

# The Seven Lakes TIMES

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Volume 30 Number 8

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 20, 2015

## What's your home worth?

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



If you own a home or land in Moore County, your property is about to be assigned

a new value.

Revaluation notices from the Moore County Tax Department are expected to arrive in the mailboxes of landowners the week of February 23. Folks who disagree with the new value the county has placed on their property

will have several options to register that disagreement over the next few months.

The State of North Carolina requires counties to reassess the value of all real property at least every eight years. Moore County last conducted a revaluation in 2007. Properties will be valued at 100 percent of their market value as of January 1, 2015.

The County's tax office tracks real estate sales trends continually, but has ramped up that analysis over the

(See "Revaluation," p. 26)

## Are school letter grades useful?

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Six Bs, nine Cs, and five Ds. No As, and no Fs.

Moore County's public schools, along with all of the public schools in the state, were given letter grades on Thursday, February 5. It's something new for North Carolina, mandated by the General Assembly.

Union Pines High School received a B; Pinecrest and North Moore both had Cs.

Among the middle schools, only West Pine received a B. New Century and Elise both received Cs, and Southern Pines and Crain's Creek Middle received Ds.

Among the elementary schools, there were four Bs: West Pine, Pinehurst, Sandhills Farm Life, and Southern

(See "Letter grades," p. 28)

## Doing their duty



Boy Scouts Justin Joyce, Joshua Joyce, Reid Remington kept the coffee cups filled and the tables clean at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at West End Elementary on Saturday, February 7. See more photos from the event on pages 8 & 9.

## No fireworks this Fourth?

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



The rising cost of Fourth Of July fireworks in Seven Lakes North may put the annual event in jeopardy.

During the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board's Monday, February 9 Work Session, Recreation Director Mary Farley reported that the agreement with Atlantic Pyrotechnics International is up for renewal with a fee increase of \$459, bringing the total to \$7,339.

"It's a lot of money for fifteen minutes of oooh and ahhh," Farley said. "We did not have a quorum due to illness, but there are quite

a few on the [Recreation] committee that were not for this."

Because the Recreation Committee had another scheduled meeting prior to the February 25 Open Meeting, the Board voted five to one, with Director Chuck Leach opposed, to move the fireworks contract to the Open Meeting for a decision.

### Ramapo Dam study under review

A proposed engineering study of Ramapo Dam ran into a logjam during the February 9 Work Session.

Neither the Lakes & Dams Committee nor the Finance Committee were ready to sign off on the proposal, and some

questioned the exact cost of the study, "a hydraulic analysis of the watershed to protect against overtopping the embankment."

Director Dave Hill reported that the Lakes and Dam Committee lacked a quorum at its February meeting. Those who were present expressed support for the study, Hill said, "however, the money was not discussed."

Lakes & Dams member Don Fentzlaff pointed out that the \$7,000 cost of the study mentioned in the Work Session meeting packet did not include the full cost of the engineering work, noting that additional services would

(See "SLLA," p. 23)

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# League offers lunch with legendary women

In celebration of Women's History Month, the League of Women Voters of Moore County will present their Seventh Annual 'Lunch with Legends' at the Pinehurst Country Club on Tuesday, March 17 at 11:30 am.

Lunch with Legends is a program of live portrayals of historic women from history.

The 'legends' this year will be Nellie Bly, a ground breaking reporter, and Sally Ride, an astronaut.

Nellie Bly was the pen name of American journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochrane (May 5 1864-July 27, 1922). She

was a ground-breaking reporter known for a record-breaking trip around the world in 72 days, and an exposé in which she faked insanity to study a mental institution from within.

She was a pioneer in her field, and launched a new kind of investigative journalism. In addition to her writing, she was also an industrialist and charity worker.

Sally Kristen Ride (May 26, 1951 – July 23, 2012) was an American physicist and astronaut. Born in Los Angeles, Ride joined NASA in 1978 and, at the age of 32, became the first American woman in space. After flying twice on the space shuttle Challenger, she left NASA in 1987. She worked for two years at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control, then the University of California, San

Diego as a professor of physics, primarily researching non-linear optics and Thomson scattering. She served on the committees that investigated the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle disasters, the only person to participate on both. Ride remains the youngest American astronaut to travel to space.

The actors portraying the Legends will be dressed in period costumes and will deliver the moving and sometimes emotional words actually written and spoken by Bly and Ride.

Money raised from this event will be awarded as a scholarship to a Moore County high school senior.

Mary Lou and Tom Burnett are the program producers and Tom will be the Master of Ceremonies and also provide a patriotic musical finale.

Tickets for the lunch and program are \$30 and are available by calling Carol Wurster at 910-295-1935, or email [carolee@embarq-mail.com](mailto:carolee@embarq-mail.com)

All the tickets will be sold in advance. Doors and cash bar open at 11:30 am with lunch served at noon.

## An Irish Lunch Bunch

Join the Chapel Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, March 11 at noon, as Bruce Macdonald will play guitar and sing some Irish songs and some old chestnuts visitors may recognize, but don't hear much anymore. Preview Macdonald's music at [www.brucetunes.com](http://www.brucetunes.com)

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes

Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall. No cost for the lunch; reservations are appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

To make a reservation for lunch or request transportation, call the Chapel office between 9 am and 1 pm at 673-2156.

### CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Feb 27	Fri, Mar 6
Fri, Mar 13	Fri, Mar 20
Fri, Mar 27	Fri, Apr 3
Fri, Apr 10	Fri, Apr 17
Fri, Apr 24	Fri, May 1
Fri, May 8	Fri, May 15
Thu, May 21*	Fri, May 29
Fri, Jun 5	Fri, Jun 12
Fri, Jun 19	Fri, Jun 26
Thu, Jul 2*	Fri, Jul 10
Fri, Jul 17	Fri, Jul 24
Fri, Jul 31	Fri, Aug 7
Fri, Aug 14	Fri, Aug 21
Fri, Aug 28	Fri, Sep 4
Fri, Sep 11	Fri, Sep 18
Fri, Sep 25	Fri, Oct 2
Fri, Oct 9	Fri, Oct 16
Fri, Oct 23	Fri, Oct 30
Fri, Nov 6	Fri, Nov 13
Thu, Nov 19*	Fri, Nov 27
Fri, Dec 4	Fri, Dec 11
Thu, Dec 17*	Fri, Dec 25

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.


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# Foxfire Village Police have new uniforms

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Foxfire Village police officers are sporting new uniforms that are both less expensive and more functional, Mick McCue told his fellow Council members during their Tuesday, February 10 regular meeting.

"It is less expensive. It is wash and wear," McCue said, which means the village will not need to contract with a uniform company for maintenance of the uniforms.

Chief of Police Chad Shue modeled the new uniform during the meeting.

"It's also cheaper because he doesn't need a name tag," McCue added. "His name and badge number are embroidered on the uniform. And, we've been informed by other agencies that are using this uniform that it lasts longer."



Chief Chad Shue models the new uniform for Foxfire Village police officers.

Shue told the Council that the uniform is "very comfortable," particularly when the workday involves managing a canine officer.

"I appreciate those efforts to save little bits of money wherever they can be saved," Councilwoman Leslie Frusco said.

In other public safety-related business, McCue reported that the Village Police Department has joined the Governor's Highway Safety Program and will earn points under

the program whenever the department does "Click it or Ticket" enforcement.

"The points transfer right into dollars to buy equipment," McCue explained.

He noted that Shue was able to find grant money to pay for bulletproof vests for two officers and acquired three rifles at no cost from a military program.

"Kudos to Chief Shue for finding all those ways to save money," McCue said.

(See "Foxfire," p. 25)

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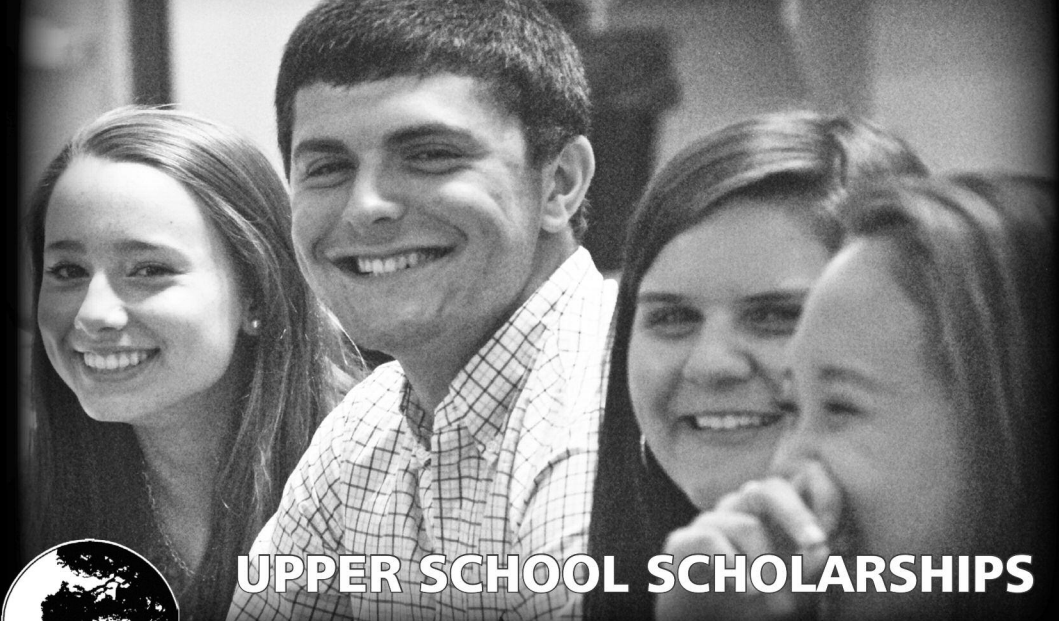
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# Student-built robot wows School Board

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County Board of Education.

The agenda for each regular school board meeting includes a "Program Highlight," shining a spotlight on an innovative approach to education.

On February 9, that spotlight shone on the STEM Robotic Club at Southern Middle School. "STEM" stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math."

