

Egg-cellent Hunting



A young Seven Laker sorts through his bucket of Easter Eggs following the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26. See page 10 for more photos.

Lattin to head up Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Jack Lattin will lead the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association as President during the 2016-2017 Board term.

Lattin was elected in an executive session held after the conclusion of the Sunday, March 20 Annual Meeting.

Other officers include: Parks Cobb as Vice President, and Stan Makson as Treasurer.

Lattin, who previously served as Secretary and chaired the Communications Committee, will continue to handle Communications until a replacement has been found for former President Mandy Goodman, who resigned at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Makson had previously

been appointed to serve out the unexpired term of Mercedes Herdrich, but was elected to a full term on the Board during the Annual Meeting. Also elected were Ben Benjamin, who will handle Legal Affairs, and Bob Van Houten, who will serve as Lake & Dam Director.

Highlighting the team

Making the traditional President's presentation at the Annual Meeting, Goodman focused on the CAS team in the Landowners Office and the accomplishments of SLWLA committees.

CAS is in its fifth year as the Association's management company. Goodman noted that the staff continues to assume more responsibilities that were once handled by volunteer Board Members.

She called Community Manager Jeanette Mendence

her "righthand woman," noting that Mendence handles the Events and Amenities Committees, as well as having direct responsibility for Safety and Security.

Assistant Community Manager Luci Hadlock manages the boat registration process and pool operations, and spends substantial time on Architectural Review matters, Goodman said.

Maggi Rock handles compliance, as well as US Securities and roving and radar patrol.

"She has the most wonderful sense of humor, and an unbelievable memory," Goodman said. "She can recite not only the names and addresses of most members, but she can tell you the make, model, and color of the car, and the name of your dog."

George Pattis is the newest
(See "Westside," p. 20)

Lishawa elected President

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Greg Lishawa will serve as President of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association for the coming year, elected in a closed meeting on Monday, March 21, one day after the Annual Meeting.

Bob Racine was elected Vice President. Sandy Sackmann and Mark Gyure will continue as Secretary and Treasurer.

Sackmann was re-elected to a two-year term during the Sunday March 20 Annual Meeting, gathering 274 votes as the only candidate in the race.

Lake & Dam Director Mark Widman rounds out the

seven-person Board, which is currently short two members.

The remaining committee assignments will remain largely unchanged, with Sackmann handling Architectural Review [ARB], Lishawa at Security, and Gyure at Finance. Racine will continue to handle Judicial and Community Standards, as well as serving as the Board's liaison to the Recreation Committee. Lishawa will serve as interim Facilities Chair.

During the Annual Meeting, both Sackmann and outgoing President Chuck Leach were given awards of excellence in recognition of their service to the community.

Dues increase rejected 3-to-1

A \$35 annual increases in annual dues requested by the Board failed by a nearly three-to-one margin. The vote was 458 against and 167 for.

The relatively modest increase was attached to no special project, but was positioned by Treasurer Gyure as responding to inflationary increases in operational costs, as well as the need to continue to build reserves.

As a result, it is not yet clear what cuts might be required to the budget the Board approved in February.

Each member of the Board provided a brief presentation
(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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Presentation: The Battle of Roanoke Island

City Center Gallery & Books, in partnership with the Museum of the Cape Fear, is hosting a free presentation by Michael Zatarga, author of *The Battle of Roanoke Island: Burnside and the Fight for North Carolina* on Thursday, April 14, at 7 pm in the museum's multi-purpose room. Zatarga will autograph books following his program.

He is a National Park Service Ranger stationed at Ft. Raleigh on Roanoke Island and has a wealth of information about the island's Civil War history. People tend

to think of only the Lost Colony when they think of Roanoke Island, which shadows the rich Civil War history that happened there.

If audience guests purchase a copy of Mr. Zatarga's book at City Center Gallery & Books, 112 Hay St. in downtown Fayetteville, the book-

store will donate 50% of the proceeds to the museum. Bring your copy with you to the presentation to get it signed. Copies can be purchased the evening of the program as well, using cash, check, debit or credit cards.

Call City Center Gallery & Books at 910-678-8899 for

more information.

"We are very grateful to City Center Gallery & Books for their generosity. Partnerships such as this are very beneficial for cultural agencies. We are also glad for the opportunity to co-host Mr. Zatarga and share more of

our state's Civil War history," said Leisa Greathouse, curator of education at the museum.

For more information about the Museum of the Cape Fear 910-486-1330, or www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, 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
Thu, Nov 17	Fri, Nov 25
Fri, Dec 2	Fri, Dec 9
Fri, Dec 16	Fri, Dec 23
Thu, Dec 29	Fri, Jan 6

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

SCC Student Plant Sale

The landscape gardening students at Sandhills Community College will hold their annual bedding plant sale Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23.

Everyone's favorite annual flowers, herbs, tomato and pepper plants will be available for purchase. The plants are grown in 2 1/4" peat pots, totally biodegradable – no plastic for the landfill. Proceeds from the plant sale will benefit the student's annual educational field trip.

