think it was a healthy exercise to look at the fee schedule."

McCue suggests restriction on open burning

The rules on open burning within the Village limits are not well defined. Councilman McCue recommended strengthening and amending the burn ordinance.

"Do we want to permit open burning in the Village of Foxfire, or do we want to restrict to certain areas, or to size of properties?" McCue asked.

In order to burn off straw, a permit must first be obtained from the Forest Service and coordinated with the Fire Department. The

permit is conditional, and burns can only be conducted if there are optimal weather conditions.

"There was a great deal of discussion six years ago on the whole subject of burning,"

Councilwoman Frusco said. I would like to go back and review those minutes from that meeting."

"A moratorium was proposed at that time," Village Clerk Lisa Kivett reminded

the Council.

"It has since just kind of disappeared. There was never anything put into an ordinance that said it was restricted."



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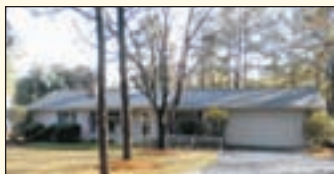


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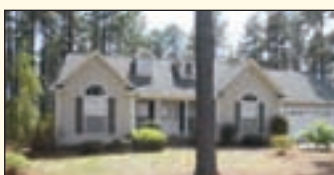


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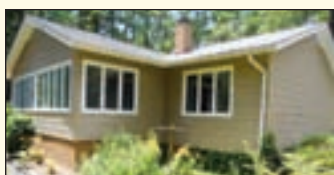
115 FOX RUN CT
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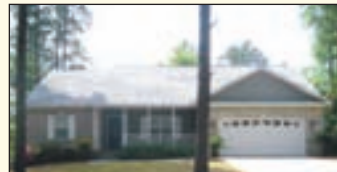
108 SWAN RUN CT
Lake Echo Waterfront
\$179,000



111 LONGLEAF DRIVE
3 BR / 2 BA
\$207,000



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2 Bedrooms & 2 Baths
\$110,000



116 EAST DEVONSHIRE
3BR/2BA - Golf Front
\$210,000



106 SWAN RUN COURT
3BR/2.5BA Waterfront
\$225,000



160 SIMMONS DR
Lake Auman Waterfront
\$499,000



120 CALLIS CIRCLE
Appealing 3BR/3BA
\$279,000



117 SIMMONS DR
Quality Built 3 BR/2.5BA
\$244,500



118 WINSFORD CR
Golf Front & Water Front
\$179,000



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111 JUNIPER COURT
Big Juniper Lake Waterfront
\$249,500



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105 TIVERTON CT
3 BR / 2 BA w/ Full Basement
\$189,900



117 SANDHAM CT
3 BR / 2 BA Townhouse
\$150,000



132 FIRETREE LN
Big Juniper Lake Waterfront
\$162,500



215 BIG ROCK
7 Acres Near Pinehurst
\$144,500



150 SIMMONS DRIVE
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\$598,000



122 LAKEVIEW PT
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LOT #5348 - \$35,000
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LOT #2396 - \$15,000
LOT #2341 - \$24,500
LOT #2352R (DOUBLE) -
\$25,000

LOT #6146 - \$59,500
LOT #2399 - \$23,500

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174 W Devonshire - SOLD!
115 Fox Run - Under Contract
106 Firetree - Under Contract
106 Swan Run - New Listing
116 E Devonshire - New Listing
105 Tiverton - Under Contract

FRIDAY, MAY 16

- **New Horizons Band "Spring Concert"** – 3 pm - 4 pm. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **United Methodist Women's Salad Supper** – 6 pm, at the West End United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets \$8 each, purchase from Lou Anne Cline, 673-5431.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Redwood Highway*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

- **Armed Forces Day**
- **The Old Glory Legacy Foundation** – 8 am - 5 pm, Festival and Plow Day, Old Glory Farm, 27323 Harold Morris Rd., Wagram. Watch NC Workhorse and Mule Association work the fields with workhorses, mules and antique and modern farm equipment. Parachute jump at noon, equine sports demonstrations, wagon rides, bluegrass music & BBQ. free admission, parking \$5.
- **Benefit for Moore Free Care Clinic** – 10 am - 4 pm, Bethesda Presbyterian Church 1002 N. Sandhills Blvd. Aberdeen. BBQ plates, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, Raffle, Arts and Crafts. Admission is Free. Benefiting the Moore Free Care Clinic. 910-944-1319
- **Moore County Library** – 10:30 am, special movie event. *Benji, the Hunted*, a 1987 Disney film about a dog trying to survive in the Oregon wilderness. Refreshments served. Bring some

unopened cat, dog food or treats in support of the National Food Drive for Homeless Animals. All food donated to the Moore County Animal Shelter and the Moore Humane Society. 101 Saunders Street, Carthage, 910-947-5335.



What's When

SUNDAY, MAY 18

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Strawberry Time at Chapel in Pines** – a Festival of Strawberry Treats following the 9:00 am worship service in Joralemon Hall to sample a variety of strawberry dishes prepared by Chapel members. All in the community are invited to come and enjoy this special morning. Chapel in the Pines, 673-2156.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Foxfire Golf Resort MANNA Tournament** – \$75 per player, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Registration & Lunch. 1 pm, Shotgun Start. Texas Roadhouse lunch provided – Prizes. Mary Scott Arnold, (910) 295-7456 msarnold@nc.rr.com

- **Moore County Little Libraries** – 2 pm, tiny libraries in six towns of less than 5,000 population will be the subject at First Baptist Church of Southern Pines. Speaker will be Ron Bergquist. Free. First Baptist Church, 200 E. New York Ave. and May Street.

