

Picerno re-elected County Chairman

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



McLendon Hills resident Nick Picerno was re-elected Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners during the panel's regular Tuesday, December 8 meeting.

This marks Picerno's fifth turn in the Chairman's seat; he held the post in 2008, 2011, 2013, and 2015. But it will be his last, at least for now. Picerno's term expires in November, and he has not

filed to run for re-election.

Nor has his fellow budget team member Randy Saunders of Whispering Pines, who was elected Vice Chairman.

Sales Tax for schools defended

The Commissioners have placed a referendum on the March 15 primary election ballot that asks voters to increase the County's sale tax rate by one-quarter of one percent, raising it from 6.75 percent to 7.0 percent.

The Board has also passed

(See "Tax," p. 28)

Board ready to drop lifeguards

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board is poised to eliminate lifeguards at the Northside swimming pool — and remove at least one of the diving boards — in votes scheduled for the January 14 Open Meeting.

Director Bob Racine made

motions during the Board's Thursday, December 17 Work Session to move both proposals to the Open Meeting and won the unanimous support of his fellow Board members.

President Chuck Leach introduced the idea of eliminating lifeguards, arguing that they increase the Association's liability, are difficult to manage, and reduce the

(See "Lifeguards," p. 18)

Merry Christmas!



Kelsey Talbert & Callie Hatcher double-team Santa at the Seven Lakes Business Guild's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. [See page 10 for more photos.]

Westside candidates tapped to fill vacancies on Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Six candidates will compete in March for three open seats on the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

The candidates are: Stan Makson, Dan Lambert, Parks Cobb, Ben Benjamin, Duane Coppeler, and Bob Van Houten.

The current Directors accepted the recommendation of the Nomination Committee during the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, December 15.

But this is already shaping up to be a very unusual election in Seven Lakes West.

The Board had already selected Finance Committee member Stan Makson to fill the unexpired term of Mercedes Herdrich, who resigned in November.

Makson recused himself for voting on the slate of candidates.

In the days since the Board meeting, two more candidates have been appointed to the Board to fill vacancies.

Parks Cobb was appointed to serve out the unexpired term of Infrastructure Director Bernadette York, who resigned in late November, and Duane Coppeler was

appointed to fill the unexpired term of Architectural Review [ARC] Director John Shaughnessy, who resigned after the Board Meeting.

The Infrastructure opening was announced at the meeting; neither Shaughnessy's resignation nor the opening were announced before Coppeler was appointed.

York and Shaughnessy were both elected in March, so more than two years remain on their unexpired terms. The appointments of Cobb and Coppeler effectively pull them off the March ballot, reducing the slate to four candidates.

The term of office that Makson (See "Westside," p. 25)

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AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers, 18-years of age and older, willing to learn to prepare and electronically file Federal and North Carolina tax returns for most low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older.

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Tax-Aide is a nation-wide, all-volunteer program which provides tax prep assistance completely free to most taxpayers, regardless of age, for

whom the cost of professional services would be a financial burden. Trained volunteers, using IRS software, assist clients through the maze of Federal and State tax laws. Last year, Tax-Aide volunteers in the area prepared and filed

over 1900 tax returns.

Tax-Aide needs volunteers to serve either as tax preparers or client greeters. Those offering to be tax preparers receive IRS-approved training, earn IRS certification, and are covered for lia-

bility when working within the scope of AARP Foundation's mandate. Certified instructors will begin six days of in-classroom training in mid-January 2016, at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, two-miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle. Most trainees find the need for additional study time at home. Actual preparation of returns starts the first week of February and continues into mid-April.

Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of one pre-scheduled four to six-hour shift per week. Some individuals are able to do more. Volunteers may choose to work at one or more of

the following district tax preparation sites: Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, Southern Pines Library, Habitat for Humanity (Feb. only), and/or Laurinburg.

If you are interested in challenging yourself, expanding your knowledge, and helping others by using your skill and training, then this is the volunteer opportunity for you.

For more information on the Tax-Aide team, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide

If you have questions or wish to volunteer, contact D. Paul Klein by phone at 910-585-7130 or by email at DP@klein.net

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Jan 15	Fri, Jan 22
Fri, Jan 29	Fri, Feb 5
Fri, Feb 12	Fri, Feb 19
Fri, Feb 26	Fri, March 4
Fri, March 11	Fri, March 18
Thu, March 24	Fri, April 1
Fri, April 8	Fri, April 15
Fri, April 22	Fri, April 29
Fri, May 6	Fri, May 13
Fri, May 20	Fri, May 27
Fri, June 3	Fri, June 10
Fri, June 17	Fri, June 24
The, June 30	Fri, July 8
Fri, July 15	Fri, July 22
Fri, July 29	Fri, Aug 5
Fri, Aug 12	Fri, Aug 19
Fri, Aug 26	Fri, Sept 2
Fri, Sept 9	Fri, Sept 16
Fri, Sept 23	Fri, Sept 30
Fri, Oct 7	Fri, Oct 14
Fri, Oct 21	Fri, Oct 28
Fri, Nov 4	Fri, Nov 11

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Come on out for bocce!

The new Seven Lakes Bocce League is off to a good start. Twelve teams of 2 players have now completed three weeks of play on Mondays and Fridays at 2 pm.

Stats for individual and team play are compiled for bragging rights.

Current standings have westsider Tony While leading northsider Jim Allen by a single point while the team

of Jim and Joe Mannuci hold a 6-point lead in league play. Weather permitting, play will continue through the winter.

A second court is awaiting completion. All interested players are welcome.

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Beacon Ridge Country Club up for auction

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Beacon Ridge is on the auction block.

Golf course broker Hilda W. Allen has the 18 hole course, clubhouse, and other amenities listed on her website with a bid deadline of Thursday, February 4.

Current club owner Don Billings told *The Times* that he hopes to have a deal closed by March 1, in plenty of time for the new owners to capitalize on the Spring season.

Billings notified the membership of the possible sale in a letter on Tuesday, December 8.

Billings and his wife Rhonda came out of retirement to run the club in 2013, after terminating a lease with Wingfield Properties, which had operated it for the past sixteen years. In his letter, Billings noted that Wingfield was not meeting the terms of the lease and was "continuing to let the club deteriorate."

Since then, the Billings company, Beacon Ridge Investment Group, has made substantial upgrades, including remodeling portions of

the clubhouse; adding a fitness center; reopening the pool; which had been closed by the county Health Department; and bringing on long-time Foxfire Golf manager Howard Cannon to manage day-to-day operations.

Those efforts were dealt a setback this past Summer, when over-fertilization severely damaged a number of greens. They have since been resodded with bent grass and are well on the way to recovery, Billings said.

The improvements helped reverse a decline in membership. Billings told *The Times* that the club currently has just under 200 memberships, with the majority of those including couples or families.

"We just felt like we had made an investment in having substantially rehabbed the club, and it holding its own for a couple of years," he said, "but realized that we didn't want to continue with the task of rebuilding it up."

In his letter to the membership, Billings wrote, "Given our ages, it is time for us to retire again." Billings is 81.

The club will continue to operate with no changes as the auction process proceeds. Billings told members that any dues prepaid for 2016 will be held in escrow and withdrawn on a monthly basis until closing, when they will be disbursed to the new owners, who will continue to honor memberships.

Billings: long history with Seven Lakes West

Billings became the developer of Seven Lakes West and the owner of the yet-to-be built Beacon Ridge Country Club in January of 1990.

A corporate attorney, he represented a group of creditors in the bankruptcy proceedings of the Moor Group, which had purchased the assets of the original Seven Lakes development companies Longleaf, Inc. and Peter V. Tufts & Associates in 1984.

Chronically undercapitalized, Moor filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in 1986. The bankruptcy court awarded most of the assets — including Seven Lakes West and Beacon Ridge — to the creditors in May of 1987. The creditors asked Billings

to manage the development on their behalf.

"Seven Lakes West had thirty miles of road platted and maybe two miles paved," Billings recalled, "and two miles of waterline. We had to get something going."

The plan that Billings submitted to the bankruptcy court would have allowed the creditors to take over Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] as well — important to the viability of the offer, because the Club had a positive cash flow.

However, the SLCC membership made a bid to purchase the club and the court agreed, leaving Billings with about \$300,000 in capital to

get started.

The golf course did not yet exist — just a plan for where it was to go and a single street cut by Moor Group. Billings hired noted designer Gene Hamm to develop the golf course.

A premium course

The 6,494-yard, 18-hole Beacon Ridge Course has bermuda fairways and bent grass greens, a twelve-station driving range, a putting green, and a pitch and sand practice area.

In addition to the new fitness center and recently upgraded swimming pool, facilities include the two-

(See "BRCC," p. 27)

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Board faces decision on year-round school

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The future looks dim for year-round school in Moore County.

Moore County Schools [MCS] has for several years offered elementary school parents in four schools the option of choosing either the traditional calendar, with a long Summer vacation, or a year-round calendar that has shorter vacation periods throughout the year.

But the MCS Finance Department has determined that costs the district and additional \$400,000 per year — an expense that is difficult to sustain in a time of tight budgets. In addition, the “dual-track” system results in an unbalanced allocation of the resources in a given school, with year-round class sizes in a given school typically much smaller than class sizes for the traditional calendar.