STEM Team Teacher Will Allred told Board members that the afterschool Robotics Club uses Lego Mindstorm kits that come "with a small little brain, a couple of motors, a handful of sensors, and all kinds of little structural parts."

"The students build the robots to tackle a variety of challenges," he said. "The awesome thing about Lego Mindstorms is, whenever the students build the robots, they have to tell that robot every single thing that it is going to do."

"It is awesome watching them build these robots to complete challenges, because

every single mistake that can be made is generally made, and those are great learning experiences."

The star of the demonstration was club member Xavian Brown and the robot he built, designed to feel its way around obstacles and to emit different sounds when it encounters different colors.

Brown placed his palm-sized robot on the carpet and headed it off in the direction of the dais, as board members leaned over the desk to better observe the action.

The goal was for the wheeled robot to collide with the desk, depressing a sensor mounted on its front. Brown had programmed the machine to respond to the activation of that sensor by backing up to the right and setting off in a new direction.

When the robot failed to respond as programmed, Board Members offered suggestions as Brown diagnosed the problem. A faulty electrical connection was the culprit, and, once that was repaired, the robot performed as expected, to the delight and applause of Board members and the audience.

Allred said the Robotics Club hopes to enter statewide competitions next year. Already, the robots have been used for problem solving in Southern Middle math classes.

## Concept High School

Superintendent Dr. Robert Grimesey reported that he and Board Chairman Bruce Cunningham had met with the Sandhills Community College [SCC] Board of Trustees to discuss options for the location of the proposed concept high school.

Grimesey said a number of options were discussed, including whether the new school should be located on the SCC campus or on college-owned land across the street, as well as whether MCS should build and own the new school building, or whether SCC should build it and lease it to the school district.

"It was a very enthusiastic, well-received presentation," Cunningham said, adding that it was agreed during the meeting to form a subcommittee of both Boards to explore the options. Cunningham appointed himself and Ben Cameron as School Board representatives on that committee.

## Recognitions

Each month, the School Board recognizes an outstanding teacher or principal, as well as outstanding members of the support staff, student body, and corps of volunteers, bestowing on them "Growing to Greatness" awards.

During the February 9 meeting, award recipients included:

- North Moore High School Teacher Tyler Callahan, a Digital Integration Facilitator who is a Union Pines High School graduate.

- Michael Gleason, a In-School Suspension Coordinator at Crain's Creek Middle School who also coaches basketball, coordinates sports physicals, lines the athletic fields, and has landscaped the school grounds.
- Aberdeen Elementary School volunteer James Lee, a retired social studies teacher who helps students with math, social studies, and science.
- North Moore Student Christian Guillen Diaz, ranked

(See "School board," p. 24)

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# Women of 7 Lakes learn about Women's Exchange

The Women of Seven Lakes held their Winter Luncheon and Game Day at the Seven Lakes Country Club on Thursday, February 5.

Many who attended the luncheon stayed to play games, and all enjoyed spending the afternoon with friends.

After a short business meeting, Rosemary Weber spoke about the Sandhills Women's Exchange.

The Exchange helps local and out of state artisans sell handcrafted items in their store. They also run a restaurant that sells homemade salads made fresh every day, along with homemade soups and delicious desserts. Profits from the restaurant and sales room help with the upkeep of the historical building that was built in 1826 and moved to Pinehurst in 1922. The

Exchange is looking for volunteers to help in the sales room and the dining room.

You can connect with the Sandhills Women's Exchange on Facebook or visit them at 15 Azalea Road, Pinehurst, 910-295-4677.

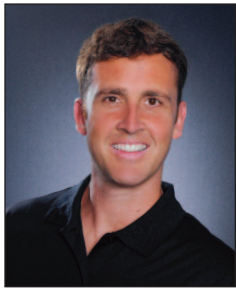
The speaker for the Thursday, March 5 at 2 pm, meeting will be Mike Dobre, of Seven Lakes Physical Therapy. He and his wife, Danielle,

own the practice and are committed to individual patient therapy.

The March meeting will be held at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

## 7 Lakes EMS Medicine Drop

The National Take Back Initiative in conjunction with Operation Medicine Drop will be held Saturday, March 21, during National Poison Prevention Week, at the Seven Lakes EMS Building, 714 Seven Lakes Dr, Seven Lakes, from 9 am – 3 pm.



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# Reynolds receives statewide NAMI Award

The National Alliance on Mental Illness North Carolina (NAMI NC) awarded George Reynolds, Jr. of Foxfire Village the 2015 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Champion of the Year Award during a luncheon at its 2015 Statewide CIT Conference at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh on Tuesday, February 10.

The CIT Champion of the Year is given to a recipient who models exemplary CIT practices, always focusing on the fundamental mission, which is to divert those with mental illnesses from jail when this can be done with little risk to public safety.

CIT is a pre-booking jail diversion program designed to improve the outcomes of police interactions with people with mental illnesses.

Reynolds is a founding member of the Sandhills Crisis Intervention Team, founded in 2008, and is part of the North Carolina's statewide CIT Committee and CIT International.

He was instrumental in the modification of the CIT program for tele-communicators, detention center (jail) staff and EMT staff. He continues

to arrange important CIT meetings and works to spread the mission of NAMI—providing support, education, advocacy, and public awareness so that all affected by mental illness can build better lives.

Reynolds serves as the Sandhills Crisis Intervention Team resident photographer, taking literally thousands of pictures at events, such as CIT trainings.

He also designed, ordered, and arranged for distribution CIT information cards for officers, first responders, and others who may respond to crises.

"George Reynolds has been essential to the success of the program in Moore County," said Moore County Sheriff Neil Godfrey. "He has always been willing to put forth the extra effort that is sometimes needed to complete the CIT

program's work. He continues to work with officers on an individual and group basis to help officers build their intervention skills. He has

been and continues to be essential for the success of our CIT program in Moore County."



Award recipient George Reynolds, Jr. with Judith Krall, President, NAMI-Moore County

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# Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast brings Seven



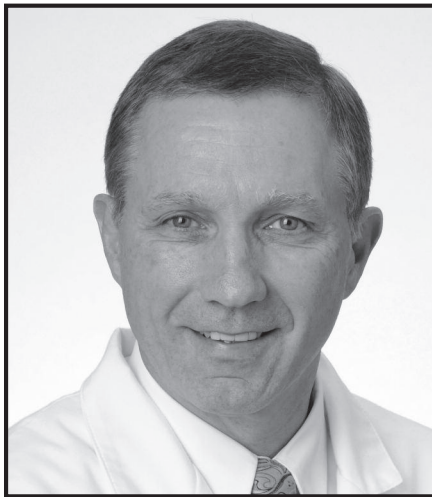
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Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Liffbrig spent 19 years as a physician in the United States Army. He started his career at Fort Bragg and spent time in Washington state and Kansas before returning to Fort Bragg, where he eventually served as chief of the Department of Family Medicine. Since retiring from the U.S. Army, he has been in private family practice at Riverbend Family Medicine Clinic in Fuquay-Varina.

Dr. Liffbrig joins Amanda Martin, ANP, and Dan Matthew, PA-C, in the practice.

All providers are currently accepting new patients.

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Bob Racine, on break from kitchen duty



American Heritage Girl Rebecca Hill bussing tables

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### The Lenten Journey

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*Director of the Diocesan Office of Divine Worship in Raleigh*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

### Prayer and How God Answers Our Prayers

*presented by Father Joseph Mulroney*

*Associate Pastor Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

### Where is God in Dementia?

*presented by The Rev. Dr. Sarah M. Rieth*

*Chaplain at Penick Village*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

### Catholic Education, The Changing Landscape

*presented by Janice R. Jett, Ph.D.*

*Principal, St. John Paul II Catholic School in Southern Pines*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

### Barbeque and Bagels

### Navigating the South's Changing Religious Landscape

*presented by Dr. Tom Allen*

*Minister of Education First Baptist Church of Southern Pines*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

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# Alzheimer's talk and screening offered

Scott Herrick, Director of Public Policy for the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will speak about understanding and responding to dementia-related behavior at St. Joseph of the Pines' Belle Meade Clubhouse on February 24th at 2:00 pm.

After spending ten years in the financial investment field, Herrick changed careers to help fight against Alzheimer's disease while caring for his father during his illness.

"Behavior is a powerful form of communication and is one of the primary ways for people with dementia to communicate their needs and feelings as the ability to use language is lost," noted Herrick, "However, some behaviors can present real challenges for caregivers to manage".

The presentation will help people to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most com-

mon behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease.

"This presentation is part of our effort to begin the conversation about dementia-related diseases and educate the community about Alzheimer's disease," stated Steve Kastner, President and CEO of St. Joseph of the Pines, "in addition, we will be offering free memory screenings the same day from 1:00 to 4:00 pm."

Memory Screenings are conducted by RN's and social workers, are confidential and

non-invasive, free and only take about 5 minutes. No appointment is needed.

SJP will have trained staff available before and after the presentation. The results of the screenings are given to the participants to share with their primary care givers.

To make reservations for "Understanding and Responding to Dementia-related Behavior" please call 910-246-3125.

## Lenten series at St. Joseph of Pines

The St. Joseph of the Pines Lenten Lecture Series is an opportunity for the community to come together to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Easter. Each lecture is 45 minutes long, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread; with topics that will stir the minds and hearts and provide a venue to learn from each other.

Lent is a time for people all faiths to reflect on their lives, be generous in spirit to those in need and receive grace. A time to listen. The guest speakers are from varied disciplines, but all will bring moving, thought-provoking messages. All lectures and suppers are Free.

- **Wednesday, February 25** – "Prayer and How God Answers Our Prayers" presented by Father Joseph Mulrone, Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Catholic church in Pinehurst.
- **Wednesday, March 4** – "Where is God in Dementia?" – presented by Rev. Dr. Sarah M. Rieth, Chaplain at Penick Village.
- **Wednesday, March 11** – "Catholic Education, The Changing Landscape" – presented by Janice R. Jett, Ph.D., Principal, St. John Paul II Catholic School in Southern Pines.
- **Wednesday, March 18** – "Barbeque and Bagels, Navigating the South's

changing Religious Landscape" – presented by Dr. Tom Allen, Minister of Education, First Baptist Church of Southern Pines.