Visitors use May Street driveway entrance for parking. (910) 692-2051.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm,

Redwood Highway. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Serpents of the Sandhills** – 3 pm, Are you Ophidiophobic? Or maybe you just have a general dislike for snakes. Program is on native snakes. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **McDonalds Chapel Music Circle** – 4 to 6 pm, at McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church. Traditional acoustic folk music and other music, in the church fellowship hall. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road. Jill McCloy (910)692-5094.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Musical guest: Dale Ann Bradley. The Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, MAY 19

- **Victoria Day**
- **Sandhills Horticultural Society Lunch & Learn Series** – 12 pm to 1 pm, free program, "All you Want to Know About Turf Grass." Bring your lunch to the Ball Visitors Center at the Sandhills Community College, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. Charles Harris of Buy Sod and Sandhills Turf will speak. Drinks provided. Register: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meet at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Candace Williams, former State sea turtle biologist will speak on nesting sea turtles in North Carolina. Visitors Welcome. Call 910-692-2167 or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Redwood Highway*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

- **The Game of Life's Journey Celebration Event** – 9 am - 10 am, Winners will be announced for the participants of The Game of Life's Journey. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, luncheon. Guest speaker: Kaaren Haldeman, leader of the North Carolina chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. \$12 for lunch and program. Everyone welcome. Reservations required, 944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **"Parents for Moore" presents Community Meetings on Public School Funding in Moore County**



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– 6:30 to 7:30 pm, at Sandhills Community College, Little Hall, 191 Byerley Auditorium, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Questions or for more information contact – parentsformoore-publiceducation@gmail.com

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Redwood Highway*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **"Alternative Investments"** – 10 am - 12 pm, Understanding the investment products that fall outside 'the norm.' Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines** – noon, all single seniors are invited to attend in the Joralemon Hall. Program will feature Ken Rahal, a pancreatic cancer survivor. No cost. Reservations appreciated. To make a reservation for lunch or transportation call the Chapel office 673-2156.
- **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

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **The Truth Project** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. The bible study will offer an in-depth Christian World View Experience each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Lecture led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Let the church know if you would like to join the group. Call or email 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Redwood Highway*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion, a meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Redwood Highway*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Fading Gigolo*. A Woody Allen Film. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

- **12th Annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast** – 8 am to 11 am, at the Pinehurst Village Chapel Community Center, Pinehurst. Cost only \$8 per person. Purchase tickets from any Rotarian, Marine Corps League member or at the door. Dave Berger 910-315-7575.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony** – 11am until 11:45am, Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966, at Moore County Veterans Memorial, 1036 Carriage Oaks Dr., Carthage.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30pm & 7:30 pm, *Fading Gigolo*. A Woody Allen Film. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

- **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.
- **Moore County Concert Band** – 2 pm, performance in the Grand Ballroom of the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Program: American composers. Concert is free.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, *Fading Gigolo*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **Memorial Weekend Discovery Hike** – 3 pm, observe flowers, shrubs, bugs, frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, turtles, mammals. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, bottled water, and tick & bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. *Musical guest: Miss Tess and the Talkbacks*. The Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, MAY 26

- **Memorial Day (Observed)**

TUESDAY, MAY 27

- **Healing Service** – 11 am,

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **"Understanding Annuities"** – 10 am - 12 pm, Update your knowledge on one of the most controversial investments products. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **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. Age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

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Superintendent

(Continued from front page)
six years.

"It may be reasonable for many of them to feel that their personal interests have been abandoned," he said.

Grimesey said he had "built something of a reputation" for helping school districts through troubled times.

From the Old Dominion to the Old North State

With thirty years experience as an educator in school districts across Virginia, Grimesey is currently Superintendent of Orange County Schools, a district northwest of Charlottesville, VA that serves more than 5,000 students. MCS has approximately 13,000 students.

Prior to his appointment to the superintendent's post in Orange County, he led the

schools in Allegheny County, VA for eight years. Grimesey has taught social studies and coached football and wrestling at the high school level, served as principal and assistant principal, and even worked as a newspaper reporter and sportswriter.

A graduate of James Madison University, he received his doctorate from the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education.

Grimesey has been honored by his peers for his work as Superintendent on a number of occasions, receiving the 2012 Outstanding Superintendent Award from the Curry School of Education and the 2013 Directors Award from the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

Speaking to the large group of MCS personnel who attend-

ed the school board meeting, Grimesey introduced his wife Carol, and explained that he has three children: a son in the US Air Force, a daughter teaching English at the American College of Sophia, Bulgaria, and a daughter attending Virginia Commonwealth University. He said he became aware of Moore County when his son was stationed at Fort Bragg.

Grimesey will start at a salary of \$165,000 plus benefits, comparable compensation to his predecessor, current Superintendent Aaron Spence, who is departing for (See "Superintendent," p. 19)



Dr. Robert Grimesey, newly-appointed Superintendent of Moore County Schools, dons a North Moore High School jersey after being introduced by the school board

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Superintendent

(Continued from page 18)

a position in the Virginia Beach City Schools.