Among the families that attend dual-track schools, a recent survey found that two-thirds prefer the traditional calendar.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Ed Pruden presented the results of that survey during the Board of Education’s Monday, December 7 Work Session.

Surveys were distributed to parents at the four elementary schools that offer

dual-track — West Pine, Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Southern Pines Primary — as well as at Aberdeen Elementary and Primary, which send a number of students to Southern Pines to attend year round school.

Of 2252 surveys distributed, 89 percent were returned, an unusually high response rate.

Support for the year-round calendar was strongest at Southern Pines Elementary, where a slight majority (51 percent) preferred it, as did 45 percent at Southern Pines Primary.

At Pinehurst, 66 percent preferred the traditional calendar, as did roughly three quarters of Aberdeen and West Pine parents.

MCS staff in the schools surveyed were nearly evenly split, with 49 percent preferring the year-round calendar and 47 percent the traditional. But there was substantial variation across schools, with nearly two-thirds of Southern Pines staff preferring the year-round calendar, compared to 48 percent at Pinehurst and West Pine and only 34 percent at the Aberdeen schools.

serve as a magnet for students from outside that attendance area who prefer the year-round option.

But that strategy raises a host of issues, which Pruden raised in his presentation.

- Which school would serve as the year-round campus? Support for year-round is strongest in Southern Pines, but a slim majority of parents in the Southern Pines district prefer the traditional calendar.

- Would those families be able to transfer out to a traditional calendar school?

- If so, is there room for them in a nearby traditional calendar school?

- Will MCS bear the cost of transporting all those transferring students to their respective schools?

- If more students select the year-round school than can be accommodated, how would they be selected? By lottery?

Pruden noted that there appears to be ample support among parents for a calendar that would start school earlier in August, allowing the Fall semester to be concluded prior to the Christmas break.

But current legislation prevents that, and the General Assembly has so far been unwilling to bend on the issue.

After some discussion among Board members, Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey said he would be prepared to bring the Board a recommendation at their January 4 Work Session, with the expectation that a decision would be reached at the January 11 business meeting.

“This is a decision that you must make as part of the budget development process,” Grimesey said. “You cannot put this off. If you do this another year, you will spend \$400,000 and miss an opportunity to reduce your costs.”

“The amount of work that has been done on this brings you to a point of decision.”

“Our belief, at this point, based on the data, is that, if we are going to recommend any year-round program that it would be at a single school, and it would be a bit of a magnet.”

He said the administrative staff would be working through Pruden’s questions in developing a recommendation.

“For us to mandate that Southern Pines Elementary and Primary would become year-round, we would have to come back to you with good answers to these questions,” Grimesey said. “And these are not easy questions to answer.”



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Board pursues sites for four new schools

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County Schools [MCS] is now actively exploring sites for four new schools: three 800-student elementary schools and the Advanced Career Center, a high school aimed at giving students a head start on the career of their choice.

During their regular Monday, December 14 meeting, members of the Board of Education authorized MCS administrators to pursue due diligence to determine the suitability of three sites. Work on the fourth — a new Aberdeen elementary school — a was approved earlier this Fall.

Director of Operations John Birath presented detailed information on each site during the Board's December 7 Work Session; Board members cast their votes to move forward during the December 14 regular meeting.

Area 1 Elementary

MCS used OREd — the The Operations Research and Education Laboratory at NC State University — to fine-tune the best location for a new Area 1 elementary school based on demographic trends and transportation considerations.

The result is a site nearly equidistant from two currently overcrowded Area 1 schools: Vass-Lakeview and Sandhills Farm Life. The new school would be expected to initially pull about 250 students from each of those existing schools, providing room for growth in all three.

The proposed site is 25 acres of a 140-acre tract that lies between Airport Road and Camp Easter Road near the Village of Whispering Pines. The School would be located on Camp Easter Road.

Birath explained that the landowner plans to develop the remainder of the tract as a residential subdivision. An internal road would connect the development to Airport Road, creating an opportunity for school buses to enter or exit along that route as well.

A price of \$12,000 per acre has been agreed as the price for the land, a total of \$300,000 for the 25 acres. That's the same per-acre price as the site for the new Aberdeen Elementary School.

However, the more rural location of the Area 1 property means higher costs to bring water and sewer service to the site, and Birath was unsure how much of that cost would be borne by MCS and how much by the devel-

oper.

The costs are substantial: \$600,000 for the waterline and \$1,014,00 for sewer. Those estimates are based on 10,000 linear feet of pipe, plus a lift station for the sewer line.

Birath said the total \$1.9 million projected cost is within the budget projected earlier this year for the new school.

The site is about one mile from property owned by the Moore County Wildlife Club, which operates an open shooting range on their site.

Board member Laura Lang expressed concern about that proximity, as well as about the cost of the water and sewer line extensions. She encouraged Birath to investigate the possibility of relying on wells and septic fields in order to hold down costs.

During their December 14 meeting, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with conducting due diligence on the parcel and negotiations with the seller, as well as

requesting \$90,000 in NC Education Lottery funds to pay for the necessary studies and surveys.

Area 3 Elementary School

Buying land for a new elementary school in the highly-developed Southern Pines area is a considerably more expensive proposition than was the case for Area 1 or Aberdeen.

Working with OREd and the Moore County GIS Department, Birath identified four possible Southern Pines sites.

The 17-acre New York Avenue site that is currently home to Southern Pines Primary offers only 13 acres of build able space — too small for a 650-student two-story school, let alone the 800-student school that is needed. Plus, 400 students would have to be relocated to a temporary facility during the two-year construction process.

The 62-acre site of Southern Middle School has not

quite enough space for an elementary school — unless three additional privately-owned parcels are acquired, Birath said. That site is technically within the current Aberdeen Elementary attendance area, which would mean redrawing district lines. And the school would be located at one edge of its attendance area, resulting in increased transportation costs.

There is space for an elementary school on the large tract that is home to Pinecrest High School, Birath told the Board. However, creating a site for that school would require relocating a sizable existing drainage pond, creating a domino effect that would also require relocating many athletic fields at a very high cost. Pinecrest is in the Pinehurst Elementary attendance area, so locating a new school there would require adjusting attendance areas — and, as with the Southern

(See "New schools," p. 20)

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Autuman Acres Alpacas shows off members

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

'Tis the season for Christmas sweaters — the kind that make you look silly and the kind that keep you warm.

And warm you will be if your sweater is spun and knitted from alpaca fleece.

The Kyger family has been working with alpacas since 2006 and now have farms in Virginia and North Carolina.

On Saturday, November 21, Autumn Acres Alpacas held its second annual open house, where community members could come and visit with these fluffy animals. The event was originally scheduled for the last weekend in September for National Alpaca Farm day before getting rained out.

There are two different types of alpacas, the Huacaya and the Suri. Huacayas are the most common and appear much fluffier than the Suris, which have silky fleece.

Alpacas were first imported to the United States in the 1980s from Chile, Bolivia, and Peru. Although the last importation was in 1998, the United States still exports alpacas to numerous countries under very strict guide-

lines. The animals must be quarantined for 90 days before being relocated in a different country.

Joe Kyger and his family became interested in raising alpacas in 2005, and started their own farm the next year.

The first farm was in Virginia — until Joe married his wife Christy and moved to North Carolina to be with her and their three-year-old daughter. Joe's parents Donny and Claudie Kyger currently head-up the Virginia farm, while

Joe and Christy are in charge of the North Carolina farm.

Alpaca farms are more common in northern states, due to the colder climates. Because of this, Autumn Acres Alpacas is one of the

(Continued on page 7)



Joe & Christy Kyger of Autumn Acres Alpaca Farm, located in the Reynwood section of Foxfire Village



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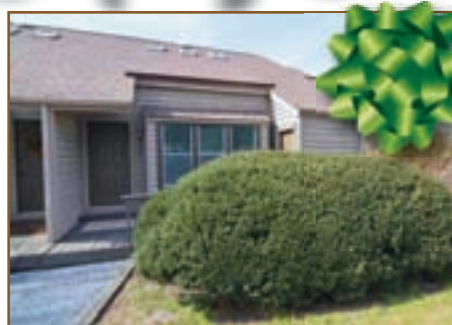
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of its distinctive herd at Foxfire Open House

(Continued from page 6)

few alpaca farms in the area.

At the end of April, Joe sheers the animals, and the fleece is either added to a garment for extra fluff or sent off to Georgia, where a friend turns it into yarn. The yarn is then returned to the farm to be sold.

Autumn Acres Alpacas con-

sists of thirteen acres of land in the Reynwood section of Foxfire Village. The Kygers have a backyard chicken flock in addition to their alpaca herd.

The alpacas keep the Kygers on their toes. At the time of the Open House, one alpaca baby — called a “cria” — had just been born, and

three more are expected soon.

Alpacas can be bred at just two years old. A pregnancy lasts for about eleven months, typically producing one cria. Twins are rare.

A baby alpaca is nursed for six months until it reaches fifty to sixty pounds. It is then on a diet of Blue Seal grain pellets, hay, and water.