Pre-orders are recom-

mended for the best selection. Order forms are available at Ball Visitors Center or can be ordered by phone at 910-695-3882 or email johnsond@sandhills.edu or fax 910-695-3894.

Pickup and pay for your order Friday, April 22 between 1 pm and 5 pm or Saturday, April 23 between 10 am and 2 pm at Steeds Hall (Landscape Gardening Building).

Enjoy your flowers and vegetables knowing you are giving the students a helping hand.

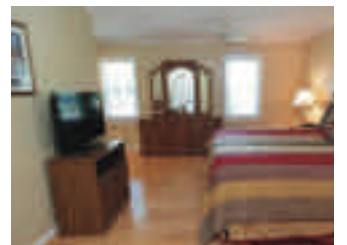
Seven Lakes Garden Club

Seven Lakes Garden Club will be hosting Jeff Baldwin of the Orchid Gallery on Thursday, April 14 at 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

Baldwin will discuss orchid care, making your own orchids grow, thrive and bloom. Orchids will be available for purchase.

Door prizes, free raffle. Everyone is welcome.

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Board okays up to \$40,000 for access system

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A new electronic access and surveillance system at the Northside pool could cost as much as \$40,000, though Treasurer Mark Gyure anticipates a lower pricetag.

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board unanimously approved seeking bids for the system at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 — and with the proviso that the Board will vote on the final contract for the system. The action was taken in a Special Open Meeting that immediately followed the regular Thursday, March 17 Work Session.

Gyure explained during the Work Session that the cost is relatively high because this initial purchase includes the “headends” for both the access and surveillance camera systems -- that is, the computer that controls who is able to enter the pool and the computer that stores video collected by the security cameras.

Both the access system and the camera system can be expanded while using those same headend computers.

The other major piece is a tandem turnstile for the pool area, with an electronically

controlled gate that will allow authorized folks to enter, plus a one-way exit gate that won't allow re-entry. There will also be a wider access gate for those in wheelchairs or parents with twin strollers. Gyure said the gate system will cost roughly \$17,000.

He compared that to the estimated \$21,000-\$22,000 cost of hiring an attendant at minimum wage to cover the number of hours the pool will be open.

Gyure said there will be a camera on an existing pole near the lake side of the pool to cover the gazebos, two to cover the pool and the pool deck, and another right at the entry turnstile to help spot any abuse of the electronic access system.

Because the access system is expandable, Gyure said, once it is put in place for the pool, in subsequent years additional access points could be added, for example, at the basketball courts, the game room, or the debris site. The access card could not only permit entry to the tennis and bocce courts, but also turn on the lights for night time play.

Gyure said each member of a household above a certain, yet-to-be-determined age will receive their own access card. Members will be able to obtain an access

card for guests that will allow multiple guests to enter the pool or another amenity using the same card.

Director Greg Lishawa (who has since been elected SLLA President for FY2017) said the system could also be used at the North and South Gates, potentially eliminating a gate guard in the 10:00 pm to 6:00 am time period and thereby saving \$40,000.

Guests arriving during that time would drive up to a kiosk that includes a keypad and screen they could use to look up and call their host's phone number. While on the call, the the host could press a key sequence and raise the gate for the guest.

Lishawa said that system could cost \$7,000 per gate.

Just as the access system can be expanded to areas beyond the pool using the same headend computer, the surveillance camera system can also be expanded. The cameras use wi-fi to communicate with the headend computer, so running wires is unnecessary.

“Because we are going wi-fi, we can put cameras everywhere around this commu-

nity,” Lishawa said. “These cameras, you spend \$100 more and we will light you up, if you are doing illegal activity.”

“We will be able to identify you if you're in the shelter houses smoking dope, or whatever,” he said. “We will know who you are.”

According to their capabilities and the distance to the headend computer, the cameras can cost \$400 to \$1000. They will not be monitored in real time. Instead, the video will be captured on the headend computer and then

be available for review after the fact, if an incident of vandalism or other rule or law breaking occurs. That video can then be used to prosecute offenders, whether through the courts or the judicial committee.

“We are doing this now to protect our assets,” Lishawa said, “to protect our boat dock, to protect our debris site, to protect our playground. I think it is the right direction to go, at this point.”

“I don't doubt the direction,” Director Bob Racine said.

(See “Access,” p. 29)

McLendon Hills Community Yard Sale Saturday, April 9th, 7am to Noon



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Fence on lakefront lot provokes lively debate

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A flat black aluminum fence provoked ample — and sometimes heated — debate during the Tuesday, March 22 meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

At issue was a request by potential buyers of a lakefront home at 112 Clay Circle to erect a four foot high, flat black aluminum fence just back of two four-to-five foot high retaining walls to protect small children from a significant fall hazard. The fence would run back from the retaining wall to the house, creating an enclosed yard.