- **Wednesday, March 25** – "The Calling of the Sisters of Providence and How They Came to Southern Pines, NC...What is Your Calling?" – presented by Sister Mary Caritas, SP, Sisters of Providence, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Please call for your reservation: 910-246-3125.

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# In memory of . . .

**Elizabeth (Beth) Schettler**, 91, of Foxfire Village died at FirstHealth Hospice House, Tuesday, February 11, after a long illness.

Mrs. Schettler was born in Western Pennsylvania.

While singing in the Heinz Chapel Choir at the University of Pittsburgh, she caught the attention of Tony Schettler. Their romance bloomed and they celebrated 71 years of marriage on September 9.

She was a wife, mother, loved her family, her music, cooking and her dogs. She frequently enjoyed accompanying her husband on business trips.

Mrs. Schettler continued her choral singing with the Cathedral Choir in Baltimore and other groups as the family moved around the Northeast.

At Foxfire Village, her civic activities were devoted to writing about golf, the garden club, and other social events in Foxfire Village, for which she received the Foxfire Community Service Award in 2003.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister and a brother.

Surviving are her husband, Tony; three daughters, Suzanne of CA, Pamela of MD; Becky of WI; two grandchildren, two great grandchildren and numerous nieces, and nephews.

A memorial mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Pinehurst at a later date. Donations may be made in her memory to Sacred Heart School.

**Melinda (Mindi) Lea Zumwalt**, 58, of West End died peacefully at her home Saturday, February 7, after a sixteen month fight with cancer.

She was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, the daughter of Harry and Shirley Germaine.

She was married to John Zumwalt.

Mrs. Zumwalt dedicated her life to education. She served as a school teacher in several states before a medical retirement from Moore County Schools.

Survivors include her daughters, Mandy Acker and Kasey Zumwalt, son John (JD) Zumwalt III; sisters,

Teresa (Teri) Curcio and husband, Tony of Palm Beach, FL; Tamara Weaver and husband, Rick of Steinhatchee,

FL; Lorie Funderburk and her husband Josh of Foxfire; her brother, Skip Germain and wife Becki of Jack-

sonville, FL; and four grandchildren.

No funeral service will be held at her request.



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# Westside Board candidates answer members'

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



[SLWLA] Candidates' Night on Tuesday, February 3.

Candidates Jim Beaty, Jim Greaves, John Hildebrand, Jack Lattin, John Shaughnessy, and Bernadette York sat facing the audience. Community Manager Jeanette Mendenhall, who moderated the session, explained that each candidate would be allowed up to a three minute introduction. They would then be asked six questions, suggested by Association members, with two minutes to respond to each.

## Introductory statements

**Jim Beaty** said he very much appreciated the recent infrastructure upgrades in Seven Lakes West.

"I would like to build on the momentum that I have seen in the last three years," he said. "The mailhouse, front entrance, and road repairs were much needed and long

overdue. What I would like to do is further the beatification of the community."

Beaty suggested further improvements, including more frequent mowing along Longleaf Drive, more attractive street signs, and a back gate makeover.

**John Hildebrand** moved to Seven Lakes in 2013. "We have been in the area since 1999," he said. "We had several friends that lived out here and they really enjoyed it and had fantastic things to say."

Hildebrand also said he would like to build on the recent work the current board has done. "They have done some fantastic things. The new entrance makes it very appealing and residents know that they are coming into a safe nice community," Hildebrand said.

"I like to be involved and have a hand in what's going on in my life and my family's," he said. "I am very analytical and believe in making the best decision as a body as whole not for one body. Let's look at all facts and figure exactly what needs to be done and the most economical way

possible to do it. If I could be a part of that it would absolutely fantastic."

Be open, listen, and learn as you go is Candidate **Jim Greaves'** philosophy. "We have lived out here for seven years, Greaves said. "I decided to run for the board after several people approached me and said that they thought I would do a good job. I would like to keep up the momentum of the current board. I also would like to start a walking trail on Longleaf to allow for pedestrians and get the golf carts off the road. I don't have an agenda. If elected I would like to settle in, find out how things work and go from there."

"I came here from New York via Atlanta," Candidate **Bernadette York** said. "In Atlanta we lived in very robust community. People were involved and people made the community. There were so many different interests and age ranges, but we managed to do things that appealed to them all. I want to bring unity back to the community."

There are so many common things to do that the community could enjoy; raking straw together, a pizza party, find a big screen to show outdoor movies on for the teenagers, and offer afternoon movies for little ones. . . There are so many things that we can do to make our community a better place and enjoy each other while we do them. The biggest reason I am running is that I want this to be a happy place to be. We can have more activities that require very little money. All it takes is a lot of thought and ingenuity. I want to bring back com-

munication with each and every one."

"I have lived in community for about fifteen years and certainly enjoyed it," Veteran Westsider **John Shaughnessy** said. "I became active in the Kiwanis when I moved here. I've been asked why I am running for the board. I think it is probably a sense of responsibility. I have strong leadership characteristics and enjoy meeting different people."

Candidate **Jack Lattin** serves on the Architectural Review Committee and chaired the now defunct  
(Continued on page 13)

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9 Tortellini Soup  Tortellini with Meat Sauce Dinner	10 Red Pepper with Lime Soup  Chicken Fajitas Dinner	11 Goldie's Chili  Sausage, Peppers, & Broccoli Rabe Dinner	12 New England Clam Chowder  Sautéed Shrimp with Peppers Dinner	13 Spinach & Rice Soup  Shepherd's Pie Dinner
16 Roasted Pepper Soup  Spinach Ravioli with Marinara Sauce	17 Irish Potato Soup  Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	18 Broccoli & Cheddar Soup  Bourbon Pork Dinner	19 Curried Salmon Soup  Jack Daniels Salmon Dinner	20 Minestrone Soup  Italian Meatloaf Dinner
23 Lentil Soup  Pasta with Meat Sauce Dinner	24 Tuscan White Bean Soup  Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	25 Greens, Beans & Sausage Soup  Spicy Beef with Peppers Dinner	26 Manhattan Clam Chowder  Shrimp Creole Dinner	27 Bacon & Chickpea Soup  Stuffed Peppers Dinner
30 Farmhouse Soup  Pasta with Vegetables Dinner	28 Curried Chicken Soup  Chicken with Mushrooms Dinner	<p><b>Call 910-673-2211 to Place Your Order!</b> New Hours! Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Closed Saturday &amp; Sunday We are happy to accept your cash or check for payment.</p>		



# questions at Candidates' Night event

(Continued from page 12)

Advocacy Committee.

"We have owned property here since 2002 and completed building our home in 2013," Lattin said. "In my private life, I was employed with General Motors and served in the military. My past careers allowed me the opportunity to develop as a leader. To be successful you must develop and embrace teamwork and encourage everyone to be a part of the process."

"I believe in a strong sound fiscal policy, keeping dues as low as possible, while maintaining adequate reserves for emergencies. I was president of a homeowners association in Michigan. My experience and knowledge would allow me to serve effectively on the board. We also need to embrace open meetings. I would also like to develop a five year plan with bench marks reported monthly."

## Confidentiality

*As a Board member some information, such as what is discussed in Executive Session, will require confidentiality while at other times you will be a conduit for information. How do you see your responsibility as a board member to share information with the community?*

**Hildebrand** — "First of all, it is very important for the community to know everything going on. Transparency is very important. If everything is not up front it appears that everybody is trying to do things behind closed doors and that's not a good thing."

"That being said, I will respect the views and decisions of the executive committee as there will be issues that are sensitive in nature. The board should keep open doors, transparency, and the lines of communication between members and board open."

**Greaves** — "I would like to maintain open communication as much as possible. In order to make decisions, we have to have as much

information as possible. That information should be made available to members as well. We need open doors and open lines of communication. However, some personnel matters need to be handled in private

and as a director I would respect and maintain that confidentiality."

**York** — "Confidently means no discussion outside as a member of the board. Whether I agree or disagree

it is immaterial outside the door. If a member is asking for clarification on information that he or she already has then I would be more than happy to discuss the topic in a positive manner. A lot

of times that is all people need and want. Information is powerful here. But once a topic is deemed confidential then there is no discussion."

**Shaughnessy** — "I have (See "Westside," p. 18)



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# Six hopefuls meet the members at SLLA's

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Members of the Seven Lakes Land-owners Association [SLLA] gathered on Wednesday, February 4 to meet the six candidates for their Board of Directors.

The candidates were given up to six minutes for introductory remarks on their background and experience, challenges and opportunities facing the Association, and how their talents and skills might help the organization meet those challenges and take advantage of those opportunities.

Afterwards, *Seven Lakes Times* Editor Greg Hankins, who moderated the event, asked the candidates questions that had been submitted in writing by audience members. You will find their introductory remarks below, and can find their answers to member questions on *The Times* website at [www.sevenlaketimestimes.com](http://www.sevenlaketimestimes.com).

The six candidates, who are vying for four open seats on the Board, include Joy Smith, Bob Racine, Greg Lishawa, Mark Gyure, Dave Hill, and Lawton Baker. Racine and Hill are both current members of the Board.

## Joy Smith

A young retiree and relatively new resident, Northsider

Joy Smith has served both in the US Marine Corps and in the Los Angeles Police Department [LAPD], reaching the rank of sergeant in both organizations. In between, she worked in social services helping homeless families.

Smith recounted a time in the LAPD when she had been appointed lead officer in a team serving a Hispanic community. When community members realized that Smith did not speak Spanish, they protested her appointment.

"I told them, 'I'll give you thirty days,'" Smith said. "If you don't want me to serve you, to roll my sleeves up and work for you, then I will step down." I stayed working for that community for six years. And it was the best job I had."

"I worked directly with the businesses in that community, with the mayor, with the city council. And we did things as small as speed bumps on the road . . . all the way up to how do we get the drug dealer out of the house beside me . . . how do I keep the graffiti off my wall. So, I have covered a gamut of issues in my career."

Smith is retired at age 52, but is raising two young girls, ages 4 and 12. Noting that Seven Lakes is changing from a primarily retirement community to one with more and more young families, she said, "I hope that you all will see that I am the perfect

bridge for this community."