Male alpacas are kept mainly for breeding. Quality is ensured by the genetics of the animal as well as the type of fleece it has. If it does not have quality fleece, it is sold to be kept as a pet.

Quality fleece is determined by density and fineness. A female can always be “bred-up” or bred to a male with better fleece. It takes generations to produce density within alpaca fleece.

The Kygers are working on breeding quality fleece that has the fineness of a baby alpaca and the density to produce twenty pounds of fleece from one alpaca.

In addition to raising and breeding alpacas, the Kygers also attend alpaca auctions and shows all across the United States. Joe also owns the Foxfire General Store and is currently working on upgrades, including adding on a kitchen and bringing

gasoline pumps back in the Spring. Christy is a real estate consultant for her family's business, Edwards Real Estate.

For more information about alpacas or to schedule a tour, please call Joe Kyger at 910-673-1235.



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Seven Lakes Small Engine ready to serve

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

Winter is finally here. The time when folks can take a break from their lawn mowers, weed-eaters, and the like . . . Or so you thought.

Seven Lakes Small Engine is reminding folks that, just because you aren't using a piece of equipment doesn't mean you shouldn't take it in for maintenance. In fact, now is the perfect time to bring in small engine items to "winter-ize" them and ensure they will be in proper working condition when Spring arrives.

"Just because it's cold, you should still have it serviced," Bennett said.

Jeff Bennett's passion for engines began as a child when he began fooling around with lawn mowers. As he got older, he found himself in the automotive industry, before moving on to become a F-16 Crew Chief in the military.

In 2000, Bennett opened his own business in Seven Lakes, specializing in engine work on boats, ATVs, and yard equipment.

Shortly after he started, the marine side of the business blossomed, leaving no room in the shop or on the schedule for small engine repair.

About two months ago, Bennett considered taking on a small engine business once again — only this time it would be different.

Early this year, Bennett added David Cox to his crew. Cox worked at a small engine repair shop in Asheboro and

decided to seize the opportunity Bennett offered him at Seven Lakes Marine.



David Cox

Many customers of Seven Lakes Marine have brought by their small engine items to be repaired by Cox who returns them as good as new.

"It's the same premises as boat engine repair," Bennett said.

With Cox as a member of the crew, Bennett knew he could carry out small engine work again, and Seven Lakes Small Engine, LLC was created. Although it is a separate company, Small Engine operates out of the same building as Seven Lakes Marine.

In addition to his usual boat work, Bennett also supervises and assists Cox who is Operator Manager of Seven Lakes Small Engine.

Within the first two and a half weeks of business, Small Engine was repairing twenty to thirty items brought in by the community and local landscaping firms.

Small engine items are just

what they sound like — items with small engines: lawn equipment, weed-eaters, lawn mowers, blowers, trimmers, and even golf carts. Small Engine works on both gas and electric items.

Seven Lakes Small Engine offers both pickup and delivery. As soon as a new item is received, it is assessed to determine whether or not it is worth saving. Once the assessment is complete, the customer is notified of the cost of a repair to decide whether or not they still want to repair it.

The firm puts a priority on turnaround. No one wants

to be without their equipment for weeks on end.

Bennett is working dili-



Jeff Bennett

gently to ensure Small Engine is a success. A partnership with Husqvarna is currently under consideration, and he is currently evaluating what small engine equipment he should bring into the showroom. His hopes to allow customers to purchase necessary parts if they wish to fix an item on their own. He has already brought in chainsaw chains that can be cut to size and sharpened.

Bennett built Seven Lakes Marine from the ground up and already has a sizable clientele, which has begun to carry over to the Small

(See "Small Engine," p. 19)



Christine Donna Beth Dr. Pete Stacey Harriet Windy

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Proposed solar farms catch heat from neighbors

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Solar farms came in for plenty of criticism as the Moore County Planning

Board considered two rezoning requests on Thursday, December 3.

At issue was the straight rezoning of two parcels from RA-40, a residential zoning district that requires a minimum lot size of 40,000 square feet, to RA-Rural Agricultural, the zoning district that accounts for most of the rural land in Moore County.

A straight rezoning request does not require that the applicant specify what they plan to do with the land. However, in this case, both applicants had clearly indicated they planned to construct commercial scale solar collector facilities on the property. And that did not sit well with the neighbors.

The first rezoning to come before the Planning Board was a request to rezone 65 acres of an 89 acre parcel south of NC Highway 211 across from Archie Road. The larger parcel, owned by McDonald Family Farms, is already home to a sand mine and adjacent to a large electrical system substation.

Planning Director Debra Ensminger explained that the rezoning hearing was not the appropriate point at which to discuss the plans to put a solar farm on the site; that would require a second step in the process and a second public hearing, in order for the applicant to obtain a conditional use permit.

The property also abuts the Pine Valley Subdivision, and Pine Valley resident Tony Hill said, "They have already laid waste to this area once, and you have allowed it to happen. When they clear cut everything there, it was like a waste land. But we were told they were going to replant and make it look presentable again. It never happened."

"If I look out my back door,

I'll see solar panels everywhere. When I bought the property, it was a tree farm. What are you going to do to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood?"

The Board endorsed the

rezoning in a 5-1 vote, with Joe Garrison opposed.

The second request, submitted by Doubs Chapel Solar, LLC, asked to have 20 acres of a 103 acre parcel rezoned to RA. The property

lies along a power line easement, across the street from a Randolph Electric Company Substation.

"What bothers me is that the area you are talking about is undeveloped," Paul Chavez

said. Noting that a number of large solar projects are already under development in Western Moore and Eastern Montgomery County, Chavez said, "I'm one of these

(See "Solar," p. 24)



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

Guild holiday celebration

The Seven Lakes Business Guild celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas Tree Lighting and entertainment on Sunday, December 6.

Participating business included:

Mace Electric Company, LLC
Lisa Mace Studio

TempControl Heat & Air
Harris Printing

First Bank

Pampered Chef Lisa Quinlan

Seven Lakes Auto Wholesale (Ken Culler)

Seven Lakes Friendly Mart
Sandhills Winery

Food Lion
Casa Garcia
McDonald's
BB&T

Dancers from both Seven Lakes Dance and L. Mace Studios, along with a host of beauty queens, provided entertainment.



Cookie Time for Leila & LillyAnna Halstead and Keena Sosa



Beauty Queens galore!



Rylee McBride spends some quality time with Santa & Elf

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I have truly enjoyed meeting each of you and being a part of your lives in a way that has been so meaningful and fulfilling for me. In the spirit of pursuing new goals and opportunities in the New Year, I have decided to close Goldie's Gourmet.

This was not an easy decision, but one that needed to be made.

I wish you all well for the New Year and want to thank you for the support that you have given me over these few years.

If you need to contact me, please call 910-673-2111.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Marie



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WSL enjoy sing-along

by Joyce Freiert

Women of Seven Lakes

Members of the Women of Seven Lakes enjoyed a Holiday Sing-Along with Glenda Clendenin and Tammy Kujawski. Clendenin and Kujawski inspired everyone with beautiful spiritual selections and some old favorites. Delicious desserts and hot cider were served after the program and business meeting.

The women would like to thank all members for their generous donations to the Toys For Tots program, that were collected at the Decem-

ber meeting.

The next Women of Seven Lakes general meeting will be Thursday, January 7, at 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. Luann Matthews from Pastimes will speak about the business of owning and operating a consignment shop. Pastimes is a family owned consignment shop in West End featuring vintage items, accessories, furniture, and hours of browsing for those seeking the unusual.

Also speaking at the January meeting will be Clare Ruggles, Executive Director

of the Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Ruggles will discuss the HOPE Academy, a preschool for 3 and 4 year-old children in the community, which prepares them to enter kindergarten by giving them the same knowledge base and skills as other children from other Moore County communities.

Refreshments served after the program and business meeting. The public is invited to attend.

For more information on the Women of Seven Lakes, call Lee Connelly at 673-2521.



Glenda Clendenin and Tammy Kujawski

Chapel Lunch Bunch

The Chapel Lunch Bunch will gather on Wednesday, January 13 at noon. All single seniors are invited to the luncheon at the Chapel in the Pines at Joralemon Fellowship Hall. There is no cost, reservations would be appreciated. Transportation is available, if needed.

Following the lunch Bill Price, a Seven Lakes resident will share his experience and slide show of his trip to China.

Anyone from the community is welcome at 12:30 pm for the presentation.

To make a reservation for lunch or if transportation is needed, call the Chapel at 673-2156.

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WOW! at West End Pres

by Ann Chase

West End Presbyterian Church

West End Presbyterian Church has been offering a mid-week program of Bible study and music for children for more than twenty years.

Their WOW program (WEPC on Wednesday) is held each week during the school year from 2:30 pm to 5 pm.

Children who attend West End Elementary School are provided transportation from the school to the church.

The program begins with Bible study led by Kris Adler-Brammer, Director of Christian Education, as the children explore an animated Bible story followed by activities to assist them in applying what they have learned once they leave the classroom.

Music, another component of WOW program, led by Director of Music, Jennifer Thomas Danis, prepares the children to share their musi-

cal offerings monthly during worship and special programs. Time for snack and games round out the program.