The Architectural Review Committee [ARC] unanimously rejected the application for both the fence and the variance that it believed would be necessary for the fence's approval.

ARC Director Duane Coppeler said the fence would violate the covenants, because it is within the fifty foot setback from the lake. In addition, he said, other portions of the fence would run along the property line, while the covenants prescribe a five foot setback.

"Covenants do not have variances. They are the lay of the land," Coppeler said.

The applicant appealed the ARC's decision to the Board

of Directors. They were represented by Jeremy Rust, President of Landscape Design Innovation Group, PLLC and a Westside resident.

Rust's group provided images that he said were "a true and accurate representation" of what the fence would look like from various vantage points.

"The fence would actually disappear into the landscape," he said.

He also said the side portions of the fence would conform to the requirements of the covenants.

Rust then read from a section of covenants to which, he said, SLWLA staff had directed him to when asked about the fifty-foot setback from the lake. After some discussion, former Legal Director Ed Silberhorn pointed out that Rust had read from the Beacon Ridge covenants, rather than those governing the areas between Longleaf Drive and the Lake.

Former President Bruce Keyser then read the correct covenant, which began "No porch or projection of any building . . ." It did not specifically mention fences.

Director Makson asked for some assurance that the fifty-foot setback applies to fences.

Coppeler provided that assurance.

"These decisions are always hard," Makson said. "It does impact people's lives."

He said he was not inclined

to overturn an ARC decision "unless there is some egregious mistake."

He added that his understanding of the purpose of variances is to overcome some defect or problem in the lay of the land itself — rather than the need of a particular homeowner.

"The NC Planned Community Act does not allow covenants to be variances," ARC Member Keith Dueller told the Board. "They are the lay of the land. They do not come with a variance."

"If you're going to circumvent a covenant tonight, you're going to open up a covenant to anybody and everybody that wants to put up a fence. The only way that you can circumvent that covenant legally is to call for a community vote and get the majority of the community to agree that that covenant will be changed."

"If you make a decision tonight that this goes forward, then you've opened up a floodgate," Dueller said. "We don't want fences completely around the bulkhead."

Comments from the public were distinctly divided.

"It seems to me a reasonable case," Jim Brannon said. "It will be almost invisible. I think, in the spirit of being a good community, you might ought to consider letting them have it."

"I have lived here for ten years," Dick Williams said, "and for the last ten years I

watched Jerry Buelow raise two of his grandkids on that same lot. I never saw any kids go into the lake or fall off the wall. In fact, they jumped off the wall. I never saw anyone hurt."

"The whole idea of fences on the lake being denied was to maintain the open atmosphere of the lake," Williams said.

"The community needs to welcome the young families with younger children," Bernadette York said. "We are aging and we need to make this community appeal-

ing to young people The fence is for the good and the safety of the children. This is something that you are going to be up against the more young people you want to get in here."

Ron Workman asked whether a row of knockout roses might not provide an acceptable child barrier. Noting that the proposed fence would not be confined to the top of the retaining wall but would instead create an enclosed space, Workman said he had visited the home

(See "Fence," p. 26)

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Objection raised to re-timing dues billing

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Aside from a controversial fence proposed for a lakefront lot [see story on facing page], the first meeting of a newly constituted Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors was largely organizational in nature, filled with requests for Board certification of the rosters of the Association's many committees.

New timing for dues billing Treasurer Stan Makson asked for and the Board approved a change in the timing of the annual dues billing, so that a greater percentage of dues income is reported in the correct budget year.

Before the change, bills were customarily mailed out in mid-April. Some members would respond by paying the bill as soon as they received it. Because the Association runs on cash rather than accrual accounting and has a fiscal year that begins May 1, that has meant a significant amount of revenue from, for example, FY2015 dues, had to be recorded as revenue in FY2014.

Makson's plan is to send out the bills ten days later, on April 28, so that more of the FY2017 dues collections will actually be recorded in that year, rather than the current year.

Former Treasurer Mercedes Herdrich questioned the change, noting that she and previous treasurers had always budgeted the approximately \$200,000 in early dues revenue in the current budget year — and that is the case in the FY2016 budget.

"If you are not going to get \$200,000, then something has to give," she said. "You can't cut expenses by \$200,000. So, what has to give?"

The answer appeared to be that the Board would simply delay a planned \$150,000 contribution to reserves from April (FY2016) to May (FY2017).

"The one thing that concerns me is that last year's Board put out an announcement that we are going to raise dues because we need to put more money in reserves," Herdrich said.

Herdrich said she believed that the Board must, especially where contributions to reserves are concerned, do what they promised to do in

the budget approved by the membership. To do otherwise is neither "right nor ethical," she said, adding that the Board must ensure that, in FY2017, both the budgeted reserve contribution that was scheduled for FY2016 and that budgeted in FY2017 are honored.