Proving himself a good sport, after his more formal remarks, Grimesey donned in succession jerseys from each of Moore County's three high schools and posed for photographs with staff members from those schools.

Facilities Plan Approved

Also during its Monday, May 12 meeting, the school board approved a \$110 million Master Facilities plan that prioritizes ten school construction and renovation projects that will stretch over the next ten years.

Board Member Charles Lambert asked whether the estimated costs of construction included furnishings and equipment — or only the cost of building the new facilities. MCS Executive Director for Operations Phillips Boles explained that the costs included normal classroom equipment — desks, chairs, etc. — but did not include specialized equipment that might be needed for certain classes. In cases where new permanent buildings would replace modular units, Boles said, the desks and other furnishings would be moved to the new facility.

Lambert recalled that Pinckney Academy was initially developed as centralized facility for vocational training, because it was too expensive to provide the specialized equipment for vocational classes at all three high schools. He wondered whether the estimated costs of the facilities plan included specialized equipment that might be needed for career training curriculum at the new "concept" high school that is part of the plan.

If the focus of that school is simply early college, Superintendent Spence said, no specialized equipment would be necessary. However, advanced career training might require such equipment.

Lambert warned that the cost of such equipment could easily equal the \$14.6 million estimated cost of the school itself.

Lambert also expressed concern over the location of the new concept high school. One possibility widely discussed is to locate it on the campus of Sandhills Community College.

While expressing strong support for the new school, Lambert suggested that it should not be located in a way that requires students from less-advantaged North

Moore to travel farther than those from the wealthier towns.

The Board voted 7-0 to accept the plan. Board Member Dale Frye withheld his vote out of respect, he said, for the Mayors of Aberdeen and Southern Pines, who had urged the Board to attend first to aging schools in their towns.

Strategic Plan approved

The board approved Growing to Greatness 2.0, a substantial update of the strategic plan that will guide the district over the next three years.

"There is a lot to be proud of in this plan," Superintendent Spence said. "It has taken place with your guidance, your participation, and the input of literally hundreds of stakeholders."

Other business

In other business during their Monday, May 12 meeting, the Board of Education:

- Reappointed George Little as one of the board's representatives on the Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees.
- Received a quarterly financial update from Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin and learned that Griffin will become MCS's Director

of Budget. Tina Edmonds will move into the position of Chief Financial Officer.

- Celebrated the leadership of West Pine Middle School principal Candace Turk, who is retiring at the end of this school year.
- Honored twenty-five members of the MCS staff who attained Masters Degrees this year, as well as two who obtained their doctorates.
- Received a presentation from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, which draws students from

across the district to work on school improvement projects. This year's council focused on safety.

- Heard from Cassia Simms-Smith, a parent of kindergarten age children who expressed concern "about the age appropriateness of our kindergarten classrooms. Our play-based learning centers have come out of most schools," she said, noting that research on the learning styles of children in that age group emphasize the importance of play-based learning.



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 11)

opment arm), the Chamber, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Commissioner Saunders noted that former Chamber Director Patrick Coughlin recently moved to Cabarrus County to head up just such a combined organization.

"It might be good to get some community-wide input," Picerno said. "The Summit could reconstitute and have community leaders at all the same table."

Malt beverage referendum for Greenwood Township

The commissioners unanimously voted to add a question to the November General Election ballot that would allow the sale of malt beverages in Greenwood Township.

Greenwood Township lies east of Carthage, runs along the border with Lee County, and includes the Town of Cameron. The ballot measure,

however, will not affect the town, where malt beverage sales are already permitted.

Yonas Biru Badi, the owner of Mercy Grocery, a convenience store on NC Highway 15/501, told the commissioners that his customers had asked that he sell beer, because they currently must travel to Lee County to purchase malt beverages.

Moore County Elections Director Glenda Clendenin told the board that, under state law, there are two procedures that can bring about a vote on alcohol sales in a "dry" county: a petition bearing the signatures of thirty-five percent of the area's population or a request by the governing body.

In recent history, votes were held in Bensalem Township based on a petition and in Sheffield Township at the request of the board of commissioners, Clendenin said. The measure failed in Sheffield and passed in Ben-

salem.

"I think that is who ought to decide," Chairman Larry Caddell said, "the people who live there."

Other business

In other business during their Monday, May 5 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Proclaimed May 9 through June 16 as Vulnerable Adults and Elder Abuse Awareness Month.
- Received a quarterly financial report from Sandhills Center for Mental Health.
- Called a public hearing for Tuesday, May 20 on revisions to the county sign ordinance.
- Authorized an upset bid process for a county-owned lot in Southern Pines that has been declared surplus property. The current \$1,663.48 bid, by Jackson K. Sadler, would cover

county back taxes and other costs. Competing bidders will have ten days after publication of Sadler's offer to submit a higher bid the the County Clerk.

- Approved the extension of a lease on the offices currently used by the Probation Department at 2 Courthouse Square in Carthage. Probation will be moving to the lower level of the Moore County Courthouse once renovations to that building are completed.
- Approved the promissory note for a \$1.1 million low-interest state loan for the Lift Station 3-4 project.
- Accepted \$170,000 in state funding for the 2014 cycle of a project to rehabilitate the homes of elderly and disabled low income residents.
- Amended the Moore County Planning Board's bylaws

to set the panel's meeting date on the first Thursday of every month and to reflect the recent decision that all conditional use permits will receive final approval from the board of commissioners rather than the planning board.