On Sunday December 6, following a pot luck supper, a musical performance, of "Room for Christmas" by Mark Burrows, starring the WOW children was held at the Crawford Center. It was a story of how children learned to work together on

(See "WOW," p. 21)



WOW participants perform in "Room for Christmas"



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In memory of . . .

Joseph O. Horney, 79, died Sunday, December 20, at First Health Hospice House, Pinehurst.

A Celebration of Life was held Wednesday, December 23, at the Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes.

Mr. Horney was born in High Point. As a teen, he spent summers working in Myrtle Beach, where he met his future wife Barbara at a dance in the Pavilion in 1954. They were married in 1956 and lived in the High Point area. In 1975, they moved to Seven Lakes to start Lee Moore Insurance Agency, which still operates in Seven Lakes Business Village.

While living in Seven Lakes, he was a member of the Lions Club, Seven Lakes Landowners Board, and active in the Salvation Army. He was also a member of the West End Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-nine years, Barbara W. Horney; son Tyler and wife Holly Floyd of Seven Lakes; daughter Jennifer and husband Michael Chan of College Station, TX; four grandchildren, Chelsea, Cally, Ian, and Lila.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care of Pinehurst or the Salvation Army of Moore County.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Betty Carolyn Martin Boroughs, 79, of Eagle Springs died Saturday, December 12,

at FirstHealth Hospice House, Pinehurst.

Mrs. Boroughs was born in Eagle Springs, she was the daughter of the late Jesse Earl Martin and Edith Monroe Martin.

A lifelong resident of Eagle Springs, she graduated from West End High School, and was the valedictorian of the class of 1954. In 1955, she married her high school sweetheart, Talmadge J. Boroughs.

Mrs. Boroughs was a homemaker as well as an employee of the ASCS-USDA office in Carthage.

She was a member of the Eagle Springs Baptist Church. She served the church in many capacities throughout her life. In recent years, she attended the First Baptist Church of Pinehurst.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Boroughs was preceded in death by her brother, Cecil Martin; sisters, Earline Walker and Francis Jordan.

She is survived by her husband, Talmadge Boroughs; daughter, Carolyn Canady and husband Parker of Jackson Springs; grandchildren, Drew and Kelsey; brothers and sisters, Charles Martin, Herbert Martin, Esther Thomas, Nancy Boroughs, Lois Rankin; and her nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Graveside services were held at the Eagle Springs Baptist Church Cemetery at on Wednesday, December 16.

Memorial donations may be made to the Eagle Springs

Baptist Church, PO Box 118, Eagle Springs, NC 27242 or to FirstHealth Hospice House, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Betteann Mamel, 80, of Seven Lakes, died Thursday, December 10, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Sunday, January 10, 2016 at the Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Mamel was born in Williston, ND, the daughter to the late Carl and Nora Sathra. She attended high school in Williston and St. Olaf College in Northfield, and earned a BS degree in Nursing. After graduation, she worked as a pre-natal nurse from 1957 to 1973, and as a Nursing instructor from 1973 to 1990, at Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie, MN. She was a member of the Tri T sorority which assisted impoverished young girls.

After moving to Seven Lakes in 1999, Mrs. Mamel was active with the FirstHealth

Hospice Foundation Board, serving as its chair for a year. She was active in the Community Bible Study program, a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and a volunteer at the Clara McLean House. She was known throughout her life for being actively involved in serving the needs of others.

Survivors include her husband Bill, of thirty-six years; daughter, Lisa of Long Island, NY; son, Jeffrey of Lake Tahoe, NV; daughter, Andrea of Orono, MN; and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to FirstHealth Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the

family.

David L. Thompson, age 93, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, December 1 at his home.

A memorial service was held Friday, December 11, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

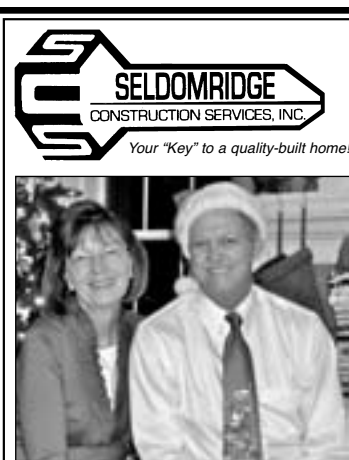
He was the son of the late Dr. L.M. Thompson and Helen Lathrop Thompson of Alexandria, VA.

Mr. Thompson was a veteran of World War II, serving as a B-17 pilot with the 8th Air Force. He also served with the Alaskan Air Command during the Korean Conflict.

He received his BA degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

(Continued on page 15)

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Merry Christmas & Healthy, Happy New Year!

In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 14)

He retired in 1986 from the General Public Utilities System in New Jersey where he held the position of Director of Technical Services. He was an avid golfer and also enjoyed water activities and remodeling of older homes.

Mr. Thompson was preceded in death by his brother, William A. Thompson and sister, Barbara Thompson Hildibrant.

Survivors include his wife of forty-nine years, Carole A. Thompson of the home and eight nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or to the Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Donald A. Miller, 74, of Foxfire Village, died at his home Saturday, November 28, after a brave three year battle with cancer.

A memorial service was held at West End United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 5.

He was born in Freeport, Illinois, the son of Donald P. Miller and Dorothy I. Miller.

Mr. Miller attended Adams State College, Colorado and served his country with four years in the U.S. Navy. He then attended and graduated from the University of Georgia with a BBA degree.

His career spanned thirty-six years with ARAMARK

Corporation of Philadelphia, PA, in the healthcare industry, where he was a district manager in the midwest and southeast and was affiliated with Penick Village in Southern Pines. He was an avid golfer, and was dedicated to the Foxfire Village community for many years by serving as chairman of the Foxfire Homeowners' Association and ten years as treasurer of the Foxfire Men's Golf Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Richard Miller.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-two years, Mary Jo Miller; son, Steven P. Miller and wife, Danielle, of Somerset, NJ; daughter, Shannon L. Walford and husband, James, of Jacksonville, FL; grandsons, Tyler and Nicholas Walford; granddaughters, Lucinda and Rory Miller; brother, Frederick Miller, and wife Mary of Litchfield Park, AZ; sister, Janet Horan, of Chippewa Falls, WI; aunt, Gail Farrow, of Port Perry, Ontario, Canada; brother-in-law, Harold Dowdy and wife, Virginia, of Tallahassee, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials be made to West End United Methodist Church Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 276, West End, NC 27376 or to Liberty Hospice, 300 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst assisted the family.

Margaret Evelyn Russell Miller, 86, of Seven Lakes died at St. Joseph of the Pines on Wednesday, November 18.

A private committal service will be held at a later date.

She was born in Louisville, TN and was the daughter of the late Floyd G. and Margaret G. Russell.

She was raised in Louisville and Vonore, TN, graduated from Vonore High School, Class of 1946 where she was an honor student and a standout basketball player. After high school, she attended Maryville College and later the University of Tennessee, where she was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

She married Edward D. Miller of Maryville, TN. During their thirty-nine years of marriage, the family lived in Middlesboro, KY; Knoxville, TN; Miami, FL and Worthington,

OH.

In 1989, the Millers moved to Seven Lakes where they became members of the West End Presbyterian Church and Beacon Ridge Golf Club. Mrs. Miller spent innumerable hours volunteering her time to charitable and service organizations.

She was preceded in death by her husband Edward D. Miller, four sisters Ruth Bennett, Elizabeth Russell, Mary Kidd, and Lillian Russell and her grandson David R. Miller.

Surviving family members include Colonel Joe R. Miller, U.S. Army (Retired) of Jacksonville, FL; Colonel Edward D. Miller, U.S. Army (Retired) of Chesapeake, VA and Mark A. Miller of West End; her grandchildren and many nephews and a niece.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Alice Brown Jacobs, 90, died Saturday, November 14, at Randolph Health and Rehabilitation Center, Ashboro.

She was born in Toledo, OH; daughter to the late Mabel Clark and C. Donald Brown. She was a public school teacher for thirty-six years. She and her husband retired to Seven Lakes in 1984.

She is preceded in death by her husband Tom Jacobs, daughter Nancy, and brother Charles Brown.

Mrs. Jacobs is survived by her daughter Leila Williams (Brian Lowe); grandchildren Tony Anton (Michelle) and Ashley Anton and four great-grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 7:30 pm, The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

- **Kwanza Begins**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. Mexican food and drinks available after Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sun-

day School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145



Seven Lakes Drive.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 2:30 pm, The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

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

Spotlight – 2:30 pm, The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the

entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 am, meeting at 12:05 pm. *New meeting location, Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in the Pines. Visitors are welcome.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 2:30 pm, The

true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 2:30 pm, The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **New Year's Eve**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Spotlight* – 2:30 pm, The true story of how the

Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

- **New Year's Day**
- **First Day Hike** – 10 am, start the New Year off right and take a walk. Meet a ranger at the Weymouth Woods Visitor Center and explore the longleaf pine forest in the New Year. Dress for the weather. Hike approximately 1.5 miles long and should last about an hour. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **First Day Hike** – 2 pm, come and enjoy an afternoon hike and explore another unit of Weymouth Woods on the Paint Hill section. This section is hilly and has a couple of hill top views that all can enjoy. Meet a ranger at the Weymouth Woods Visitor Center and caravan to the parking area for Paint Hill. Dress for the weather. Hike will last a little more than an hour due to the terrain and time to look at overlooks.