"I bought here because of what was already here and where I feel like it might go," she said, explaining her motivation for moving to Seven Lakes North.

"I feel like this is a good volunteer opportunity for me and I am willing to step up and take it," Smith said. "I am open; I have done it — on a small scale and a large scale; and I am willing to listen."

## Bob Racine

Bob Racine, who currently serves as SLLA President, reminded the audience of campaign platform he ran on — with three other candidates — four years ago.

Among their goals were increased transparency, decisions made in open meetings, holding town hall meetings for community input, starting repaving of the roads, reviewing the landscaping contract with Davenport, and reestablishment of needed committees. All of those, Racine said, have been accomplished.

"Two remain outstanding, in my view, and must be con-

tinuously addressed," he said. "Transparency — this is a continuous challenge." Racine

noted that, as President, he has continued to encourage

(Continued on page 15)



SLLA Candidate Lawton Baker listens to Les Sommers after the SLLA Candidates' Night on Wednesday, February 5

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# Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 14)

member input at board meetings, despite some pushback against that practice.

"I am committed to listen to these residents and to give them an opportunity to be heard," he said.

The second item that needs additional work is the Association's committees, whose "usefulness and effectiveness has been circumvented," he said.

Turning to new goals, Racine said he will continue to challenge what he called "excessive spending" that aimed to make of Seven Lakes "a showplace with amenities that would dazzle the public."

"We are middle class working and retired persons seeking to live on limited budgets," he said.

Racine said he would actively seek to increase the involvement of younger families in community affairs. "We need the involvement of everyone," he said.

Racine noted that he cares for his two grandchildren every day, giving him a useful perspective on the amenities and their appeal to children.

He cited his experience serving on the Board for four years, serving as President, and on the Judicial and Recreation Committees. He was a town moderator for ten years in New England, and spent his career as an attorney.

Racine said he has an ability to "seek out the facts, analyze them, listen to all parties in a open minded manner, build consensus, and get everyone aboard on a united approach."

## Greg Lishawa

Greg Lishawa said he first visited Seven Lakes thirty years ago, "and fell in love

with this place." He and his wife bought their Northside home in 2006 and became  
(See "SLLA," p. 20)



**SLLA Members share their concerns with candidate Joy Smith during Candidates' Night**

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

- **Cameron WinterFest Sale** – 9 am to 5 pm, Shop Owners annual sales event. 910-245-1231 or 910-245-3020. [www.antiquesofcameron.com](http://www.antiquesofcameron.com)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- **Washington's Birthday**
- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am service. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Piedmont Bridal Show** – 1-4 pm. Expo will feature caterers, florists, photographers, bridal stores, cake makers and other area professionals to assist in planning weddings and other special events. Drawings for brides will be held. Free. Brides pre-register [www.piedmontbridalshow.com](http://www.piedmontbridalshow.com). Cole Auditorium, campus of Richmond Community College, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave., Hamlet, 910-331-9965.
- **"Prehistoric Weymouth"** – 3 pm, The arrival of Europeans and the turpentine industry created drastic

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- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. Learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth Group** – (6th grade – 12th grade) from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm show, doors open at 5:15 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Musical guest: *Alisdair Fraser and Natalie Haas*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)944-7502.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- **Orthodox Lent Begins**
- **Memory Monday** – 4 pm to 5pm, Guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Sullivan. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal

Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Armecia Medlock.

- **Moore County Schools Concept High School Community Forum** – 6 - 7:30 pm at Pinecrest High School. MCS staff will provide a brief overview of the current draft of the academic plan and seek feedback from the audience. Audience participants are encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting 7 pm, guest speaker Susan Miller, Fish and Wildlife biologist will discuss the recovery efforts of the red-cockaded woodpecker population. Weymouth Woods Audito-

rium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167, [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **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.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30, meeting begins at 12:05, Seven Lakes Country Club Restaurant. Guest speaker is Sandy Berger, "What's New in Electronic Gadgets?" Visitors welcome.
- **League of Women Voters** – 11:30 am, luncheon meeting. Speakers will be representatives from Moore County Schools: Anna Stevens, Specialist for English as a Second Language Support, and Marisol Rivera, social worker. Table on the Green Restaurant, 2205 Midland Drive. Reservations required, call Charlotte at 944-9611. Cost

\$13, payable by check to LWVMC. Public welcome. [www.lwvmc.org](http://www.lwvmc.org)

- **St. Joseph of the Pines Memory Screening Day** – 3 pm, Bell Mead Clubhouse. Guest speaker Scott Herrick, Director of Public Policy, of the Alzheimer's Association and Western Carolina Chapter. 100 Gossman Drive, Southern Pines.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting, West Side Park Community Center.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **St. Joseph of the Pines Lenten Lecture** – 5:30 - 6:45 pm, "Prayer and How God Answers Our Prayers" presented by Father Joseph Mulrone, Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinehurst. Supper of soup and bread. *Free*.

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St. Joseph of the Pines, 100 Gossman Drive, Southern Pines.

- **AWANA Youth Group** – 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, 673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Time of fellowship and devotion, meal \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **New Game "Mexican Train"** – 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **"Healthy Back"** – 4 pm - 5 pm, Karen Backall of Appalachian Physical Therapy will be the guest speaker. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Moore County Schools Concept High School**

**Community Forum** – 6 - 7:30 pm at North Moore High School. MCS staff will provide a brief overview of the current draft of the academic plan and seek feedback from the audience. Audience participants are encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions

• **U.S. Black Troops in the Civil War** – 7 pm, Museum of the Cape Fear Black History Month special programming with, Red, White, Blue and Black: United States Colored Troops in North Carolina, presented by Charles Anderson. Free. [www.ncdcr.gov/nemcf](http://www.ncdcr.gov/nemcf)

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **"The Pirates of Penzance"** – Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Your chance to see Gilbert & Sullivan's timeless classic. Full orchestra, superb lighting and sound. Tickets \$18, available at Boyd Library, Sandhills Community College main campus during regular business hours and online at [www.sandhills.edu/pirates](http://www.sandhills.edu/pirates)
- **Senior Games Kickoff** – 10 am - 12 pm, Come and see some of the types of games you can play. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **"The Pirates of Penzance"** – Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Show is funny, fast-paced and filled with wonderful music. Full orchestra, superb lighting and sound.

Tickets \$18, available at Boyd Library, Sandhills Community College [www.sandhills.edu/pirates](http://www.sandhills.edu/pirates)

- **"Music With a Story"** – 10 am - 11:30 am, Piano Concert. Come and enjoy music played by seniors from near and far. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition at Weymouth** – 10 am, High school students competition. Winner competes in New York City. Weymouth Center for the Arts, 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am service. 275 Knox Lane, West End.
- **"The Pirates of Penzance"** – Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Tickets \$18, available at

Boyd Library, Sandhills Community College [www.sandhills.edu/pirates](http://www.sandhills.edu/pirates)

- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm - 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. Learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth from 6 - 6:30 pm. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth Group** – (6th grade - 12th grade) from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 - 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Youth Ministry led by Mandy Allen, open to all youth in 6th - 12th grades. Enjoy fellowship, study and a meal. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm show, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Musical guest: *Annie Selick and the Hot Club of Nashville*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)944-7502.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 2

- **Moore County Board of Education Work Session** – 4 pm, Central Office.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **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.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30, meeting at 12:05, Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Dr. 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

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## Westside Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 13)

served on boards and committees where confidentiality was a given. That's not a problem for me. We have a great online website. All information that I have needed can be found here. Any questions that I am asked I will be glad to answer as those come up."

**Lattin** — "Communicating facts is part of responsibility of the board. It is necessary to be well informed and it is necessary to have personnel matters remain confidential. It is important to take the opinions out and deal with transparency and facts."

**Beaty** — "The term I would like to use is 'appropriate transparency.' I am in a leadership position at FirstHealth. Clearly, there are situations where the item being discussed is confidential. However, relapsing into an inconsistent manner without having a unified front can

be very dangerous. At the same time, I think that any type of decision being made for the community should be public."

### Chairing Committees

*Being a member of the Board, you will be a Chairman of a committee. What aspect of your personality do you perceive will be (A) the most difficult. (B) Your greatest quality in your approach to working with the different personalities of members on the committee, board, and community when problem solving?*

**Greaves** — "I have run my own business for the last sixteen years. I don't have a traditional corporate experience or background. It could create some initial disconnect in communication. But it could also work as a strength, because there will be no preconceived notion of how things are supposed to work.

It allows for different perspectives and better understanding."

**York** — "I would say my biggest fear or problem would be tolerating disrespectful behavior or comments toward other members. It is very difficult to stand back and watch that kind of behavior. My greatest quality is to listen respectfully to the thoughts and suggestions of others. I do my best to keep an open mind, understand where they are coming from, and listen to their suggestions regarding our community. Good communication and respect are important, and taking those ideas and making action items out of them."

**Shaughnessy** — "I am macro thinker and prefer to work in large chunks. I am not detailed oriented; that is a negative. However, serving on past committees, it provides a balance and complements more detailed mem-

bers. My greatest quality is that I am a team player, I believe in everyone having a voice on the committee."

**Lattin** — "I think one of the aspects I need to work on is to ensure that everyone on a committee is working on the same sheet of music. Sometimes I assume that people understand things that clearly they don't. I have learned that the most important thing is teamwork. If you don't have teamwork nothing gets done."

**Beaty** — "It is difficult being a supervisor. I don't wake up in the morning hoping to hurt someone feelings. But by the end of the day it is inevitable. At some point, there will be one person who feels really passionate about something the rest of group feels differently about. It's best to be direct and honest and say 'We respect your input, but as group we are going in a different direction.'

My strength is that I have a very good ability to build relationships, connect, and build consensus."

**Hildebrand** — "My profession as a commercial real estate appraiser requires the ability to analyze based on fact. You take an issue, research all the info you can, work on that particular issue, and make a logical decision. We have to think about the community and what is best for it as a whole. My biggest negative is when I have based a decision on facts, then I really try to stick to it."