- Appointed Cynthia Clendenin to the Library Board of Trustees, Nina Walker to the Workforce Development Board, and Richard Geerdes to the Town of Pinebluff's Board of Adjustment.

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SLWLA Meeting

(Continued from page 7)

that amenity.

She also thanked Greg Downer for his work getting pickle ball lines added to the tennis courts.

Boat stickers are available for pickup at the SLWLA office.

The Westside Pool opens May 24, a Newcomer's Reception is scheduled for May 27, and the first Johnson Point concert of the season, featuring the Fog Blues Band, will be held on June 6.

Plenty of public input

President Keyser began the meeting by answering a question he said he is often asked: "Why is the board not more open to community input at board meetings?"

Keyser stressed that the monthly meetings are business meetings of the board, but noted that each meeting includes an opportunity for public input at the end of the meeting.

Board members "communicate with each other, with CAS, with our committees, and with our membership on a regular basis through social media, the website, and social activities," he said. The extensive committee structure ensures that issues and proposals have been

thoroughly vetted before they appear on the agenda of a board meeting.

Keyser encouraged those who would like to play a more active role in governing the community to volunteer for a club or committee, or to run for a seat on the board.

Better sticker your boat

Keyser reported that boat registrations are lagging behind last year. After May 1, those who haven't registered or affixed their stickers to boats in the water or boats and trailer in the storage yard are subject to a fine. Lake patrol volunteers will be checking for new stickers.

Boat patrol will begin weekend patrols on May 16 and continue them through Labor Day, Keyser said. Lake Buoys are in bad shape, he said. The Lake Committee will be exploring options for replacing them.

Other business

In other business during the Tuesday, May 6 meeting of the SLWLA Board of Directors, they:

- Approved on second reading a modification to ARC standard 7.04.4 removing the requirement that the six feet of property behind

a bulkhead be landscaped with something other than grass while expanding the existing prohibition of fertilizer use in that space to include pesticides, as well.

- Approved on first reading amendments to section 3.10 of the rules and regulations to add a second standard for the type of asphalt that should be used on Westside streets. The changes will take place

only after the board approves them again on second reading.

- Appointed John Hoffmann and George Jenner to the Safety & Security Committee.
- Approved the first reading of a modification to Rule 5.8.6 making it clear that dogs off the owner's premises must be on a leash.

West End Methodists Salad Supper

The West End United Methodist Women's Salad Supper will be on Friday, May 16 at 6 pm. The "Salad Supper" will be served at the West End United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased from Lou Anne Cline at 673-5431.

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OPINION

Moore County needs a Cajun primary

In the last edition of *The Times*, I bemoaned the fact that Moore County's Commissioners and Sheriff are often elected by the tiny percentage of the population who choose to vote in the Republican primary election in May.

Since the demoralized Moore County Democrats seldom manage to find candidates for those jobs, whoever wins the GOP primary typically faces no opposition in the November General Election. So, in a county with 90,000 residents and 63,283 voters, a county commissioner can win an election by amassing 4,379 votes, as Otis Ritter did during the primary earlier this month. Or 6,991 voters can elect a sheriff; that's how many voted

for Neil Godfrey.

This is not the fault of Mr. Ritter or Mr. Godfrey. They deserve their hard won victories. It is the inevitable consequence of having a de facto one party system in Moore County, as I suggested in our last edition.

So, should we reform our system so that commissioners and sheriffs are elected in non-partisan elections, like those we use for school board members and judges?

I don't think so. That system hasn't worked well for judicial contests, where it's always very clear which candidates are Republicans and which are Democrats. In North Carolina's big cities, the same is the case in school board elections. Trying to hide the party affiliations of

candidates is a farce.

No, instead of adopting a don't-ask-don't-tell policy for candidates, we'd be better off adopting a new type of primary system, like the one recently adopted by the State of California.

Now, I realize that I risk being laughed out of the room — if not run

out of the state on a rail — for suggesting that The Old North State has anything to learn from The Golden State.

But California has hit on a great idea. Primary candidates can proudly proclaim their party affiliation. But

they all run against each other in a single primary. The top two vote-getters advance to the general election, regardless of party.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

The states of Washington and Louisiana also use this system, which is sometimes called a "Cajun primary" or a jungle primary, presumably referring to the "survival of the fittest."

So, you can wind up with

two Democrats or, as would be more likely in Moore County, two Republicans running against each other in November.

What's the good of that?

Well, it means that the eventual winner will be elected by a larger number of voters. The whole idea of democracy is that the people are best represented by public officials who attract the support of lots of people.

When the United States was created, political parties were not part of the scheme. But they arose quickly and proved a durable part of the political landscape. That's because they are useful. They allow like-minded folks to effectively band together to forward their agenda. And

(See "Primary," p. 23)

A mother who built men

I can't allow another Mother's day to pass without taking an opportunity to honor my mom. My poor mom tried four times to have a daughter, but God knew that she was far too tough to raise girls. So, he gave her four unruly boys who needed to be shaped and chiseled into men.

My mom was not the Hallmark card of what a mother

is "supposed" to be; she was the mom that we four boys needed her to be. "Suck it up and get tough!" was our motto in our home growing up with a mother who was a "mother." There was no crying in our house.