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Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. Mexican food and drinks available after Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sunday School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.
- **Owls of the Sandhills** – 3 pm, Flying mousetraps and sky tigers are apt descriptions for these birds of prey. Using mounted birds the group will look at the adaptations and life histories of the Sandhills owls. Learn to identify these birds by sight and sound. Meet in the auditorium at the Visitor Center. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 am, meeting at 12:05 pm. *New meeting location, Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in

the Pines. Visitors are 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 Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- **Moore County Commissioners Winter Summit** – 8:00 am to 5 pm, at Rhyne Public Safety Center Community Room, Carthage.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, general meeting, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. Luann Matthews from Pastimes will speak about the business of owning and operating a consignment shop and Clare Ruggles, Executive Director of the

Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Ruggles will discuss the HOPE Academy, a preschool for 3 and 4 year-old children in the community. Refreshments served after the program and business meeting. Public is invited to attend. For more information on the Women of Seven Lakes, call Lee Connelly at 673-2521. • **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- **Walking with Words (For Wee-Ones)** – 10 am, join the group for a story hike. The group post pages of a book along the trail and hike through while reading the story. Trail is about 1/3 of a mile and not conducive to strollers, please plan accordingly. All ages are welcome, best suited for children under age 8. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

- **Nature's Notebook Hike** – 3 pm, See what's changing in the world of flora this month with ranger assistant Lindsey as the group observes seasonal plant changes for the Nature's Notebook. 1.5-mile hike is an excellent opportunity for learning how to collect phenological data as part of citizen science and keep a scientific nature journal throughout the year. Hike and data collection will take roughly

90 minutes. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. Mexican food and drinks available after Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sunday School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.
- **Fire in the Pines** – 3 pm, Learn about the important role that natural fires used to play in the longleaf pine ecosystem and how prescribed fire has contributed to that essential component of our southeastern forests. The program will include


a presentation inside and an optional short walk at the end. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 am, meeting at 12:05 pm. *New meeting location, Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in the Pines. Visitors are welcome.
- **WEWO Nature Book Club** – 5 pm. Join everyone for the first meeting of Weymouth Woods' Nature Book Club as they discuss January's book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson.



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Lifeguards

(Continued from front page)

number of hours the pool can be open.

Leach recalled that then-SLLA-President Bob Darr had introduced the idea of eliminating lifeguards four years ago, during Leach's first year on the Board.

"I voted against it," Leach said, adding that he was relying on his gut reaction.

Since that time, he has done significant research into the pros and cons, Leach said, speaking with Jon Stone, the President of CAS, Inc. (the SLLA management company), the managers of other CAS communities, and the Association's insurance broker, as well as studying up on the liability issues.

Lawsuits involving alleged negligence by lifeguards often go against the company or Association that employs them, Leach said, and the

awards often exceed the maximum coverage of Association liability insurance policies. The Association's attorney indicated that in no case has a North Carolina landowners association been found to have a duty to employ lifeguards.

Of the fifty-five CAS communities that have swimming pools, only five employ lifeguards, Leach said.

The Association's insurance broker indicated that the trend is moving away from having lifeguards.

Leach said SLLA lifeguards are frequently distracted by their cellphones, are late to work, and sometimes don't show at all. Most are students, and, when they began to return to school in late Summer, it is sometimes impossible to open the pool because there are no lifeguards. It requires thirteen

lifeguards to fully man the SLLA pool.

A prime advantage eliminating lifeguards, Leach said, is that it will allow pool hours and the pool season to be extended. He suggested that the pool could be open from May 1 to September 30, operating from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm on some days.

Treasurer Mark Gyure said the pool could be available for 2000 total hours in the season, compared to the current 725 hours.

"We can take this amenity that we recently spent \$100,000 to renovate and give residents a way to use it more," Leach said.

Director Racine reported that the Recreation Committee is split on the issue, with the majority favoring eliminating lifeguards and diving

boards, but with one "dissenter" taking the opposite position.

The Recreation Committee discussed having lifeguards from only part of the day, for example, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Board did not address that option.

[Editor's note: Nothing in County, State, or Federal regulations prevents such a split schedule. The SLLA Rules and Regulations — which can be changed by a majority vote of the Board — has a single line rule that reads: "9.1.1 There shall be no use of the pool unless a lifeguard is on duty."]

The elimination of lifeguards is expected to be paired with the installation of a new access system that will allow residents to use a magnetic card or key fob to

access the pool. Security cameras would be included. Also anticipated is the use of pool attendants, rather than lifeguards.

As a result, the savings from doing away with lifeguards may be modest, at best, Gyure said.

The Recreation Committee also recommended strictly limiting use of the pool by a child under the age of sixteen unaccompanied by a parent or other adult, designated in writing, as responsible for that child.

Director Mark Widman said that would likely eliminate use of the pool by kids in their middle teen years, who are likely to have both parents working outside the home.

Widman said that once his four sons reached their tenth

(See "Lifeguards," p. 19)

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Lifeguards

(Continued from page 18)

birthday and were well-trained swimmers, they were allowed to use the Northside pool on their own.

"I don't think you are going to get a parent down here with a fifteen year old," he added, suggesting that teens would use the lakes instead.

Security Director Greg Lishawa noted that having security cameras at the pool while having lifeguards could become a liability, if the cameras capture images of distracted lifeguards.

Lishawa said he would be more comfortable making a decision on the issue with

more input from the community, but President Leach appeared to pooh-pooh that idea, suggesting that the research already undertaken by Board members would be unlikely to be superseded by any information to be gained by consulting with the community.

"I don't think we should get rid of lifeguards because of finances, but we should look at the liability issues," Director Sandy Sackman said.

After Racine's motion to move the proposal to eliminate lifeguards to the January 14 Open Meeting was

approved, the Board briefly discussed whether to eliminate one or both diving boards — and, if one, which one.

Leach cited a statistic from a 2008 study that found 6,500 children are injured in the US each year in diving-related accidents.

"You read this kind of data, we have to remove those diving boards," he said.

On a motion from Racine to remove the higher of the two boards for the 2016 swim season, the Board voted unanimously to move the question to the January 14 Open Meeting.

Small Engine

(Continued from page 8)

Engine company. Bennett's knowledge of what works and doesn't work is what has allowed him to set up and start Small Engine successfully in just a few short months.

He and Cox are determined to make Seven Lakes Small Engine just as much of a success. Since they are the only small engine repair company in Seven Lakes, they are off to a good start. They believe their loyalty to customers will ensure their success.

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Cox said.

Cox said a common problem for small engines is leaving gasoline in the carburetor for too long without starting the engine. What many people don't realize is that gas can spoil, causing the carburetor to "gum" up.

Bringing items in for preventive maintenance during the winter can reduce the likelihood of problems in the Spring.

Seven Lakes Small Engine is happy to take in unwanted or irreparable small engine items, saving residents the trouble of disposing them — and allowing parts to be recycled.

led.

Bringing in unwanted equipment is one way of giving back to the community, because it allows Small Engine to make repairs at a lower cost, if a customer does not want to spend money on new parts.

To contact Small Engine ask for Jeff Bennett or David Cox at 910-673-0510. It is located at 300 Grant Street in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

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Adopt neighborhood cats

Not used to being confined, "neighborhood" cats that end up at The Animal Center of Moore County have little chance of being adopted. Moore County Neighborhood Cats has launched a program to help find homes for the more adoptable felines.

Local equine veterinarian, Dr Tom Daniel, suggests that the neighborhood cats are well-suited to life on a horse farm. Horse farm fam-

ilies can provide their cats with food and healthcare in a caring environment.

All Moore County Neighborhood Cat cats are spayed and neutered before going to a new home.

The new program will hold an adoption event the first Saturday of every month from 10 am to 1 pm at Moore Equine Feed & Supplies, 1012 N May St, Southern Pines. Adoption is the best solution.

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New Schools

(Continued from page 5)

Middle site, would result in higher costs for transportation.

Instead of those three options, Birath recommended purchasing 18.6 acres in the Morganton Park North Development, which runs along Morganton Road and abuts West Southern Pines. That provides room for a 800-student, two-story school, he explained.

Land costs are extraordinarily high, at \$82,894 per acre, but the developer would donate 6.5 acres, reducing MCS' outlay from more than \$1.5 million to \$1 million even. Bringing utilities and a road to the site would add \$340,000, for a total cost of \$1.34 million.

"This is an extremely high dollar land per acre," Board member Lang said. "We have to find ways to spend less money."

She suggested that selecting the Pinecrest site would allow the Board to make some improvements to the topography of that site that are a part of the long range plan for the high school.

But Birath said the needed work would be "a lot more than \$1 million," and Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey said "You'd just be doing the site work, without any benefit to the students."

"I just think we should wait on this particular one and give a little more time," Lang said.