### Being in the minority

*Board members have to vote on various issues. As outlined in our Code of Ethics, board members "strive at all times to serve the best interests of the association as a whole regardless of their personal interests". If the majority of the board passed and issue*  
(See "Westside," p. 19)



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## Westside Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 18)

that you personally objected to; (A) Would you support the Board's decision? (B) How would you defend the Board's decision to members that may agree with your point of view?

**York** — "The board votes and I will defend the board's decision. I do have a commitment and duty to the people I represent. But once the vote is taken, I stand with the majority. For those that come up to me after the fact and question why the board voted the way it did, I would tell them: 'If you want to see changes, then maybe you should run for the board.'"

**Shaughnessy** — "Majority rules is how would I defend that. I don't see that as a problem."

**Lattin** — "Once the decision is made it is paramount for the entire board to show strength for that decision. It is extremely important to communicate with members and explain the rationale that the board had."

**Beaty** — "You don't trash a decision of the board. When the board walks out, you have made that decision collectively. If I am in the minority, I simply explain this was

my point of view, here is the data, and this is what the board based their decision on."

**Hildebrand** — "I would also support a final decision. Hopefully, through the process of discussion and debate I will be right all the time. We would come to a compromise. If I am completely wrong, so be it — the majority rules. Nobody would ever hear it from me that the decision that board made was wrong. I would support it."

**Greaves** — "I would have no problem supporting the board. To this date, I have not seen or experienced an issue that is so polarizing that both sides of the argument can't be discussed and figured out. It might take some time to bear the decision out, but the end result will mostly likely be the same. It will be just a different way of getting there. Or it may not work at all, and then we will have to revisit that issue. We can regroup and rethink it at that point."

### Unhappy campers

*As a member of the Board, you will inevitably be at an*

*event (cocktail party, dinner party, concert, etc.) where one person or a group of people will be upset with decisions you made, or that they assumed you were responsible for. Tell us about a similar experience that you have had and how you defused the situation.*

**Shaughnessy** — "I would support the board's decision. I had a similar work related experience when I sat on the Board of a federal credit union in New York. I became president of the board and we finally resolved it. It all worked out fine. We took a lot of heat for a while but as time went by the people understood."

**Lattin** — "As president of an HOA Board in Michigan for a number of years there were numerous occasions when I was approached. I calmly explained the facts. If the person was irate I would ask them to please leave and come back when they could talk in rational manner. I found those to be very effective tools to use. Boards are always going to have issues, but the facts usually win out."

**Beaty** — "This is already

happening I am not even on the board. At work, I have to go through this almost every day. I work with group of about fifty people. Decisions are constantly being made, and inevitably someone is not happy. That's when you, as a director, need to shut your mouth and listen for a little bit. A lot of animosity comes from people feeling they didn't have voice or their opinion wasn't heard . . . I am not going to spend time trying to change opinion. Here are the facts, and here is why the decision was made. They most likely are not going to change their mind and start agreeing with you, but that is how to handle those situations."

**Hildebrand** — "I have lived here only a short amount of time. I was at a party the other night and a friend of mine had an issue of how get something through when it currently was taking an inordinate amount of time. I told her if elected I would look at the issue to minimize the time it takes to get that accomplished. If it is an issue getting things done quickly, let's visit it and ask how we can get it done in quicker

manner."

**Greaves** — "I guess that I don't make it to enough cocktail parties. I would try to find a similar past issue where it was a problem and see how it was handled. I have never had people come up to me and complain. If I am elected I will have to learn that trial by fire. I guess it is coming my way."

**York** — "Someone approached me recently and asked what had happened to the Advocacy Committee. It was a good tool to have at our disposal. If I am elected one of the things I would like to do is bring back the Advocacy Committee. It belongs to and is a voice for members."

Visit The Times website at [www.sevenlaketimes.com](http://www.sevenlaketimes.com) for the candidates' answers to additional questions.

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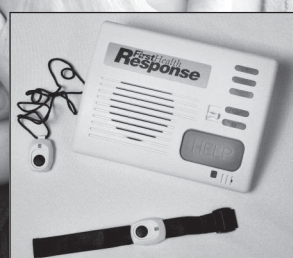
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## SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 15)

full-time residents in 2011.

Lishawa spent twenty-five years as a police officer with the Finley, OH police department, five of those as a patrolman and twenty in the detective division. He served as a SWAT officer and a hostage negotiator, as well as a union representative.

"This is where my wife and I have retired," Lishawa said. "I have a vested interest in this community. I feel a civic obligation to get involved rather than to sit back and complain."

Lishawa has served on the Security Committee for the past two years.

"I believe the last three boards have gotten it pretty much right," he said. There was a great need to address our infrastructure. A lot of things were let go for a long time."

"We need to maintain a high standard of what we have — our roads, our lakes, our dams — while maintaining a high level of financial responsibility. We need to continue to grow this community, to make Seven Lakes a place where people want to live."

"As a police detective, I had to ask five questions on every case: Who, what, when, where, and how," Lishawa said. "As a Board member, I will continue to ask those questions, as well as another one: How much?"

"If I don't know something, I am not afraid to go out and seek the advice of people that know," Lishawa said. He cited as an example that he would shadow dam inspectors when they visit, in order to educate himself about dams and how they function.

"I will answer people's phone calls, I will talk with people, I will meet with people," he said. "I will find out what direction this community wants to go, and I will base all of my decisions on 'Who, what, when, where, how, and how much.'"

### Dave Hill

Dave Hill is a native of Knoxville, TN, but grew up in Hickory. After a brief stint at factory work, he enlisted in the Army at age 18.

"It helped me grow up, taught me the nature of the world, other cultures, and so on," Hill said.

Hill's last duty station was as an infantryman with the 101st Airborne. He served in Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Afghanistan, and other operations. He said he realized that the military "was where I belonged," citing the close community among those in service.

Hill retired from the military after 23 years and enrolled in nursing school at the University of Tennessee. He worked at the Veteran's Administration hospital in Asheville for seven years,

retiring after 30 years of government service.

Hill has two adult children and three grandchildren, who he said enjoy the community when they visit.

When he was ready to retire, Hill said, "I looked, and I looked, and I looked, for two years. When I got to Seven Lakes, I didn't need to look anymore. I found everything here I needed as a retired person."

Hill called Bob Racine "his mentor." "Bob knew I wanted to be involved in the community," Hill said, "and I did. I feel like that is my next step in life. I am retired, this is my home, and you are my family, just like when I was in the military."

Hill joined the Board in August, taking over as Lakes & Dams Director.

Hill said he offers leader-

ships skills and skills in teamwork. "We need leaders and we need community par-

ticipation. I think that I can do that for you."

(See "SLLA," p. 21)



**SLLA President (and candidate) Bob Racine shares some thoughts with a member during Candidates' Night**

### Democractic Precinct Meeting

The Seven Lakes Democratic Precinct will hold its annual organizational meeting on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 pm at the Seven Lakes Firehouse.

The meeting is open to any registered Democrat in the precinct. Attendees will be electing delegates to the Moore County Democratic Convention in April. For more information contact Mindy Fineman at mfineman@nc.rr.com or 673-2640.

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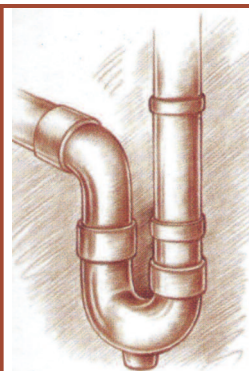


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# SLLA Candidates' Night

(Continued from page 20)

## Mark Gyure

Mark Gyure moved to Seven Lakes in 2013. He is retired with thirty years in the US Air Force's Civil Engineering Squadron, retiring as chief of facility operations, dealing with both maintenance and construction.

He started his own business — Integrated Facility Management Solutions, LLC — twelve years ago. It is focused on energy efficiency and construction and maintenance oversight.

Gyure said he was attracted to the peace and quiet of Seven Lakes, having served at the noisy Andrews Air Force Base as his last duty assignment.

"We are shareholders; we all own a part of this community," Gyure said. He added that he is disappointed to see litter along Seven Lakes streets.

"We need to foster more of a community feeling that 'This is ours,'" he said. "The reason that there is a gate at the front entrance is not because we are snobs, but because we want to create, live in, and foster an environment that we all can enjoy."

He noted that the community is "very hospitable." "Everyone wants to do something, but the direction needs to be given about what we can do. . . . There is a place

for everybody and something for everyone to do. We just need to foster that relationship with the community."

Making that possible he said, depends on having a long range plan for the community. And an effective long range plan requires a thorough understanding of what community members want.

"I don't know what people want to do in their leisure time," Gyure said. "It's not my agenda — it's the agenda of 1,503 people who belong to this community as lot owners. It is our job on the board to solicit, through surveys, through open discussion, through community forums, your ideals, your ideas, your long range plans."

"We know we have roads and buildings to maintain. . . that needs to be lined up in a master plan, so that we know that we are going to get to them in a structured way."

"As for dollars and cents,"

Gyure said, "I'm not one who looks always to be raising dues. There are ways that, by getting the community involved, we can do more, take more responsibility, and ultimately appreciate where we live, by pitching in."

## Lawton Baker

Lawton Baker and his wife moved to Seven Lakes North in 2010. After a four-year stint in the US Army, Baker began working for Southern Bell Telephone in 1971 and continued through all of that company's name changes and reorganizations for twenty-seven years, until his position was outsourced. He then worked for ten years for a company that provided outsourced services to the phone company.

His duties included project design, cost analysis, scheduling materials and work-force, and budget.

Baker's father was career

military, which meant a lot of moving around — "ten schools in twelve years."

"You learn to make friends quickly," he said.

"We love this place," he said of Seven Lakes. Noting that his home "is the yellow house in the hollow down here under the dam," Baker said, "so I am definitely interested in the dam, with all that water up over my head."

He spent his time in the Army with the Army Security Agency, Baker said, which took him from Massachusetts to Arizona, to Japan.

"The important thing is, to make yourself useful, wherever you live," he said. "When we moved in here, the first thing we did was get started with West End Presbyterian Church . . . We jumped right in with both feet."