My mom grew up in a home with parents who were alcoholics. Her dad left when she was just a small child, but would return long enough

to rough up her mom so the children could see what "a man" he was. She was the oldest of six children, so she became the one who had to be responsible in order for them to survive.

She married at seventeen in order to escape the life that she was dealt. Her husband left her with two small children when she was just twenty years old. She didn't sit around and wait for anyone to take care of her. She went to work. She worked two jobs to provide for her two young boys.

After managing a family by herself for several years, she met the first real man in her life. The man that she met didn't fall in love with her first. He fell in love with her two boys, and, just a short time later, fell in love with

her as well. She married that man, and, even though he still needed some finish work, he was a worthy endeavor.



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

Together they started several successful businesses and had two more boys. He adopted the other two boys, my brother and myself, and he will always be my Dad. But this story is about my Mom.

My mom taught us that there is nothing free or easy in life, and that anything that is worth anything is worth working for. So many times we tried to make excuses as to why we couldn't do something and it was my mom who would tell us "suck

it up and get tough!" She would never let us allow a closed door be the end of our endeavor. She taught us to kick down doors and work harder than every one else to make our dreams come true.

Today, Mother's Day 2014, my three brothers and I are all doting fathers and devoted family men. We are all committed to our families and we all respect the women in our lives. None of us are perfect, but we have all learned that we are not allowed to whine about our mistakes, just "suck it up and get tough!"

Thank you, Mom, for teaching all of us boys how to be real men. We love you and we are so thankful that God gave you to us.

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

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Thanks and congratulations from Gregory

Dear Citizens,

This was an incredibly close race and a race well run. This is a time of great challenges for Moore County, and I have offered my congratulations and full support to our newly elected Commissioner, Otis Ritter.

Otis ran an honest and dignified race, and I pray he will be successful in his role as County Commissioner. Now, I ask all of you to support him.

To my supporters, thank you for all you have done for me and my family. I cannot

express my gratitude enough. I am grateful for all of the new friends I have made, and I have come to treasure my old friends even more. I am proud of the race we ran and work we have done, but more especially the manner in which you conducted your-

selves, always with dignity and never once a negative comment. I am so very proud of you.

Again, my congratulations to Commissioner Ritter, and

my special thanks to each and every one of you.

May God Bless,
Louis Gregory
Seven Lakes West

League will host Fall forums

Dear Editor:

Thank you *Seven Lakes Times* and Greg Hankins for a thorough and fair job of interviewing the candidates for the Moore County Board of Commissioners and for Sheriff.

The League of Women Voters of Moore County takes our mission to encourage

the informed and active participation of citizens in government seriously. We are in the preliminary planning stages to hold Candidates Forums this Fall for at least the Board of Commissioners contest and for the Moore County School Board.

We look forward to the attendance of *The Seven*

Lakes Times and to the participation of Moore County citizens at these events. We will give everyone ample scheduling notice for planning purposes.

Kathy Bergquist
Vice President,
League of Women Voters
of Moore County

Primary

(Continued from page 22)

they give voters an initial indication of where candidates stand.

But they aren't useful when they, unintentionally but undeniably, hijack the political process in a way that gets candidates elected by a

small minority of voters.

We should fix this problem, in Moore County and in the great state of North Carolina. To get that done, we may need to steal an idea or two from our younger sister way out west.



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 5)

Sohl recommended replacing the \$100 annual fee with a onetime fee of \$100 for each new renter. The board voted to move that recommendation to the May open meeting for a vote.

A League of Their Own

The bocce ball court has become a popular amenity, with as many as eight or more people standing around waiting to play. Two Seven Lakes residents recently won a gold medal in bocce at the Senior Games in Southern Pines.

One of those players encouraged the Board to add a second bocce court. A local countywide league is developing; and, with two courts, Seven Lakes could host tournaments.

"We can't do that if we only have one bocce court," he

said.

But Director Chuck Leach said the board must first prioritize future projects.

"The wheels are turning," he said. "We are trying to present to this board a two year overview of expenses. Included in that are two bocce ball courts and shuffleboard. The process is moving forward."

Pool Fees too High?

During public comment, a grandparent requested that the pool fees be revisited for grandchildren and immediate family. He recommended reverting to earlier policy that allowed residents to buy passes for family members.

"I have five grandsons age twelve on down," he said, "and either my wife or I take them to the pool when they are visiting. It costs me \$15 for them to swim, and it adds

up. I don't have difficulty for friends to come in to visit and paying the set fee."

The board agreed to discuss his recommendation at a future work session.

Other Business

In other business during the Monday, May 12 SLLA works session:

- The Board learned that a member of the ARB had resigned due to health concerns. Mike Conway has agreed to serve on the panel.
- Judy Allen has volunteered to serve as an alternate on the the Judicial Committee.
- Manager Sohl reported that three requests to combine lots were received before the April 30 deadline. Two applicants have completed all conditions and their requests will be moved to the May open meeting for approval. "The third is still pending," Sohl said. "We are still waiting on the warranty deed process."

Budget

(Continued from page 10)

approved the used of \$180,000 in NC Educational Lottery funds for repairs to the tennis courts at Pinecrest High School.

Commissioner Picerno asked whether the vote could be delayed two weeks; but Griffin said widening cracks in the courts presented a safety hazard, and MCS would proceed with the work whether or not the lottery funds were made available.