Board Member Helena Wallin-Miller expressed support for the Morganton North site, because it would allow children both from within that development and from West Southern Pines to walk or bike to school.

"As we know, land costs keep going up," Wallin-Miller said. "The land can't generate itself, so this is a great opportunity now, and we might lose it, if we don't continue to take some steps to secure it."

"The benefit of what we will receive by having the school at this location is worth more than what I could estimate of what it would do for the community," Vice Chairman Ed Dennison said, apparently referring to the fact that West Southern Pines is a lower income area. "We've tried so hard to make sure we are being fair to everyone and that all our schools are great, and that we don't have any differentiation between them — and I think this is a great move in that direction."

During their December 14 meeting, the Board voted seven to one, with Lang opposed, to move forward with due diligence and negotiations with the seller, and to request \$90,000 in lottery funds.

Advanced Career Center

Sandhills Community College [SCC] has offered MCS a site for the Advanced Career Center [ACC], though it is

as yet unclear whether MCS will purchase or lease the parcel from SCC, or if the college's trustees will give the land to the school district.

The Trustees own a 43-acre vacant tract across Airport Road from the main college campus, adjacent to the O'Neal School. They have offered MCS approximately 15 acres in the northwest corner of that tract, along Airport Road.

Due diligence on the property is expected to cost more than for the other new schools, because the SCC property is home to a colony of federally-protected red cocked woodpeckers. Birath asked for \$140,000 in lottery funds.

The Board voted unanimously to move forward with the site and due diligence during their December 14 meeting.

Architect selected

In other ACC-related business, meeting in a special called meeting on December 7, the School Board approved a contract with Moseley

Architects for the design of the new school.

Birath said fifteen firms had responded to a Request for Qualifications. Their submissions were reviewed by a subcommittee that included Grimesey, Birath, Chairman Bruce Cunningham, Board Member Stacey Caldwell, Associate Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter, Career & Technical Education Specialist Amy Garner, and Pinecrest Principal Bob Christina.

Firms were ranked, and the top five were interviewed by the committee, which ultimately selected Moseley, a firm which was involved the early stages of the development of the current Master

Facilities Plan.

The fee for the project is \$1,832,500; the Board unanimously approved the contract.

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& Healing Service - 11:00 am

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WOW

(Continued from page 13)

their Christmas pageant and discover the joy and wonder that comes from making room for what really matters

during the Christmas season. As part of the script, the children held a toy drive to collect Christmas toys for other children in need. Applying the

theme of the story, the WOW children at West End Presbyterian Church are now holding a Toy Drive for the Christmas for Moore program

effort in progress at the church. They not only are collecting toys to make Christmas more special for other children in the community

through their participation in this church-wide mission, but also they are learning what really matters during the Christmas season.



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The real Christmas season

December is the season of Christmas. TV commercials and store decorations have been reminding us of this fact since before Halloween. Merchants measure the value of each Christmas by the amount of profit they realize compared to last year.

Most of us probably fall into this schedule, hanging wreaths, decorating homes and trees, shopping frantically, wrapping and mailing gifts, cooking our seasonal specialties, gathering family and friends for Christmas dinner, and then, at the end of the day, collapsing in a tired heap, exclaiming, "Whew, I'm glad Christmas is over for another year!"

Traditionally, however, Christmas only begins on December 25, and extends for twelve days until January 5. This is the background of that cute little song about

The four weeks leading up to Christmas day comprise the season of Advent, but most of our churches hardly pay much attention to it.

Sure, a lot of us light Advent candles each Sunday, but most of our activities and programs are Christmas celebrations.

Sunday school classes hold Christmas parties, the church trots out its annual Christmas pageant, featuring the children

dressed as shepherds and wise men. The choir sings a concert of Christmas music. We begin singing Christmas carols early in December. And by December 25 it's pretty much all over.

Can you imagine treating Easter this way? At least on Easter we've got it right. We wait until Easter Sunday to sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Lent is a season of preparation that we all at least recognize, even if we don't observe it with pious devotion.

But Christmas, with all of its secular strength, draws us backward to put the cart before the horse, or maybe I should say "the sleigh before

the reindeer."

If you are Catholic or Episcopalian, you are more rigorous in upholding the Advent tradition, but I suspect that most of us southern Protestants are already singing "Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come."

So, whether you celebrate the vagueness of "the holidays" throughout the month of December, or observe the birth of Jesus on December 25, get in the spirit, and have a very blessed Christmas!

Harry Bronkar is a Baptist Minister enjoying retirement in Seven Lakes North. You can reach him at hbronkar@gmail.com

Outside the Box

Harry Bronkar

partridges in pear trees and calling birds. This is also the case in the liturgical church calendar.

school classes hold Christmas parties, the church trots out its annual Christmas pageant, featuring the children

I am not an ostrich

Dear Editor:

I am in no way trying to start a joust, but I feel compelled to respond to "Don't Be An Ostrich" appearing in the last edition of the *Times*.

In response to Mr. Scholtes attempt to interpret my criticism of the "West End Beautification Project," I would like to clarify a couple of things.

Number 1, I am not an Ostrich and;

Number 2, My head is not in the sand.

The project that was proposed for West End was more

than just a clean up of some vegetation as Mr. Scholtes incorrectly stated. Get the facts Mr. Scholtes.

In a letter that was being circulated by Mrs. Betty Miligan, she suggests that "action needs to be taken with the appearance, of unsightly buildings, and businesses that need a facelift, etc. in West End along NC Hwy 211." Even if my head was in the sand, that sounds an awful lot more detailed than some weeds.

In the scope of some important local issues and the

events that have occurred (worldwide) of the past few days, are we really worried about some weeds that seem to disturb some people as they drive down 211.

It seems to me, and my point, is that there are many more important issues that deserve our attention. If some weeds are your definition of a "Problem," I would suggest you turn on the News. May I also suggest for your next vacation, travel up to Cleveland, OH, or Buffalo, NY or Detroit, MI, or Milwaukee, WI, or even drive down to

Ellerbe, NC or any other small town in North Carolina. Drive around and take in the sites. Upon your return, drive back down NC Hwy 211 and tell me West End vegetation is a problem.

I guess it might be a bit of a stretch for an analogy, but let us put things into a proper prospective within the scope of things (big or small).

If the vegetation is that troubling to you, gather up the Garden Club and arm them with weed wackers, head on up the road to the Furniture Plant and have at

it. I am sure the owners wouldn't mind. When you are done, look hard at your accomplishment and decide if it really made a difference?

Then check your property tax bill and check to see if your property value went up? Who's head is in the sand?

On second thought, if I am an Ostrich at least I am not "barking up a tree!" Good Luck with the "Project!"

PS: I have a Weed Wacker you can borrow!

*Tom Zupan
Seven Lakes West*

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners
of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC
P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376
910-673-0111 • 888-806-2572 (fax) • mail@sevenlaketimes.net

Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins, Publishers
Greg Hankins, Editor • Marcy Hankins, Layout & Copy Editing
Janna Ptak, Reporter

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.
J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent, William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

Letters to the Editor



Your letters welcome!

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

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

Board should delay decision on lifeguards

Will the swimming pool in Seven Lakes North lose its lifeguards this Summer?

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors is set to vote on that question at its January 14 Open Meeting. [See story ing page 1.]

We believe eliminating lifeguards would be a mistake, and urge Board Members to vote against any motion that would do so.

More importantly, we believe the Board should delay its decision until the February 11 Open Meeting, in order to allow ample time for public input on this important decision — especially input from families with children.

Why this is a bad idea

There are six basic reasons being advanced for getting rid of lifeguards at the pool:

1. Lots of other communities and hotels have gotten rid of lifeguards.
2. Lifeguards are expensive.
3. Lifeguards are a liability.
4. Lifeguards reduce the number of hours the pool can be open.
5. Parents should watch their kids instead of relying on

lifeguards.

6. Lifeguards don't do their job and are just texting instead.

Let's look at those, in reverse order.

6. Lifeguards don't do their job.

This is strictly a management issue.

A properly managed pool, with a top-notch pool director and well-trained lifeguards is achievable and is what SLLA members deserve. The Foxfire Village pool, which serves a community half the size of Seven Lakes North and South, is an excellent example of a pool that is well-managed and staffed by a well-trained group of adult lifeguards. There's no reason SLLA management, with some effort, cannot achieve the same result.

5. Parents should mind their own kids.

Poppycock! This is the kind of things people say with they

reach a certain age and become overly cautious about the world. Between the ages of 8 and 12, after I had taken the full range of Red Cross certified swimming classes,

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

I rode my bike every sunny Summer afternoon to the local, professionally-lifeguarded public pool — without Mommy or Daddy in tow. Tens of millions Americans my age did the same. You probably did the same. Today's kids deserve the same privilege.

4. Lifeguards reduce the hours the pool can be open.

Fallacy. The only thing standing between having folks use the pool when no lifeguard is present is a single sentence rule in the SLLA

Rules & Regulations — a rule that can be overturned by a simple majority vote of the Board. Public beaches all up and down the East and West Coasts are guarded by lifeguards part of the day and are "Swim at your own risk" the rest of the day. Seven Lakes can do the same.