Later in the meeting, Herdrich noted that the Board had, in 2014, approved a financial policy that requires the Association to keep three-weeks worth of cash on hand. That policy was waived in August 2015 to accommodate dam repairs.

Herdrich asked whether the Board would reinstate the policy. Makson said he would offer a motion to do so in a future meeting.

Finance

Turning to other financial matters, Makson reminded landowners that the procedure for paying dues monthly will change in the coming fiscal year. Members will deal directly with Alliance Bank to set up their automatic

withdrawal, rather than doing that through CAS, Inc.

The objective in making the change is to reduce the exposure of sensitive financial information.

Makson reported that income through February 29 totaled \$1.63 million, or almost \$130,000 ahead of budget, while year to date expenses, at \$1.56 million, were \$53,000 under budget.

Cash on hand totaled \$869,000.

Delinquent accounts were reduced by five to thirty-four, with twenty-five at the attorney for collection. The total in arrears is just over \$67,000.

Makson said a Realtor® has been selected to market a foreclosed lot that is now owned by the Association.

Lakes & Dams

Director Van Houten asked for and received the Board's approval to create a volunteer boat patrol on Lake Auman, replacing the position that had been filled by an employ-

ee of the Association's security company.

Members of the Lake Auman Sports Club will man the patrol boat, and Bruce Keyser, who is heading up the project, told the Board that patrol members would be trained and have rules of engagement.

Legal Director Ben Benjamin said some liability issues and other details will need to be worked out before patrols begin.

Van Houten reported that only 510 boats have been registered this year, compared to 1136 last year. He encouraged boat owners to get their boats registered promptly.

He said the committee had met and walked the dam with the Association's dam engineer and is awaiting drawings of minor repairs that will help move water toward the drains on the downstream face of the dam. He said he did not anticipate the repairs approaching the \$25,000 in work that was needed last year.

(See "Westside," p. 25)

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Pauley Lecture on responding to disaster

The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series will present "Building Environmental and Community Resilience in a Changing World" by Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine on Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 pm, in Owens Auditorium, at Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst.

Dr. Augustine will share concepts from her NATO address entitled "From North

Carolina to Nairobi - Water Issues in a Changing World."

She is one of America's leading experts on how communities around the world responded to disasters and life-altering disruptions. Dr. Augustine will discuss the fundamental role of interconnections among nations, people and environments and how communities respond to crises, and also address

what individuals can do to prepare and cope with a disaster.

Dr. Augustine is currently the Director of the Program on Risk, Resilience, and Extreme Events in the Office of Special Projects in the Division of Policy and Global Affairs, in the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine and also serves as the Associate Executive

Director of the Division of Earth and Life Studies.

After the lecture, there will be a question and answer period, followed by a reception to meet Dr. Augustine.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, www.ruth-pauley.org

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Flinchum, Goodman are Fellingham recipients

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Charlie Flinchum and John Goodman were named recipients of the Joe Fellingham Community Service Award during the Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] on Sunday, March 20.

Former Board Member and Fellingham recipient Bud Sales made the award presentation. The list of former Fellingham recipients reads like a Who's Who of Westside volunteers: Betsy Mikula, Gerhard Hergenbahn, Betty & Ronnie Milligan, Paul Kirst, and Judy Pendleton among them.

Sales introduced Flinchum as "Charlie 'Mr. Johnson Point' Flinchum," because of his role in overseeing and improving facilities at the community's key lakefront recreation area.

Flinchum served as the formal manager of Johnson Point for five years, assisting in the construction of the children's pier and the repair of the bulkheads, among other duties. He served as President of the Lake Auman Sports Club in 2008.

He has served on the infrastructure committee, the beautification committee, the events committee, and on Neighbor to Neighbor. He built, installed, and painted the bookcases in the Seven Lakes West library.

John Goodman has been the Association's go-to project manager for practically every major infrastructure project since he became involved in the community.

Goodman served on the Board as Infrastructure Director for three years, and spent nearly four additional years on the Infrastructure Committee.

He served as project manager for the rehabilitation of the Carriage Park Dam and

Lakeway Drive upper and lower pond dams, including providing for pedestrian walkways.

He co-chaired the committee that planned and oversaw the remodeling of the front entrance to the community.

Goodman also managed the replacement of eroded culverts under portions of Longleaf Drive in advance of repaving. He managed the Pinnacles fencing project and the recent repair of the Lake Auman Dam tow drain.

Goodman served as Chair of the Judicial Committee, and also served on the Annexation, Dam, and CSI committees.



Fellingham Award Recipient John Goodman



Fellingham Award Recipient Charlie Flinchum

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Beacon Ridge Country Club forges ahead

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The management of Beacon Ridge Country Club is forging ahead under current ownership after a potential sale of the property fell through in February.

In a March 28 letter to the membership, club owner Don Billings said there is "nothing new" to report on the possibility of a sale, though he added that "we will sell the Club at any time we get an offer at the right price."