Picerno abstained from the final vote to approve the expenditure and told *The Times* after the meeting that the commissioners had only learned about the request on Friday, affording them little time to research the issue prior to voting on it.

Griffin said MCS has a balance of just under \$2 million in its lottery account, which grows by approximately \$800,000 each year.

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The Chapel invites all neighbors in the community to come and enjoy this special morning with them.

The morning message is titled "Thin Place" (*not very fitting for the festivities afterwards*). Please join the Chapel for a morning of fellowship and food. Contact the Chapel at 673-2156.



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Yard art

(Continued from front page)

added to the existing architectural standards, would regulate the size, placement, and number of yard decorations, but not the "content."

Amending the SLWLA Rules and Regulations requires an initial approval by the board, called the "first reading," followed by publication and an opportunity for public input, after which the rule may receive final approval on "second reading."

Blue emphasized that the new rules would apply only to decorations in the yard, not to decorations affixed to the home or placed on the porch or deck.

"The ARC spent a ton of time on this one," he added.

Three flower pots in the back yard

Key elements of the proposed rules include:

- No yard decorations in the right of way or utility easement — i.e., within 30-35 feet of the edge of the street.
- No artificial plants.
- A maximum size of 48 inches long by 36 inches wide by 36 inches high.
- No more than three elements each in the front yard, back yard, and side yards.
- Decorations must be made of durable materials and well maintained.
- Landowners must seek approval from the ARC before installing yard decorations, submitting an application that includes a site plan, indicates the size of the decoration, and includes color photographs of the item.
- The above rules don't apply to holiday decorations placed in the yard, but

those must be removed within thirty days after the holiday.

- Applications denied by the ARC may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

Despite the ARC's attempt to walk the line between regulating taste and maintaining the "natural wooded setting" of Seven Lakes West, the proposed rules met with some skepticism from Board members, who had received the document only four days prior to their meeting. Director Jim Pierman said he didn't recall receiving the document in his email.

Plenty of Questions

"If you take this definition into account, are we saying that a homeowner can only have three flower pots in their back yard?" Director Mercedes Herdrich asked.

"Only three big monster pots," Blue replied.

"It doesn't say 'big monster pots,'" Herdrich said, hinting that she might have more than three flower pots in her own back yard.

Both Watkins and Herdrich noted that some residents leave lighted holiday decorations up throughout the year, but only turn them on during the Holiday Season.

Blue reiterated that the proposed rule does not affect anything attached to the home — for example, Christmas lights along the eaves.

"This is not on the house," he said. "ARC is not involved in what you do on your deck."

"How do you handle school flags?" Director Chuck Watkins asked.

Community Manager Jeanette Mendence noted that flags are addressed in another section of the SLWLA Rules and Regulations.

Noting the restriction on placing yard art within thir-

ty-five feet of a roadway, President Bruce Keyser said he had noted yard decorations within five or six feet of the road on his way to the meeting.

Blue responded that anything currently on the ground that has been there more than thirty days would be grandfathered in.

Pierman noted that the proposed rule may touch on — or even conflict with — existing rules, for example, reg-

ulations dealing with landscaping within the right of way or utility easement.

Give the number of questions raised by the proposal, Keyser asked to postpone the board's first reading vote until the regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, May 27. He noted that would not prevent the rule from receiving final approval at the end of June.

The board agreed to table the proposal to May 27.

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Spring and summer is the best time to have fun creating your own fresh, tasty, creative salad combinations. By simply tossing together several of your favorite raw veggies, naked or with a light dressing, you have a perfect meal for a hot sunny day.

Try your favorite leafy lettuce with various sliced, diced or grated veggies. The possible combinations are endless. Fresh herbs are a wonderful option to mix in,

as they are packed full of flavor. Experiment with adding diverse forms of protein to your salads, such as nuts, seeds, beans, tofu, fish or poultry. Pick up a light and healthy dressing at your local health food store, or mix up something easy, like lemon juice, black pepper and olive oil.

This is a great opportunity to try a new vegetable from your market. What are some creative flavors you've never tried before? Fennel and mint? Daikon radish and arugula? Summer squash with watercress? Whatever you choose, have fun with your food and stay cool. Happy Spring!

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Sledding

(Continued from front page)

tain the grass. There are bald areas that will need to be addressed this year. Traffic can contribute to erosion. It's difficult to reestablish the grade, once erosion has started."

Many residents have fond memories of sledding on the dam, including resident Audrey Baker, who said, "I have been here for thirty-six years, and this is the first accident. I have sledded down them in the past. I don't see why we keep restricting the kids."

It's not a problem until it is a liability

The new rule and signage is necessary to show that the SLLA management and board has taken action to try and prevent future accidents, Sohl said.

"It is a real safety problem," he added. "The toe drains can't be altered."

"I, too, have enjoyed that hill since I have been here," another resident said. "However, I was there when the young girl had the accident; and, in her honor, we need to at least mark those toe

drains so they can be avoided. It was a horrific accident. I would hate to see it happen to anybody ever again."

Director Chuck Leach disagreed with erecting "No Trespassing" signs and suggested signs that read "Sled at your own risk."

"Recreation sleigh riding has occurred for many years," Leach said. "The association's own insurance broker reported that, as a youngster, he used to sleigh ride down the embankment. I know if damage to the dam were a concern, then the Lakes and Dam Committee would have contacted the association many years ago."