3. Lifeguards are a liability.

Poorly managed, poorly-trained, poorly supervised, uninsured lifeguards are a liability. SLLA needs well-managed, closely supervised, well-trained lifeguards — preferably over the age of 21. And those lifeguards need to be covered with a professional liability policy, not simply

the Association's general liability policy. Conceivably, the SLLA may need to hire a pool management company to provide lifeguards, if in-house management is unable or unwilling to handle the task.

The dams, lakes, roadways, playground — even steps in front of the Landowners Office — all represent a liability for the SLLA. That's what insurance is for.

2. Lifeguards are expensive.

So are the pool, the lakes, the dams, the stables, the roads, the gate guards, the roving patrol, the boat patrol, and Association management. All amenities cost money.

(See "Pool," p. 24)


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Pool

(Continued from page 23)

Providing lifeguards for a limited period in the middle of the day during the swim season is a small price to pay to make sure that all community members have access to an amenity that the Directors just spent \$100,000 to rehabilitate.

1. Everybody else is getting rid of lifeguards.

Really? Is it the goal of the SLLA to be like every other penny-ante community in North Carolina. Do we think our community pool is just another hotel pool? Or do we propose to offer something special to our residents?

If you look closely at the matter, the reasons for elim-

inating lifeguards pretty much vanish into thin air — which is why Board Members should vote against any attempt to remove them.

Why the decision should be delayed

More importantly, the decision should be delayed until the February Open Meeting. And, between now and then, the Board should schedule a Town Hall Meeting, in the evening or weekend hours, and publicize it heavily.

Why?

Because the prime beneficiaries of having a lifeguarded pool are families with young children — Moms and Dads who want their children to have the same freedom

you and I had to bike to the pool by themselves.

And, what is the fastest growing demographic Seven Lakes? Which demographic group is buying more than half the houses sold in Seven Lakes North and South?

You got it! Families with young children.

The US Census Bureau estimates that, in 2014, there were 1,066 children under the age of 18 living in Seven Lakes. That more than double the 478 counted in the 2000 census, and nearly four times the 275 children counted in the 1990 census.

More important, one in every five Seven Lakers is child under the age of 18. Nearly one-quarter of Seven

Lakes households include a child.

If you plan to eventually sell your home in Seven Lakes, it makes good sense to make sure this community continues to be attractive to families with children.

Why do those families move here? Proximity to good schools, a gated community where their kids can walk or bike to the playground and pool, great amenities for kids.

But most families with kids are also two wage-earner families. They are busy. They don't have time to come to Board meetings; they may not get around to reading all the SLLA emails; they probably don't read this newspaper as religiously as some

older folks.

So, they may not catch the fact that the Board has introduced a change that is likely to affect them more than anyone else right before a big two week hiatus devoted to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

That's why the decision needs to be delayed until February — and why the Board needs to schedule, and promote heavily, a Town Hall Meeting prior to making any decision with regard to lifeguards and the diving board.

We are confident Board members will take this bit of advice to heart and delay their decision until they have heard from the membership.

Solar

(Continued from page 9)

people: Not in my backyard."

"Why aren't some of these being developed over on Youngs Road? Then you would really hear pigs squeal."

Marie Crowder expressed concern that a broken solar panel could contaminate the ground water in an area that is largely dependent on pri-

vate wells.

The rezoning was endorsed in a 5 to 1 vote, with Joe Garrison opposed.

Both rezoning requests will now move to the Board of Commissioners for final approval; public hearings are expected at the January 19 meeting.

If the rezonings are approved, the owners will

then have to file applications for conditional use permits for the construction of their solar facilities.

That will require public hearings before the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners.

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 24)

son has been appointed to fill expires in March, so his name will remain on the ballot.

Westside Board members tend to run for office with a particular job in mind. The three terms expiring in March include Legal, Finance, and Lake & Dam.

In addition to providing the candidates's names, the Nominating Committee provided information on the posts they would prefer to hold, which were: Makson, Finance; Coppel, Legal; Benjamin, Lake & Dam; Van Houten, Lake & Dam; Lambert, Legal or Lake & Dam; and Cobb, Legal, Infrastructure, or Lake & Dam.

Nomination with an asterisk

Presenting the Nominating Committee's report, Ed Cockman noted an asterisk beside Van Houten's name the Committee's report. He explained that the committee recommended Van Houten "with reservations, due to potential conflict of interest."

Van Houten, in addition to

being a Westside resident, is the owner of a local construction business. In addition, he is part owner of Lakeside Development, LLC, a company that served as Developer for Seven Lakes West for a number of years, replacing GS communities in that role.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn explained the Nominating Committee's reservations: "As far as Mr. Van Houten is personally is concerned, he is a fine gentleman, and his business has been very supportive of the community, and he has been a fine member of the community. However, he used to be a developer of the community, and they used to vote on variances regarding the community, many of which absolutely contradicted what the ARC committee wanted."

"He also builds houses in the community," Silberhorn continued so he has a potential . . . conflict of interest with respect to anything Architectural Review reviews, and with respect to Infrastructure because of the

roads and wear and tear on the roads by the builders in the community."

Silberhorn also noted that Van Houten and Lakeside Development, LLC continue to have obligations to the community under a legal settlement.

Silberhorn seemed to be suggesting that it would be necessary for Van Houten to recuse himself from Board deliberations in any of those areas, which would leave the Board often making decision with an even number of members, and therefore at risk of deadlocking in a three-three tie from time to time.

Westsider Mike Gorenflo, an attorney, objected to Silberhorn's characterization of

the issue, calling it "extremely over-broad. For him to have grouped all Architectural Review, all infrastructure, and legal matters as being things Bob would have to recuse himself from is way beyond the breadth of what conflict of interest would have to address."

"Anything that directly impacted Mr. Van Houten or Mr. Van Houten's interests? Absolutely he'd have to recuse himself. But that doesn't mean he can't have a say in determining whether something meets the Architectural standards. There are plenty of things that people can perceive to be a conflict that don't actually rise to the level of conflict."

Director Jack Lattin asked Van Houten whether he would have a problem recusing himself.

"Not at all," Van Houten replied. "It was an interesting speech," he said, referring to Silberhorn's comments, "But, I think most of it was incorrect."

The Board voted 5-0 to accept the Nominating Committee's slate. Makson recused himself for the voting.

After the meeting, Silberhorn told *The Times* that the asterisk by Van Houten's name was simply a communication from the Nominating Committee to the Board; no asterisk will be placed on

(See "Westside," p. 26)

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 25)

the Annual Meeting ballot.

President's Report

President Goodman reported that a letter writing effort aimed at improving the appearance and safety of the old Stanley Furniture plant in West End had borne fruit. A number of residents, as well as the Board, had contacted the Moore County Board of Commissioners to ask that they take action to have the property cleaned up.

The Commissioners in turn wrote to the owners of the property asking for just that. Goodman said the Board had written a follow-up email to the Commissioner asking that the interior of the facility be inspected to ensure that it is safe and meets County codes.

Beacon Ridge Committee formed

Noting that Beacon Ridge Country Club is up for auction [See story on page 3.], Goodman said she had appointed a four-member ad hoc committee to investigate the implications of the sale and make recommendations to the Board. Members appointed include Silberhorn, Makson, Don Freiert, and Bruce Keyser. Silberhorn informed *The Times* via email on that Roger Smith, Mark Lindstrom, and Carol Soxman had also joined the committee.

Silberhorn said the intent of the group is not to advocate that the Association should bid on the Club, but rather to assist in anyway that might make for a successful transition to new ownership. He noted that a SLWLA purchase of the club would require the approval of two-thirds of the membership — a very high bar.

Treasurer's Report

Makson reported that the Association, as of the end of November, had a positive cash flow status, with revenue running \$201,000 ahead of expenses. Revenues were \$123,500 ahead of budget, and expenses were \$60,000 under budget. All departments other than Security were under budget on expenses. An extra 20 hours per week of guard duty at the from gate accounts for Security running 11.5 percent over budget.

Later in the meeting, the Board approved scaling back to ten extra hours of guard duty a week for the months

of January, February and March.

Accounts totaling \$71,231 are in arrears; \$61,000 of that balance is with the collections attorney.

At Makson's request, the Board unanimously approved a change to the proposed 2016 Budget Summary to reflect the fact that CAS, in May 2016, will utilize Alliance Bank to process the direct debit payments of landowners who pay their dues monthly, rather than continuing to handle those transactions in-house.

The Board also unanimously approved the 2016 Fee Schedule. Mason explained that having it approved as a separate document, apart from the budget, would make it easier to make changes mid-year, if necessary.

Manager's Report

Manager Jeanette Mendence reported that the SLWLA office will be closed on December 23-25 and on January 1, the Yard Waste Disposal Site will be closed

on December 23, 26, and 30.

Mendence said both adult and children's Christmas Parties were a success. She thanked Nancy Workman, Sue Shepard, and Cathy Menedian for organizing the adult part, and Jody Beam and Tashe Jarusinski for organizing the children's party.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, December 15 regular meeting of the SLWLA Board of Directors:

- The Board adopted a new format for the meeting, allowing comments from members

on each item moved for approval.