"If you look at that yellow house down in the hollow, you'll see that we've done a lot of work on it since we came here," he said. "It needed a lot of TLC. And I think that's what this community needs, is a lot of TLC, so that we can enjoy it together and be proud of it."

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## Red Cross Blood Drive

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## Swift to hear, slow to speak

My heart broke as I read the news of three students in Chapel Hill being murdered in cold blood.

I was not outraged because they were Muslim, I was outraged because it is senseless and evil. It doesn't matter if they were Muslim or Christian or Hindi or Atheist or any other religion. There were three lives taken in a pointless act of violence.

Unfortunately, it has made national news because they were Muslim, and I anticipate that many will try to exploit their deaths for political gain.

To be honest, that is what makes me sick. There are senseless acts of violence that take place every day that no one seems to care about, because there is no

angle to be manipulated in order to sway someone's point of view.



### Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

I think that we all have a tendency to shame certain people in order to endorse our own perspective. In shaming others we stand with the crowd and thus gain the approval of the crowd. It usually happens when we are ruled by our emotion rather than our mind.

I had to wade through my emotions as I wrote this piece, because there have been so many senseless deaths that

tangle my emotions. I find myself being frustrated and angry and the more that I wrote the more that my words betrayed my intent.

Thankfully, I have someone who reads what I say before it is published. I think that we all need a filter and a sounding board that prevents us from publishing something that betrays our own convictions.

Unfortunately, we live in a

day where every thought can be instantly published on social media.

I believe that it is one of the main causes of the ever-growing division of our country. We can say hurtful things to our computer screen that we would never say to someone face to face. We hit send, and instantly it is available to the entire world.

We say things that we know will appease those who share our mindset; but, in the process, we alienate everyone else.

The Apostle Paul said "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath."

I think that I may attach that to my computer screen to make sure that I don't hit

send or post prematurely. Inflammatory words that we use to gain the approval of the crowd are the same words that alienate the crowd with the opposing view.

It doesn't mean that we will always agree with each other, but maybe we can narrow the dividing gap and open the lines of communication. I don't want to hear about any more senseless killings, so let's choose our words carefully and season them with grace.

I know that I need reminded of that from time to time.

*Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at [chrabosky@mac.com](mailto:chrabosky@mac.com)*

## Thanks for a great Pancake Breakfast

Dear Editor:

The 33rd Annual Kiwanis Pancake Sausage Breakfast is now history and we are so very thankful for its success. Each of our members worked hard to insure a good experience for all our guests.

We are grateful to Greg Hankins and *The Times* for his support.

We are grateful to each of

our friends and neighbors who bought tickets, so that we could raise the dollars which will benefit the children of Moore County in general and the library of West End Elementary School, which will be our major beneficiary this year.

A very special thanks goes out to Kenny Mace at Mace Electric, who saved our day

by rewiring each of our grid-dles to the new outlet configuration at the school kitchen at very short notice (no pun intended). Thanks Kenny. The Kiwanis couldn't have done it without you.

Congratulations to Jim Schrum of Seven Lakes West who won the 46" flat screen TV.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis

works to "Save the world, one child and one community at a time."

Thank you all for making it possible for us to continue that work.

Please join with Seven Lakes Kiwanis if you'd like

to help in that effort. We are already planning for our 34th Annual Pancake Sausage Breakfast. See you all next February, 2016.

*Bud Sales, President  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis*

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Letters to the  
Editor

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## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

bring the total cost to more than \$10,000. The study is to be conducted by Jewell Engineering.

Members of the Finance Committee indicated that they had not yet evaluated the cost of the project.

"I would have to look at the minutes, but I don't recall \$10,000 being discussed," Director Sandy Sackman said. Finance Committee Member Jim Allen agreed that "the numbers were not included."

Fentzlaff argued that some of the engineering work proposed had already been completed in 2007, by a different engineering firm.

"In 2007, we had an engineering firm do an analysis of all the lakes and dams, including Ramapo," Fentzlaff said. "It has all facts and figures of the drainage area surrounding the lake. It goes pretty much into everything that Jewell would have to go through again. In those reports for the Ramapo Dam, the drain system was discussed at that time."

Fentzlaff also reminded the board that Ramapo Dam is a low hazard dam that would drain out with little threat of property loss if compromised.

Community Manager Ray Sohl reported that Jewell Engineering will not accept paper copies of the previous engineering report, but requires electronic copies. He explained that Jewell needed electronic copies of the work in order to understand the formulas embedded

in the calculations. But the electronic copies were lost by the previous engineering firm in a computer crash.

"The study conducted in 2007 said that the design spillway capacity is unknown," Sohl said. "It recommended a thorough hydrology study be conducted. In view of what that finding says and Jewell's report says, I am recommending a professional company evaluate the dam, for \$7,000. I think it is a mistake for you to choose not to. You should use professionals for a commercial grade project."

"I would like to know how many on the board have been out and looked at Ramapo," President Bob Racine said. "I went out for first time the other day. Personally, I do not think there is a big rush for this. I am more interested in all the board members going out and viewing it, because this could be a big expense."

### High hazard or low

The proposed study would include recommendations of whether the dam could withstand a fifty year storm.

"The liability exposure is

incredibly significant for the Association without having a PE [Professional Engineer] stamp on it," Sohl said.

"Just because it has a PE stamp doesn't make it sanctimonious," Racine countered.

"If you have one without a stamp you have considerable exposure," Sohl reiterated.

Director Chuck Leach questioned the role of Fentzlaff and the Lakes & Dams Committee in making recommendations.

"The Ramapo Dam may not be a high hazard by the state. But it does hold a million plus gallons of water," Leach said. "If that dam should ever fail, property damage will occur; and Seven Lakes will not have the necessary funds to rebuild the dam."

"The potential risk still exists," Leach said. "Huge property loss is why we must utilize a professional engineer, not a well-intentioned amateur. As board members, we have an experienced community manager in charge."

"Ramapo is considered a low hazard dam by the state," Fentzlaff replied. "There is no potential for downstream damage if that lake were to

empty out. That goes the same for Timber and Dogwood Lakes."

Leach urged, "It is still the board's responsibility to make the final decision," Leach urged. "Let's move it forward [to the Open Meeting for a vote]."

Racine asked for a show of hands to move the proposal to the Open Meeting. Leach was the lone vote in favor.

### Decision on paving engineer delayed

Turning to other matters, Sohl recommended hiring an engineering firm, at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, to oversee road repaving planned for later this year.

Reflecting on problems that emerged from the Association's last repaving project, Director Leach said, "Once again, we could have saved the association money by hiring a professional. Instead we had an amateur community member outside looking at pavement that was put down."

"We didn't have an engineer draw up specs. Instead they

were drawn up by contractor who did the job. And once again, no warranty. We wanted to save money; and, as a result, there is cracking, and we were unable to go back, press charges, or take any legal action, because it wasn't written up that way."

Director Sackman said the proposal had been discussed in Finance, but was not put to a vote because the committee had too little time to study the recommendation.

Manager Sohl agreed that both the Board and the committee had little time to review the proposal, but urged that it be placed on the agenda of the February 25 Open Meeting.

"I recommend, in order not to delay the project, that you move this along," Sohl said. "You are going have a much more difficult time getting it done before the end of the fiscal year if you don't."

Racine noted the Finance and the Facilities Committees still needed to provide input. The Board agreed to call a Special Meeting for Saturday,

(See "SLLA," p. 24)



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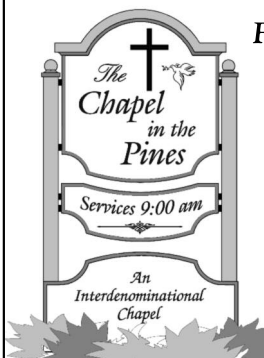
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## School Board

(Continued from page 4)

number one in the school's junior class, who not only excels academically, but participates in dance, tennis, and orchestra, as well as offering the community more than 200 volunteers hours in the past two years. Also recognized was John "J.L." Benton, a Union Pines Senior who has been appointed to the US Coast Guard Academy.

### Work Sessions — Where the action is

The Consent Agenda for the School Board's February 9 meeting included a long list of approvals, from the high school course guide for next year to an increase in school lunch fees.

The details of each action item had been explored in depth during the Board's February 2 Work Session (which was reported on in

the February 6 edition of *The Times*).

Consent agenda approvals included:

- An amended budget resolution for the current year, with relatively minor changes.
- Renewal of the \$54,490 one-year contract with the Discovery Educational Streaming service, which offers multimedia content for use in classrooms.

- Renewal of MCS' contract with the accounting firm Dixon Hughes Goodman for the FY2015 audit, at a cost of \$44,000.
- A \$32,000 contract with Pinehurst Surgical Clinic to provide athletic trainer services for Pinecrest High School.
- Approval of the High School Course Guide.
- A twenty five cent increase in school lunch fees for

next year, which will raise the cost to \$2.25 at elementary and middle schools and \$2.50 at the high schools.

- A \$20 increase in the fee for the childcare program at Vass/Lakeview Elementary.
- A new \$5 annual fee for middle school students who participate in Art, Drama, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra.

## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 23)

February 28 to further discuss the proposed expenditure — and voted five to one, with Leach opposed, not to move it to the Open Meeting.

### Held up in committee

Clearly frustrated by seeing projects delayed while in committee review, Leach read a written statement he had prepared in advance.

"During the last year, actions have been significantly delayed due to committees wanting to review projects," Leach read. "Various committees wanting to provide their input is good; however, the method is causing significant delays."

Noting the delay in reaching a decision about replacing

the pasture fence, Leach said, "there were two committees stirring controversy and lengthening a time sensitive project."

Leach then distributed a handout describing a procedure aimed at expediting the review process. Other Board Members and management agreed that the handout could help move the process along more quickly.

President Racine reminded the Board of the importance of committees having a voice. He also said that the stable fence was not a good example of slow progress.

Director Farley reminded Leach that the Recreation Committee had presented a full-fledged recommendation for replacing the pasture fence.

"We gave our recommendation," she said. "Not that it was considered. It went right out the window."