Billings reported that the golf course's greens are in good shape, having been recently resodded and nurtured by new Greens Superintendent Brian Abbott.

Veteran Club Manager Howard Cannon will continue to run the day-to-day operations of the Club, Billings wrote, praising Cannon's work during the past eighteen months "building our membership, increasing outside play, and improving our menu and dining experience."

The Beacon Ridge Restaurant, which is open to all, is currently serving lunch Tuesday through Saturday, with dinner specials on Tuesday and Thursday nights and a Sunday Brunch, as well.

"Howard has a number of ideas and plans that he will be working through throughout the coming year," Billings wrote. "Our goal, and Howard's, is to continue to enhance the services we offer to our members and to our golfing and dining customers."

Beacon Ridge was listed with broker Hilda W. Allen in an auction sale initially scheduled to be concluded on February 4.

But, when a potential buyer approached the broker with an offer outside the auction, the date was pushed back to February 16. A letter of intent was signed, with a formal contract pending.

In a February 22 letter to the Club membership, Billings said the buyer "suffered a sudden and devastating loss of a close family

member."

That buyer has not resurfaced.

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 sixteen years.

Since then, the Billings have made substantial upgrades, including remodeling portions of the club-

house; adding a fitness center; reopening the pool; and bringing on Cannon, who was for a number of years the manager of Foxfire Golf, to oversee day-to-day operations.

The improvements helped reverse a decline in membership. Billings told *The Times* that the club currently has just under 200 memberships.



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Bob Racine named SLLA Citizen of the Year

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Bob Racine was named "Citizen of the Year" by the The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors during the Association's

Sunday, March 20 Annual Meeting.

Racine is the most senior member of the Board, beginning the second year of his third two-year term. He served as President during 2014-2015.

President Chuck Leach

announced the award, saying it would go to "a community member who demonstrates outstanding and dedicated service to the Seven Lakes community."

Leach said Racine was "a first ballot, unanimous choice by the Board."

"This individual has spent countless hours volunteering his time at activities sponsored by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party, and Halloween Party," Leach continued.

"He has volunteered his time with the Boy Scouts of America, assisting young men as they work to become Eagle Scouts."

"He is a member of the Kiwanis, routinely volunteering to help out with Backpack Pals, the pumpkin sale, and the pancake breakfast."

"He is very involved with the American Red Cross and the Blood Drive."

"He currently chairs the Community Standards, Judicial, and the Recreation Committees — and, if a President needs someone else to do something else, he will volunteer."

"This is an individual who continues to demonstrate commitment and dedication

to the Seven Lakes community," Leach concluded, "who today starts his sixth consecutive year on the Seven Lakes Landowners Board."

Racine received a standing ovation from the landowners present at the Annual Meeting.



SLLA Citizen of the Year Bob Racine

Health Fair at Chapel

Everyone is invited to attend the Thursday, April 7 "Live Well, Age Well. Health Fair" from 10 am to 4 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Exhibitors set to display their products and services include: Audiology of the Sandhills, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Garner Law Firm, Orthotics and Prosthetics of Pinehurst, Penick Village, Pinehurst Neuropsychology, Sandhills Neurol-

ogists, Seven Lake Prescription Shoppe, St. Joseph of the Pines, Thrivent Financial.

For more information on the "Live Well. Age Well. Health Fair," contact 910-692-0683 or susanm@aging-outreachservices.com

Sponsors include Aging Outreach Services, AOS & Friends Care, Fox Hollow Senior Living Community, OutreachNC magazine and Chapel in the Pines.

WEST END FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

THE WEST END FIRE DISTRICT WILL HOLD THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST END FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT ON

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.

AT THE WEST END FIRE STATION
4203 NC HWY 73, WEST END, NC 27376

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO NOMINATE AND ELECT TWO (2) DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO THREE YEAR TERMS ONE (1) DISTRICT RESIDENT TO AN UNEXPIRED ONE-YEAR TERM TO THE WEST END FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ALL FIRE DISTRICT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING.

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SLLA Easter Egg Hunt draws big crowd

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association brought out a big crowd of children and their parents to Northside park on Saturday, March 26.

The weather was just right for egg hunting — or just visiting with the neighbors.

The SLLA Recreation Committee supplied refreshments and the Easter Bunny provided plenty of hugs.