- A recombination of lots 5082R and 5083 was unanimously approved.

- The Board approved on first reading an amendment to Architectural Review Standard 6.02 that would require contractors to provide an elevation survey of completed foundations prior to beginning work on the vertical structure of the home. The goal is to ensure that foundations are above the minimum height prescribed in the rules and regulations, and, as a result are clearly

(See "Westside," p. 27)

Market swings making you uneasy? Let's talk.



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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 26)

above the flood plain.

- A tie vote of the Board resulted in the denial of a setback variance requested for a Swimming pool fence on lot 3281. Board Members asked that the ARC bring the matter back before the Board in January, providing drawings of the proposed installation.

- Secretary Jack Lattin reported that the Communications area of the website now includes a quarterly review of the Communications Committees goals and objectives, as well as a report on a recent communications forum.

- The Board approved adding a "Procedures" section to the website, which will include policy decisions made by SLWLA Boards over the past decade that might otherwise be available only by scouring the minutes of Board Meetings.

- Lake & Dam Director Bob Fewkes reported that the dam is still too wet for planned repairs to begin. However, the Association's dam engineer indicates that the dam is structurally

sound. The Committee continues to monitor the downstream face of the dam for any signs of trouble.

- Director Silberhorn led those in attendance through the second reading of a major update of the bylaws, which he said has not been revised since before the various Westside landowners associations were merged into the SLWLA in the mid-1990s. The Board unanimously approved the revised document, and also approved the first reading of a revision to the rules and regulations to delete a section that had been transferred to the bylaws.

- Manager Mendence announced that former SLWLA President Mick Herdrich had resigned from the Safety & Security Committee and the Human Resource Committee.

- The Board approved the

installation of a sign post at the mailhouse that will be used for the display of club signs on the days those clubs meet. The Lake Auman Sports Club, the Sailing Club, The Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 966, the Seven Lakes Garden Club, and the Women of Seven Lakes will all be invited to use the sign post.

- Jim Brannon and other members registered complaints that the recent paving on Longleaf Drive left large curbs — speed bumps, in effect — at their driveways and asked to have the situation corrected. In the absence of an Infrastructure Director, President Goodman said she had no answer for those members.

- John Hoffmann and other members objected to a fence or barrier that ARC allowed to be constructed on the cor-

ner of septic lot 3455A in order to protect a septic tank. Hoffmann said the structure

is too close to the street and does not conform to SLWLA standards for fencing.

Moore Humane Food Drive

The Moore Humane Society is collecting donations of pet food and supplies during the holidays.

Food and supplies can be dropped off at these locations: Fidelity Bank, 11175 US Hwy. 15-501, Aberdeen; Monday-Thursday 9 to 5 and Friday 9 to 6 (across the street from Harris

Teeter), or at Moore County Humane Society, 5355 NC Hwy 22, Carthage, through December 31.

The Humane Society is open daily noon to 6, and closed Wednesdays. Please call (910) 947-2631 for more information or www.moore-humane.org

BRCC

(Continued from page 3)

story clubhouse and three Har-Tru tennis courts.

Potential buyers must sign a confidentiality agreement and qualify in order to obtain a bid packet. Once registered they can sign into a special section of the website to access additional information and place bids. Bidders cannot see the identity of other bidders, but can discover if their bid has been topped by another bidder.

A property preview date is set for Thursday, January 28. Allen explained that the auction will be conducted online on February 4. She will be onsite for the event.

Allen's website is at www.hildawallen.com. Telephone is 888-324-5020.

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Tax

(Continued from front page)

a resolution promising to use the additional revenue created by the new tax — an estimated \$2.2 million to start — to meet the capital needs of Moore County Schools [MCS].

During their November 17 meeting, the Commissioners heard from two members of the public who argued that they should instead simply raise property taxes. The property tax rate in Moore County is significantly lower than in surrounding counties, the speakers pointed out.

During the December 8 meeting, Chairman Picerno provided some additional data in defense of the proposed sales tax hike.

The property tax rate may be lower in Moore, he explained, but, because property values in Moore are higher than most adjacent counties, the actual dollars generated per capita are, for the most part, significantly higher.

Moore County property owners pay an average of \$625 per capita in property taxes, Picerno said, referring to data from the NC Association of County Commissioners.

Looking at the surrounding counties, the per capita take in Harnett is \$423; Hoke, \$447, Randolph, \$460; and Richmond is \$563. Only Lee and Chatham Counties have a higher property tax contribution per capita, at \$636 and \$873, respectively.

The average for those counties, Picerno said, is \$567; \$58 less per capita than Moore County.

Turning to spending on education, Picerno called the Board's attention to a second set of figures, "which I really think shows how Moore County values education."

Looking at per capita county spending on education among the same counties, Picerno found a low of \$126 per person for Hoke County, followed by \$196 for Randolph, \$197 for Harnett, \$221 in Richmond, and \$326 in Lee. Chatham County citizens spend \$434 per person on local funding of public edu-

cation.

The average of those counties is \$250 per capita; Moore County, at \$411, is \$161 higher.

Looking at sales tax receipts per capita, Picerno found an average of \$129 collected in neighboring counties, compared to \$156 in Moore — a \$27 difference.

"Why is that?" Picerno asked. "Because we are a tourist destination, so we can expect quite a bit of tourist dollars."

The impact of property taxes vs sales taxes

Noting that one of the speakers at the previous meeting had suggested a ten cent increase in the current property tax rate, Picerno pointed out that the average home in Moore County is valued at \$204,000.

So, a ten cent tax increase

would equate to about \$200 per household.

Responding to the concern that an increased sales tax would unfairly impact lower income households, Picerno suggested that those households might have \$10,000 per year to spend in excess of groceries and other essentials that are not covered by the sales tax.

"That would be a \$25 hit," he said, referring to the impact of an additional quarter percent on the sales tax rate.

"If you are comparing apples to apples," Picerno said, "are we going to lay it on the military families, the senior citizens, the businesses, the motor vehicles Bottom line is, if you want to have the least impact on the citizens of Moore County and get the most effect, the sales tax referendum would

pay this bill more effectively than a ten cent property tax increase."

"The data surely paints a picture that the sales tax is, by far, the best way to go."

Commissioner Saunders shared the story of one of his employees who had done the math for her household and found the sales tax option much more attractive than a property tax hike.

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, December 8 regular meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Received from Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips proposed revisions to the Public Safety Ordinance.

- Approved a purchase contract not to exceed \$355,044 for new cardiac monitors-defibrillators. Phillips explained that the county's existing units are five years old and out of warranty. The purchase will standardize equipment across the department.

- Held a public hearing on the closeout of the County's 2012 Scattered Site Housing Community Development Block Grant [CDBG], which paid to rehabilitate five income-qualified substandard homes, including two in Southern Pines, two in Taylortown, and one in Aberdeen. Planning Director Debra Ensinger reported that the 2012 CDBG will be the last that focuses on home rehabilita-

(See "Tax," p. 29)





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Tax

(Continued from page 28)

tion. Future grants will focus on infrastructure improvements.

- Authorized the County Manager, Attorney, and Human Resources Director, working as a team, to approve minor changes to the employee health benefit plan summary plan description.

- Approved an even property swap with the Village of Pinehurst, trading .11 acres of County-owned property for .11 acres of Village-owned property, reconfiguring the property lines of two larger adjacent tracts.

- Approved the purchase of a bar rake for the wastewater treatment plant from Aqualitec for \$131,000.

- Approved Moore County Schools' application to set aside \$1,832,500 in NC State Education Lottery funds for the design of the Advanced Career Center — a new high school that will allow students to gain college credit and certifications while pursue a number of career options.

- Reappointed Mike Cameron as Chairman and Larry Upchurch as Vice Chairman of the Fire Commission.

- Reappointed John Ganley to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

- Appointed Lieutenant Josh Craven as the Sheriff's designee on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

- Reappointed Helen Schillaci and Virginia Whiting to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

- Heard from County Manager Wayne Vest that the County website has been completely redesigned in-house, and is now live on the web.



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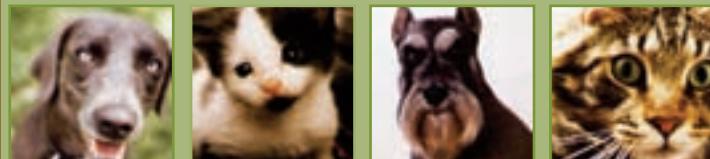
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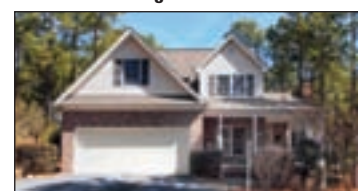
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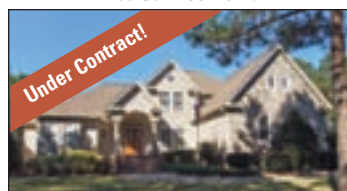
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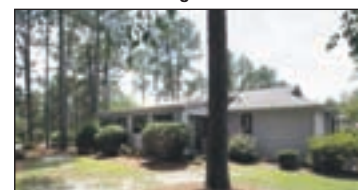
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