"Management states that the dams are not designed for sledding," Leach continued. "Likewise, roads aren't designed for pedestrians, and lakes are not designed for submarines. A serious and unfortunate accident resulted in a back injury of a resident. If we failed to act, then we would be liable."

"We must respond to this accident in a realistic manner," Leach continued. "Erecting unsightly fences that kids can go over and around is

not the answer. Signage cannot be enforced. The solution is signage similar to what is posted at all of our lakes: 'No lifeguard on duty swim at your own risk.'"

If it happened once . . .

Director Ritter argued that, if it happened once, it could happen again.

"We need to have volunteer compliance to make sure our community or association runs orderly," Ritter said. "I am not suggesting, for a second, to put a fence around the dam. What I am saying is we know what is unsafe, based on an accident. All it takes is one time for a child to become a paraplegic. If we continue to allow it, then

that's a sin. I can't sit here in good conscious and say it won't happen again."

"To be stewards," Ritter continued, "we have to set standards and say 'No sledding.' We need to keep things orderly to know what is acceptable and what isn't. We would be negligent if we didn't let people know."

Director Bill Hirsch contends that "Sled at your own risk" signs could actually encourage sledding.

"I agree with everything Chuck said, except the 'at your own risk' sign," Hirsch said. "It invites people to sled, in light of an accident that we had. I don't think we can do that. 'No trespassing' is something that we can choose

to enforce or not, and we can mark where the hazards are. I am really against putting up a sign that says 'Sled at your own risk.'"

"We happen to live at the bottom of Overlook," a resident said. "We have a crazy amount of water that comes down into our yard. We have four children, and I let my child go sledding on Sequoia. For children here, snow and sledding is so exciting, because we rarely get it. We see the effects on the dam when it starts to break down — we are sump-pumping water out of our basement. I recognize something has to be done. The 'No trespassing' signs makes a lot of sense.

(See "Sledding," p. 27)

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Sledding

(Continued from page 26)

The 'At risk' signs makes people think its okay."

The ban on sledding and No Trespassing signs were approved in a 4-1 vote, with Leach opposed.

Lake water quality is great

The quality of water in the SLLA lakes is near drinking water standards, Director Rich Faraci reported.

"The water quality contin-

ues to be up to standards and is actually considered potable water," Faraci said, "if you believe it or not."

The board voted unanimously to continue to host the Open Water State Swim Championship on Lake Echo.

"The event is very well organized and will be held on June 6 and 7," Manager Sohl reported. "It is really outstanding that they continue to come back, because

our water quality is so good, and select us each year for those reasons."

Hirsch agreed: "It's impressive. Anybody who hasn't seen these people swim should come by. It's really impressive. They only swim five times around the lake really fast."

To maintain consistent water quality testing and reporting the Lakes and Dams Committee is in need

of new members.

"We could use some new members," Faraci announced. "What we normally do is keep a visual inspection of lakes and dam. We also do inspections on the water quality to keep it up at standards. We definitely need some new people."

"We meet during the morning, mostly, because it's a lot cooler for walking the hills. But, if we need to, we

can accommodate some afternoon hours. Come see us if interested."

Horse trade

Bandit, a free-lease horse that has been used by the Seven Lakes Stables, will soon be sent back to the owner. Bandit has proven to be temperamental, so, to avoid possible injuries, Stable Manager Amanda Dugan rec-

(See "Sledding," p. 28)



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Sledding

(Continued from page 27)

ommended in January that he be traded out.

That leaves the herd short one horse and the board debated whether to fill that vacancy.

Newly-elected Board Member Sandy Sackmann said

that she would like more information before agreeing to bring in a new horse to bring the herd back up to eight. Leach agreed with Sackmann that the board should table the discussion.

Last year, the board voted to maintain a herd size of

eight horses, based on usage numbers recorded kept by the previous stable manager. The objective of setting a herd size was to avoid having a renewed debate on that question every time a horse needs to be replaced.

Director Hirsch noted that

the motion on the floor was not to discuss herd size — as it had already been determined by previous action of the Board. The motion, Hirsch noted, was to replace Bandit with the purchase of a horse for the amount of \$1,500.

"It's our obligation to keep the herd size at eight," Hirsch said. "Right now, we have obligation at eight, and it is what has been approved. It is also leading right up to riding season."

Director Ritter agreed that Hirsch had made a very good point.

The motion to replace Bandit passed three-to-two, with Faraci, Hirsch, and Ritter voting in favor of the purchase of a horse to complete the herd. Leach and Sackmann voted against.

President Racine laughed, "I am glad I didn't have to

break that tie."

Newly elected Board Director Mary Farley was unable to attend the meeting. She sent a letter of heartfelt thanks to everyone that helped to make the Easter egg hunt a rousing success.

Other business

In other business during the SLLA Board's Wednesday, April 30 Open Meeting:

- President Racine encouraged residents to obey SLLA speed limits. "The Sheriff's Office has been in here issuing warrants and writing tickets," Racine said. "I encourage people to slow down."
- The board voted unanimously to prohibit smoking within twenty feet of the entry ways of the Game Room, Landowners Office, and North Clubhouse.

Basketball

(Continued from page 4)

ment coming from concerned residents. "We are a changing demographic community. What you are saying does not fall on deaf ears, and we will be addressing this at the work session."