**Photos by
Jeni Hankins
& Marcy Hankins**



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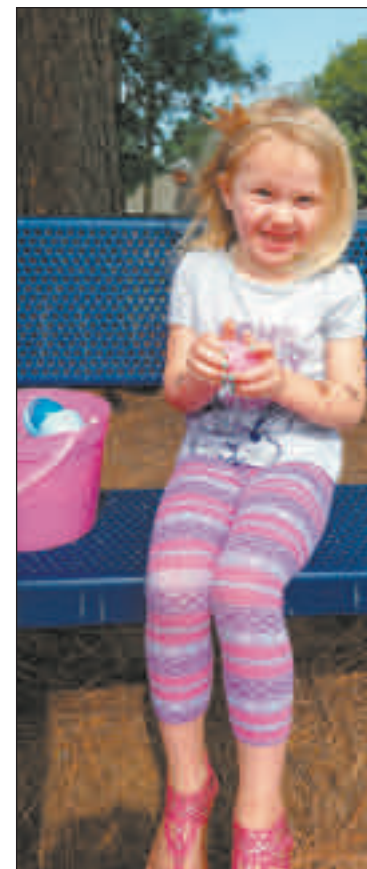
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(More photos on page 19)

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Terrell opens new antique shop in West End

by Janna Prak
Times Reporter

There's a new antique store in West End.

After retiring to Seven Lakes West, Susan Terrell decided it was time for her to start

her own antique shop, something she's had a passion for her whole life. And on Saturday, January 30, West End Antiques was born.

Terrell was born and raised in Moore County. As a child,

she fell in love with the antique dishes, figurines, and pottery around the house.

As a young woman, Terrell moved to Tennessee, where she continued to collect antiques and even began setting up booths at events throughout the years while she worked as a paralegal. Glassware was her specialty.

In 2006, she and her husband, Jim Terrell, decided it was time to come home to their roots. They made the journey back to Moore County, but Terrell's antique collecting was far from over.

She continued buying and storing up, and then selling merchandise in a space in Seven Lakes Hardware. But it wasn't until just a few

months ago when she began preparation for a store of her own – devoted to her antiques.

Terrell has been collecting antiques for nearly twenty-nine years. Her new store West End Antiques is filled with gorgeous furniture (vintage and painted), home décor, candles, soaps, man cave items for the guys, and so much more.

In addition to her own antiques, West End Antiques is filled with other great rare finds from fifty-eight vendors from all over North Carolina.

"We are very blessed to have fantastic vendors, who have decorated our store beautifully," Terrell said. "Each vendor has a wonderful variety of merchandise, so

each booth is unique."

The fifty-eight vendor spots were filled within the first couple weeks of opening.

"Our vendors go the extra mile to find just the right items to set up and decorate their booths with merchandise customers won't find elsewhere," she said.

Terrell runs the shop with her new helper Brenda Hine-line, who has been working in consignment for five years. She has been on board since day one. Together the two women look forward to the new goodies arriving into the shop from vendors.

"All our vendors come into the store weekly to bring merchandise and arrange their booths and keep their spaces stocked and clean,"

(See "Antiques," p. 18)



Susan Terrell shows off one of the treasures at her new shop in West End – West End Antiques

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Shaw House Luncheon

A special luncheon at the historic Shaw House is set for Monday, April 18, to honor the many decades that the Shaw House tea room served delectable lunches in the ca. 1820s home at 110 Morgan-ton Road in Southern Pines.

The Moore County Historical Association (MCHA) is sponsoring this nostalgic old time event by hosting two luncheon seatings: at 11:30 am and 1 pm. The cost is \$18 per person.

For reservations call Grace Jones (910) 281-5417. Space is limited and admission will be by reservation only. Although some parking is available on site, car pooling is recommended.

The Moore County Historical Association was formed in March 1946 under the leadership of Elizabeth "Buffie" Ives for the purpose of acquiring the Shaw House property. The house, which is the core of Southern Pines history, was built and occupied by the Shaw family from the 1820s to the 1940s. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Historical Association, the oldest historical society in North Carolina in continuous operation.

Many people will remember having lunch at the Shaw House Tea Room in the 1990s. Its most popular dishes were creamed chicken over waffles and a prune cake dessert. The menu this year will include both of these goodies.

The event is coordinated by volunteer Grace Snelgrove. MCHA Vice President Jim Jones, a restaurateur and volunteer, will be in charge of food preparation.

The Shaw House Tea Room was featured in Ford Times magazine as a "Famous Eating Place" in 1975.

Make your reservations to revisit or experience for the first time this historic tea room and its welcoming staff serving delicious, heartwarming food.



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Natalie Bonner

West End Presbyterian to host Family Promise

by Ann Chase

West End Presbyterian Church

West End Presbyterian Church is hosting Family Promise of Moore County the week of April 10 - 17.

As an ongoing mission project for the church, the program offers food and shelter to homeless single mother families.

Family Promise, located in Aberdeen, works with each individual mother, assisting with finding a more stable

living environment as well as seeking employment, if needed.

Churches in the Family Promise network serve as a hosting church or a support church. As the hosting church, West End Presbyterian will provide shelter while both host and support churches will share in providing meals, evening hosts, overnight hosts and drivers. Co-Chairs of the program at

West End Presbyterian Church are Pam Koll and Jackie Kinney.

The support churches for the project are Bensalem Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roseland United Methodist Church and West End United Methodist Church. About 40 volunteers are needed for each hosting week. Participating churches host Family Promise several times a year.