### Other business

In other business, during their Monday, February 9 Work Session, the SLLA Board:

- Moved to the Open Meeting a set of fence guidelines initially drafted by the Architectural Review Board. ARB member Jane Leach objected that the guidelines had been altered in a way that will require fences on lakefront lots to stop at

least fifty feet from the water's edge. But she urged the Board to move the guidelines to the Open Meeting for a decision.

- Referred revised ARB Dock Guidelines to the open meeting.
- Appointed Les Sommers to the Finance Committee.

- Moved to the Open Meeting an agreement for pool maintenance. Routine daily cleaning will be done by the lifeguards.
- Moved forward a security contract amendment that reflects additional health insurance costs for security personnel.

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## Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

### No signs allowed

McCue reminded villagers that they are not allowed to post signs advertising lost dogs, yard sales, etc. on existing village street signs.

"If you have to put up a sign, you need to come to the Village Clerk and put it up independently, if it's allowed," he said.

"It's a touchy subject," McCue said. "But when a small child has lost his dog, I'd like to help him out, but when he puts duct tape on our street signs, now there's duct tape residue on the street signs he put them up on, which may last forever."

"There are other ways," he added. "We could probably even use Code Red to put the word out for lost dogs and such."

### Water leak damages home

Councilman Jon Sedlak reported that a water leak at a home on Richmond Road had increased overall village water usage for the month of January.

"If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time, feel free to call us, and we will turn the water off and then turn it back on when you are coming back," Sedlak said.

Sedlak told *The Times* that the home was vacant at the time of the leak. Water lines above the ceiling ruptured, causing extensive damage to the home. The leak consumed

more than 200,000 gallons of water, he said.

### Highway 211 Corridor

Councilman McCue reported that Moore County has pulled out of a cooperative planning effort for the NC Highway 211 corridor, feeling that the existing regulations in the county Unified Development Ordinance was sufficient to manage development in the area between West End and Pinehurst.

Although Foxfire Village no longer has tracts within its Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction [ETJ] that lie adjacent to NC 211, McCue said he felt that his participation, along with Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Mary Gilroy, "helps us in learning about planning and about what our neighbors are going to do."

### No help from NCDOT

Councilman Vic Koos reported that he had sought assistance from the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] in replacing a horse crossing sign at the intersection of Reynview Vista and Hoffman Road and a mirror to increase visibility at Hoffman and Hillside Drive.

In neither case was the state agency willing to take action.

"The state isn't going to do anything," Koos said. "So the moral of the story is this: The village shouldn't get involved on any state roads."

### Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, February 10 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council:

- The Council appointed Sue Durham to the Board of Adjustment.
- Mayor Steve Durham called the council's attention to a summary sheet on state public records and open meetings law that Village Clerk Lisa Kivett obtained at a recent clerks' training academy.
- Councilwoman Frusco reminded Council Members that their Thursday, February 26 Work Session would include a discussion of any big projects being considered for the various

Village departments.

- Frusco presented the cash balance report, noting that the Village Office had collected more than 100 percent of the property tax revenue budgeted for this year. Each year, the council budgets collections at less than 100 percent of taxes due — a precaution in case there are shortfalls.

- The Council authorized Tax Collector Sharon Sanchez to advertise tax liens on those properties for which taxes are still due, a total of \$24,599 owed by 34 taxpayers.
- Frusco said notices will be mailed in March for the final year of special assessments for the Woodland Circle Extension project.

## Kelly Cup Golf Tournament

The 17th Annual Kelly Cup Golf Tournament, to benefit Sandhills Children's Center, is a Best Ball of 4 Full Handicap tournament to be held Wednesday, March 18 at the Pinehurst #8 course.

Cost is \$200 per player. For further details and to register go to the Special Events section of the website [www.sandhillschildrenscenter.org](http://www.sandhillschildrenscenter.org)

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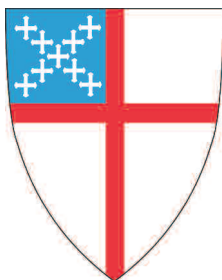
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# Revaluation

(Continued from front page)

past twenty-four months. The revaluation process divides the County's nearly 70,000 parcels into roughly 600 neighborhoods — geographical groupings of homes that have similar characteristics. A vast database of information about individual properties helps the Tax Department assign values.

## Values fairly stable

Unlike the 2007 revaluation, when a booming economy sent demand and home values soaring, overall values aren't expected to change much this year, the Tax Department's Gary Briggs told *The Times*. Preliminary estimates suggest the overall size of the County's tax base might decrease by roughly one percent.

"We should feel good that Moore County's economy hasn't suffered as much as it has in some parts of the country," Briggs said.

But individual properties may well see some shift in values, up or down. Briggs noted that especially large and expensive properties have tended to stay on the market longer, putting downward pressure on prices.

And on the commercial side of the equation, he said "golf courses have taken it on the chin" both in terms of the value of the land and their revenue picture.

## Valuation can be appealed

Owners who disagree with the value placed on their home have several options to have that valuation reconsidered.

The first step is what the Tax Department calls "the informal process." The department will hold a series of community workshops in various locations around the county from late February through early April to give citizens a chance to consult with an appraiser on a first-come, first-served basis. A schedule of those meetings

can be found in the Tax Department insert included in this edition of *The Times* — and on the Moore County website.

Briggs said those who feel their property is incorrectly valued should bring in "any type of information that supports their opinion of value." That might include a formal appraisal conducted within the past eighteen months. (Briggs stressed that it's important to bring in a copy of the complete appraisal; not simply a cover sheet.) Photos, floor plans, information about how the home in question might differ from others in the neighborhood are all welcome.

"Imagine that we have put a value of \$300,000 on your home," Briggs said, "and you think it should be \$225,000. I know how we got to the \$300,000, so you need to show me why \$225,000 is the right number."

No decision about changing the valuation will be made on the spot, Briggs said. Instead, appraisers will take

all that information and incorporate it in a secondary review process. He explained that information provided by individuals could impact the values in an entire neighborhood.

Once the informal process is complete, those homeowners who valuation has changed as a result will receive new notices.

Whether or not they have taken advantage of the informal process, landowners can appeal their valuation to the Board of Equalization and Review, which will convene on April 27. Homeowners will make appointments for sessions before the board, which will remain in session until May 28. Notices of its deci-

sions will be mailed out in June.

Property owners still dissatisfied after that board has rendered its decisions can appeal at the state level to the Property Tax Commission.

Briggs said the "10-10-10 Rule" general applies in revaluations. About ten percent of property owners — roughly 7,000 in Moore County — can be expected to request a second look during the informal process.

About ten percent of those — 700 — will move on to the Board of Equalization and Review. And about ten percent of those — 70 — will appeal at the state level.

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## Letter grades

(Continued from front page)

Pines.

West End Elementary, Vass-Lakeview, Highfalls, Carthage, and Cameron received Cs. Westmoore, Aberdeen, and Robbins received Ds.

Two Moore County charter schools also received letter grades. The Academy of Moore received a B; STARS scored a D.

Parents of students at D-graded schools will be getting a letter noting the low score.

### Do the grades mean anything?

Those are the results, but the questions parents, teachers, and students might be asking is: "Do they mean anything?"

Bruce Cunningham isn't convinced.

"My reaction to the newly released A-F grading system is that it is an oversimplified and unrealistic way of gauging the success of a particular school," Cunningham, who chairs the Moore County Board of Education, told *The Times*.

By way of example, he noted that US News and World Report placed Pinecrest among the top fifteen high schools in the state. Cunningham said he knows one Pinecrest senior who has been accepted at Harvard and another who has been accepted at Yale.

"I know four Pinecrest students who were national debate champions," Cunningham said, "and you tell me that all these students are going to a C school?"

In fact, Pinecrest missed its B by a single point. Behind the letter grades are the typical 100 point scale that readers will remember from their own schools days. In the fifteen point scale used for the state's new letter grades, the cutoff for a B is 70. Pinecrest scored 69.

So did Highfalls Elementary and New Century Middle School — both one point shy of a B.

### A single test on a single day

Even more important in understanding what the

grades mean is understanding what they don't measure. The letter grades don't really reflect the degree to which a teacher takes a child who is struggling and helps them become a successful student.

"Not every student starts at the same place, Mike Metcalf told *The Times*. Dr. Metcalf is Moore County Schools'

[MCS] Director for Planning, Accountability and Research — i.e., the testing guru.

"Some students may start so low that they may never pass the proficiency test," he said, "but they may have grown more than we would have expected them to."

Metcalf explained that the letter grades and the scores

behind them, at least for elementary and middle schools, are based on a single test.

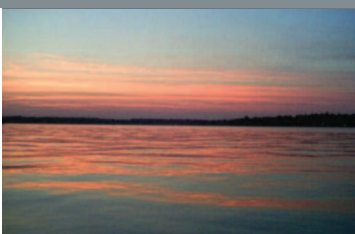
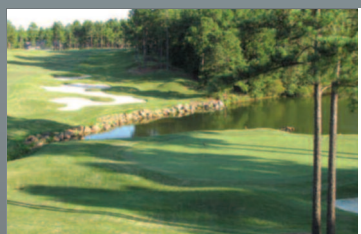
"You are boiling it down to a single test on a single day," he said.

For elementary and middle schools, eighty percent of the score behind the letter grade is based on how students score on end of grade profi-

ciency tests in reading, math, and science. Only twenty percent is based on comparing students' actual progress in the grade against their expected progress in the grade.

Metcalf noted that there are conversations among legislators in Raleigh about

(See "Letter grades," p. 28)



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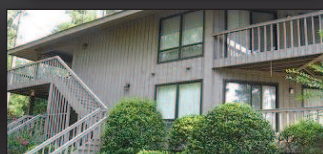
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## Letter grades

(Continued from page 27)

changing the weighting from 80-20 to 60-40, so that student growth is given more weight in the letter grade.

Senator Jerry Tillman, who represents Moore County in the NC Senate and chairs two powerful education committees in the General Assembly, agreed with Metcalf on that point.

"It measures proficiency, but it doesn't measure achievement," Tillman said of the new letter grade system. "In other words, you

might have a school with real poor demographics where students are coming from behind. They might have a 'D' on proficiency, but they might be achieving real progress. Right now we're mostly measuring proficiency."