"However, anything dealing

specifically with the appeal, cannot be discussed during the meeting tonight," he added.

Racine noted that the SLLA Board had for the last three years strived for transparency and would continue to do so. He apologized for the lengthy discussion, but felt it was important to hear everybody.

"If you have an issue, we want you to come here and give us your input," Racine said. "We can only govern by your input. You are entitled to speak at any time

and are welcome to join in the discussion. It is your association."

Steve Ritter's retirement cut short

The sudden resignation of Director Bob Darr just after the March annual meeting left the board with an open seat. Two people stepped forward to be considered for the position. Racine announced that former SLLA President Steve Ritter had been selected by the board to serve out the final year of Darr's term.

Lots

(Continued from page 6)

to \$300,000 that is no longer available to the community."

Lattin calculated that the four lot combination would cost the Board \$40,000 over ten years.

"Ultimately, that means the membership will have to pay that money," he said.

Director Blue responded that Lattin's calculations did not take into account "costs that will not have to be borne by the community," including lake usage and road usage.

President Keyser acknowledged Lattin's concern and said the board would give consideration to his recommendation that the rule be changed.

The Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, which governs Seven Lakes North and South, recently voted to disallow lot recombinations, based on the notion that it ultimately increases the costs borne by other landowners.



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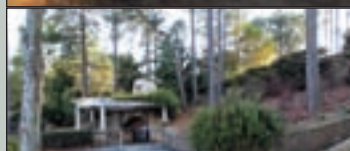
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Completely remodeled & unique golf retreat!
4 BR / 3.5 BA
251 W. Devonshire Avenue

Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



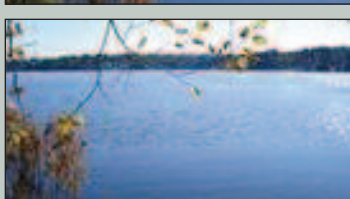
101 Butterfly Court \$585,000

This gorgeous lot combines 2.5 lots into one unbelievable property with 1.68 acres and over 200 feet of water frontage. Over \$200,000 of improvements include bulkhead, electric boat lift, outdoor kitchen with pergola, granite countertop, stove, and prep island. Cleared homesite, driveway, stone balcony, brick staircases.



126 Simmons Drive \$250,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



128 Simmons Drive \$250,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



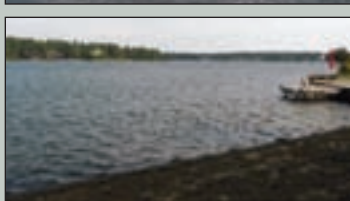
126 Swaringen Drive \$395,000

Gorgeous wide water views — eastern exposure for optimum enjoyment of your late afternoon entertainment — one of the best lots on the lake! (.67 Acres)



128 Swaringen Drive \$375,000

Spectacular, wide-open water views. Site is perfect for walk out level. Eastern orientation for beautiful sunrises and cool shaded evenings on your deck! (.64 Acres)



107 Butterfly Court \$395,000

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



Seven Lakes West \$695,000
Custom water front home w/great views!
3 BR / 2.5 BA
121 Wertz Drive



Seven Lakes West \$275,000
One-story w/sweeping golf views
3 BR / 3 BA
296 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$450,000
Stunning custom waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
459 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$265,000
Elegant custom home w/open floor plan
3 BR / 2 Full & 2 Half BA
108 Smathers Drive



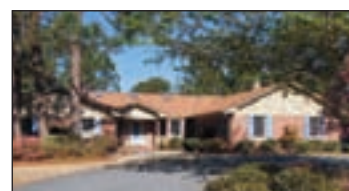
Seven Lakes West \$440,000
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
109 Timber Ridge Court



West End \$155,000
Cute and affordable in popular Pinesage!
3 BR / 2 BA
106 Oakcrest Court



Seven Lakes West \$284,900
Wonderful 2-story home on cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
108 Rector Drive



Seven Lakes South \$255,000
Immaculate one story golf front home
3 BR / 2 BA
148 E. Devonshire Avenue



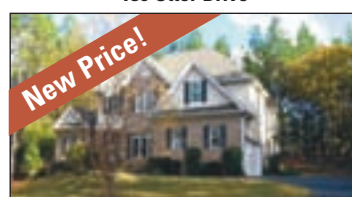
Seven Lakes North \$179,000
Great home w/views of Lake Sequoia
3 BR / 2 BA
115 Cardinal Drive



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



Seven Lakes West \$199,000
Charming cottage with water views
3 BR / 2 BA
136 Otter Drive



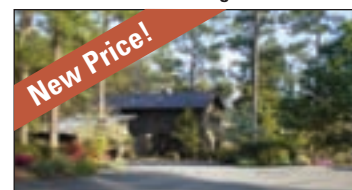
Seven Lakes West \$259,900
Great home w/open floor plan
4 BR / 2.5 BA
116 James Drive



Seven Lakes West \$279,000
Recently renovated w/expansive lake views!
3 BR / 3 BA
106 Sunrise Point



McLendon Hills \$565,000
French country farmhouse on 3 acres
4 BR / 3.5 BA
600 Broken Ridge Trail



Seven Lakes West \$310,000
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3 BA
105 Tucker Court

CALL 910.295.7100 OR 800.214.9007 • WWW.MARTHAGENTRY.COM

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