West End Presbyterian Church has been a part of Family Promise since its inception in Moore County in 1999, known then as the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Over the years, Family Promise of Moore County has helped hundreds of mothers and children by providing temporary shelter, meals and hospitality. Transportation, compassion and supportive services are offered by Family Promise to the families in achieving their potential of independent living. More than fifteen area churches partner with Family Promise as an

outreach of their local mission programs.

Family Promise is now moving toward a new phase of its ministry following the outcome of an upcoming community hearing and subsequent approval by Aberdeen officials regarding their purchase of a house in Aberdeen. At their current location, there is office space as well as a place for their families during the day. This new property is a large home where the families they serve will have a space of their own until permanent housing is achieved.

New Bishop visits 7 Lakes

The congregation of Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Seven Lakes had a chance to meet the new Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina, The Rt. Rev. Anne E. Hodges-Copple, during her visit to the church.

The Bishop became the Head of the North Carolina Diocese when Bishop Michael Curry was elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States.

In the photo at right, Bishop Hodges-Copple is joined by two young members of the Saint Mary Magdalene family: Lia Fravel, who was the Gospel Bearer during the Bishop's visit and Tessa Fravel, who served as Crucifer.



Help Wanted! Part-Time Reporter

The **Seven Lakes Times** is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings, write feature stories, and photograph events.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. Actual reporting experience is strongly preferred. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The time commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are required, and deadlines are firm.

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In memory of . . .

John E. Letter, 95, of Seven Lakes, died March 21 at his home, surrounded by family and friends.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, March 24 at Chapel in the Pines.

He was the son of the late Albert F. Letter and Hulda Stoffer Letter of St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Letter graduated from South Side Catholic High School in St. Louis, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, Missouri.

In 1982, Mr. Letter retired from Anheuser-Busch, Inc. in St. Louis, after working for thirty-five years in various positions from process control in the laboratory, to Corporate Quality Control Manager, Plant Manager of the breweries in both Los Angeles, California and Williamsburg, Virginia, and eventually Director of Plant Operations overseeing all the Anheuser-Busch breweries.

Mr. Letter served on various boards for industry, business and banking. After moving to North Carolina with his wife Nancee in 1985, he enjoyed serving on the boards of Seven Lakes Country Club, Seven Lakes Landowners Association, and Seven Lakes Tennis Club, as well as being a long time member of the FirstHealth Foundation Financial Committee.

He was an avid tennis player and he thoroughly enjoyed the relationships he formed in North Carolina with friends, neighbors and associates. He said many times that he had chosen the very best environment in which to retire.

Mr. Letter was preceded in death by his brothers Elmer Letter, Arthur Letter and Robert Letter; sister Virginia Letter Dunn; sons John E

Letter, Jr., and Mark S. Letter.

Mr. Letter is survived by his wife of forty-one years, Nancee J. Letter; son Michael Letter and wife Claudia, of Camano Island, WA; daughter Lorie A. Schaefer and husband Dale, of Sanford; stepson Mark R. Drummond of Jacksonville, FL; stepdaughter Deanna R. Drummond

of Seven Lakes; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-three great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Hospice or FirstHealth Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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

Clenny Creek Day

The 11th Annual Clenny Creek Day will be Saturday, April 16, 10 am - 5 pm at the site of the historic Bryant House and McLendon Cabin, 3361 Mt. Carmel Road, Carthage.

The fundraiser helps maintain and renovate MCHA's house museums that are named for nearby McLendon Creek. Free parking for the event is available.

This year, the Friends of the Bryant House volunteers are offering pony rides and trackless train rides for the kids to enjoy, along with a

raffle, live music, vendors, historical re-enactors, food, items for sale such as blueberry bushes, azaleas, vegetable plants, and herbs.

The Bryant House has a new storage shed, gas logs for chilly days and the McLendon Cabin has a carved handrail to assist people through its door, all done by volunteers. The cabin is the oldest home on its original foundation in Moore County.

Call (910) 692-2051 for details, email: info@moorehistory.com, or visit www.moorehistory.com

James (Jim) R. Nichols of Seven Lakes died at his home on February 22.

A Celebration of Jim's Life will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 3 pm to 5 pm, at Beacon Ridge Country Club.

He was born in Elsmere, Delaware, graduated from DuPont High School and the University of Delaware and earned a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois.

He worked for Union Car-

bide and Rhone-Poulenc for many years. He and his wife Cathie retired to Seven Lakes in 1994. They attended Our Savior Lutheran Church and volunteered at the Coalition for Human Care.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-one years, Cathie; sons, Jeff and Scott; daughter, Patricia; granddaughters, Emily and Jessica and great-granddaughter, Eleanor.