"In the future, we might want to give two grades: one for proficiency and one for achievement," Tillman said. "Or we might want to increase the percentage of the achievement score."

"I want to see how the

scores turn out over the next year or two" before making changes to the system, he added.

### Measuring school performance — or poverty?

Data released by the state Department of Public Instruction shows a close correlation between poverty and low proficiency scores — and that correlation seems to hold up in Moore County schools.

A commonly used measure of the relative wealth of student populations is to look

at the percentage of students on free and reduced lunch-

es. The graph below places that percentage for Moore County elementary schools against the School Performance Grade [SPG] scores of those same schools. The letter grades are based on the SPG scores.

Pinehurst Elementary had the highest SPG score, at 83, and the lowest percentage of students on free or reduced lunch, at 18 percent.

Ninety-five percent of Robbins Elementary students are on free or reduced lunch and the school's SPG score of 48 was the lowest in the district.

The correlation isn't exact, but the bar graph is telling. As the green bars indicating

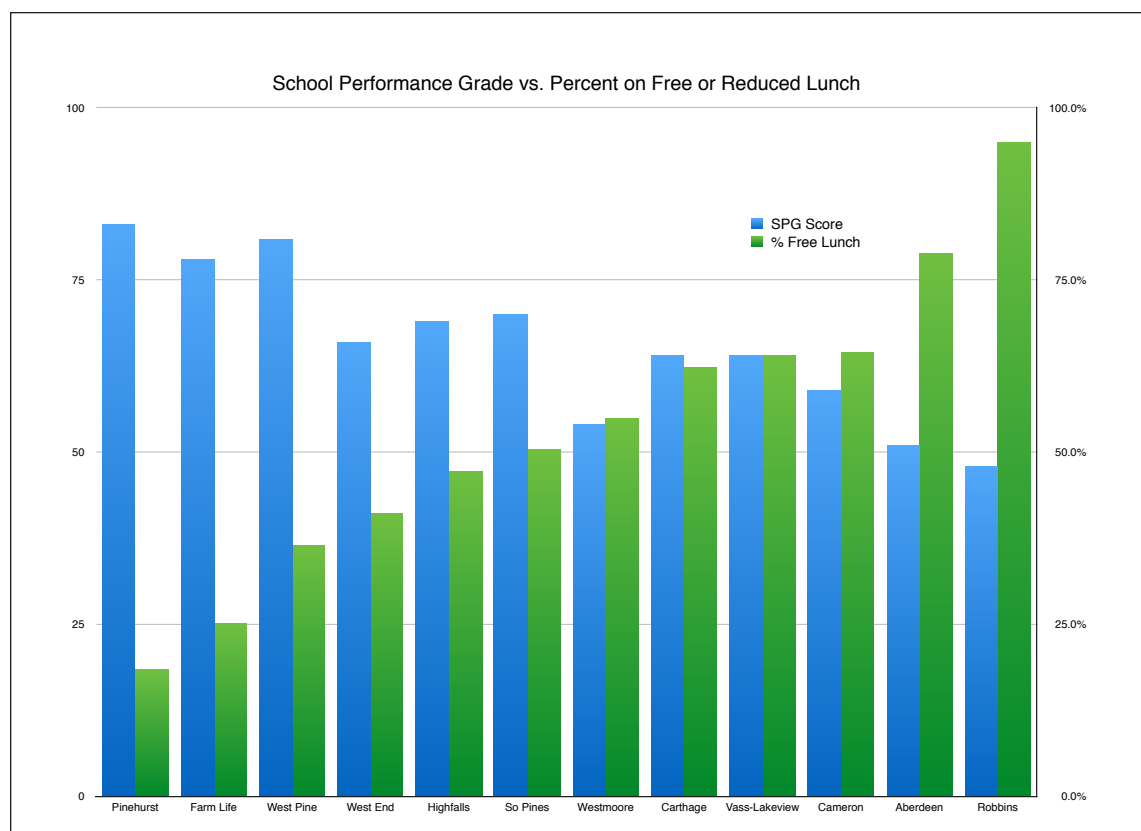
the percentage of students with free and reduced lunch rises, the blue bars representing SPG scores fall.

Statewide, "many of the schools that you're seeing with Ds and Fs are schools with high poverty," Metcalf told *The Times*. "Many of the As are specialty schools — math and science academies."

Metcalf is concerned not only that parents and students may have trouble understanding what the letter grades mean, but also that the grades may discourage teachers.

"I am most concerned about how it will affect our teachers," he said. "You have teachers who have chosen to work with the most difficult

(See "Letter grades," p. 29)



Graphing school performance grades against measures of family income suggests a link between poverty and performance.



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## Letter grades

(Continued from page 28)

populations of students, who may be helping those students achieve more than they ever thought possible, and they get saddled with a D."

### The 'Growing to Greatness' Alternative

So, it's possible that our new letter grades have as much to do with poverty as performance. And they aren't designed to give much weight to academic growth.

But they may be missing even more important aspects of what education is all about, Bruce Cunningham told *The Times*.

Even though letter grades for schools are new in North Carolina, the idea of rating schools based on proficiency scores is not.

In the 1990s, the state developed an accountability model called "the ABCs of Public Education." Schools were scored based on a more complicated set of criteria than used in the current letter grades, in a system that was tweaked nearly every school year. Based on the results, schools were designated as "having made expected progress" or not, and high scoring schools

were designated as "schools of excellence" or "schools of distinction."

As Senator Tillman told *The Times*: "A letter grade is a lot easier to understand than a 'school of excellence' or a school of distinction.' And that's what we had before."

Cunningham and his fellow Moore County School Board members were not big fans of the complicated ABC system.

He told *The Times* that MCS' "Growing to Greatness" strategic plan was created, in part, in reaction to the ABC focus on test scores.

Growing to Greatness lays out goals and strategies in four "pathways," one of which is "Learning." The others are "Leadership," "Culture," and "Community."

"When we developed Growing to Greatness, we were saying that, to us, it is meaningful to say that part of our mission is to help kids be leaders," Cunningham explained. "We want kids who care about who they are and where they come from — and who know the story of their community."

"We developed Growing to Greatness to support and

legitimize teachers who want to do more than teach to the test," he said.

That philosophy is reflected even in the naming and landscaping of schools, Cunningham said.

"When we opened Crain's Creek Middle School, we named it for the first public school in Moore County," he explained. "It was named after the surveyor who originally surveyed that area. At the dedication, [former School Board Member] Lorna Clack gave students a presentation about the Scottish Highlanders coming up the Cape Fear River after the battle of Culloden."

"When we built West Pine Middle School, we planted peach trees, because kids ought to know that that is peach country."

In an earlier interview, Cunningham told *The Times* that he believes one of the responsibilities of the Moore County Board of Education is to resist the current fashion for boiling down the complex process of teaching and learning into a set of oversimplified numbers.

The Growing to Greatness strategic plan, which the

Board updated and reaffirmed last year, is Moore County's answer to that oversimplification.

"I don't want people to think that Growing to Greatness is a gimmick -- just something that sounds good,"

Cunningham said.

"We believe it."

Quoting Albert Einstein, he added: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

## Pirates of Penzance

Musical theater returns to Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium on Friday, February 27, 28 and March 1.

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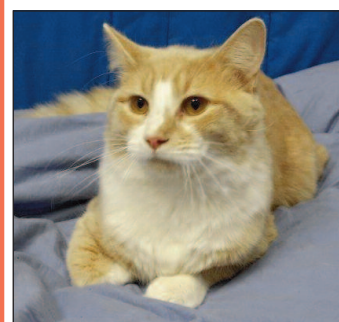
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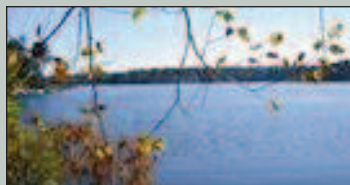
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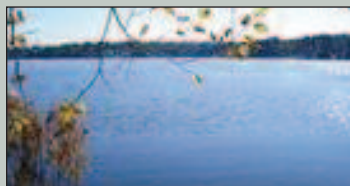
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Gorgeous wide water views — eastern exposure for optimum enjoyment of your late afternoon entertainment — one of the best lots on the lake! (.67 Acres)



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 \$515,000**  
Gorgeous water front  
3 BA / 2 BA  
143 Vanore Road



**Seven Lakes West \$279,000**  
Lovely Home built by Bolton Builders  
4 BR / 3 BA  
335 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$499,000**  
Gorgeous custom home on almost 6 acres!  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
364 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$249,000**  
Great house with upstairs bonus room  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
541 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$224,500**  
Custom home w/stunning lake views!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
108 Sunrise Point



**Seven Lakes West \$250,000**  
One-story w/sweeping golf views  
3 BR / 3 BA  
296 Longleaf Drive



**Foxfire \$174,900**  
Lovely updated home on cul-de-sac  
3 BR / 2 BA  
3 Pine Ridge Court



**Seven Lakes North \$279,500**  
Charming waterfront home on Lake Sequoia!  
2 BR / 2.5 BA  
105 Brown Bark Road



**Seven Lakes North \$375,000**  
Beautiful lakefront home w/great updates!  
3 BR / 3 BA  
112 Overlook Drive



**Seven Lakes North \$199,000**  
Lovely lakefront home w/great updates!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
110 Fox Run Court



**Seven Lakes West \$599,000**  
Custom water front home w/great views!  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
121 Wertz Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$249,900**  
Recently renovated w/expansive lake views!  
3 BR / 3 BA  
106 Sunrise Point



**Seven Lakes West \$235,000**  
Beautiful all brick home w/great updates!  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
287 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$246,000**  
Immaculate, cozy golf front cottage  
3 BR / 2 BA  
214 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes North \$325,000**  
Beautiful lakefront home on large, serene lot  
3 BR / 3 BA  
175 Firetree Lane



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



**Seven Lakes West \$299,900**  
Beautiful golf front home overlooking pond  
4 BR / 3 BA  
230 Finch Gate Drive



**Seven Lakes North \$165,000**  
Charming home w/large deck & private yard!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
136 E. Shenandoah Road

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