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Tommy Phillips

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FRIDAY, APRIL 1

- **Animal's April Fool's Day** (*For Wee Ones*) – 10 am, Find out how animals fool each other all the time. Learn about some of the best tricksters in nature. 3 to 5 year-olds and parents Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **Sunrise Theater** – 7:30 pm, *The Hillbenders Concert*, presenting: The Who's Tommy, a Bluegrass Opry. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

- **Given Memorial Library** – 10 am to noon, Welcome all Kids – Science & Reading. Try easy science experiments and learn about great science books. Given Memorial Library, 150 Cherokee Road, Pinehurst.
- **Growing Vegetables in Containers** – 10 am - Noon, Jan Leitschuh, Master Gardener and organizer of "Farm to Table" will speak on Growing Vegetables in Containers, Sandhills Community College, Steeds Hall, Stephens Laboratory. Cost \$20 for Sandhills Horticultural members, \$25 for non-members. Prepay to secure your place in class. Payment is due at Registration. To reserve a space call 910-695-3882.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Confirmation* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 8 am, Men's Breakfast Meeting, Crawford Center Kitchen; 10 am Sunday School, 3 year olds - Adult, Nursery Available; 11 am Worship, Nursery.
- **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.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145

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.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 9:30 am, Women's Morning Circle, Crawford Center Kitchen.
- **"Hippocampus" School for the Healthy Brain** – 2 pm - 3 pm, Program designed to teach the 5 Key Components that help promote Brain Health. Pre-

senters vary. 215-0900, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, West End.

- **Moore County Board of Education** – 4 pm, work session, Central Office, Carthage.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **West End Fire District Annual Meeting** – 6 pm, at West End Fire Station. Nomination and election of West End district residents. All fire district residents are encouraged to attend.
- **Given Outpost** – 7 pm, Book Lovers Unite. This month is North Carolina Authors. Bring your favorite author list to share with the group. Given Outpost, 95 Cherokee Rd, Pinehurst.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** –

What's When



- **Grace Church Seven Lakes** – 10:15 am, Contemporary Worship and Service, Nursery and Children's Ministry provided, Seven Lakes Plaza.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Confirmation* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Nature's Deceit** – 3 pm, come learn about some of the ways that prey animals fool predators, so they don't become lunch. Or ways that predators can trick prey into becoming lunch. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 6 pm Youth Supper and Meeting, Crawford Center Kitchen.

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The Confirmation – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- **The Game of Life's Journey Part 3** – 9 am - 12:30 pm. Fun and educational series. Participants attend informative seminars, tour local communities, attend an Information Fair. 215-0900, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, West End.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 am, meeting at 12:05 pm. 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
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30-4:30 pm, Tuesday Tutoring, Crawford Center.

- **Nature's Book Club** – 5 pm, "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Confirmation* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 5 pm, WOW Program for K - 5th Grade.
- **AWANA for Kids** – 6:30 to 8 pm. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

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- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30-5 pm, WOW Children in Grades K-5.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Confirmation* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

- **Live Well. Age Well. Health Fair** – 10 am to 4 pm, public invited to attend. Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes North, Seven Lakes. Community will have a special opportunity to receive free health screenings. For information contact 910-692-0683 or susanm@agin-goutreachservices.com
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal \$5.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Prancing Horse Spring Barn Dance** – 6 to 10 pm, Fair Barn, 200 Beulah Hill Rd South, Pinehurst. Event benefits Prancing Horse Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship. Tickets \$50/person. www.prancing-horse.org or call 910-246-3202.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Confirmation* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture**

Series – 7:30 pm presenting “Building Environmental and Community Resilience in a Changing World” with Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst. Question and answer period, followed by a reception to meet Dr. Augustine. Lecture free, open to the public. Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, www.ruthpauley.org

- **Statewide Star Party** – 7:30 pm, at the Boyd Tract. Fun activities for all ages, telescope set up to explore this year's theme: Finding Your Way in the Sky. Meet Weymouth Woods Visitor Center. Parking is available at Weymouth Center, 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. Check the weather; rain date scheduled for April 9 if there is inclement weather or heavy cloud cover. Call the park office if you have any questions (910) 692-2167. Free.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

- **Pursuing Your Best Life** – 11 am - 12 pm, Lynne Drinkwater and Esther Zolman presenting. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Program* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

- **McLendon Hills Community Yard Sale** – 7 am until

noon. A gigantic, community yard sale. 1.5 miles past Seven Lakes, on Hwy 211, residents of McLendon Hills have combined their yard sale goods of household items, furniture, games, toys, lawn and garden items, clothing, attic and garage articles. Many things are like new.

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society Plant Sale** – 8 am until noon. Perennials, woody plants and bulbs will be for sale at Steeds Hall, Sandhills Community College. Proceeds benefit the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens and the students of the SCC Horticultural Program. For information or to pre-order call (910) 695-3882.
- **Weymouth Plant and White Elephant Sale** – 9 am to 1 pm. Perennials, shrubs, trees, ground covers, vines and herbs. Cash and checks accepted. (910) 949-3999 or (910) 986-3009, or email dolphin3999@gmail.com Weymouth Center, 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Program* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Free Family Movie at Grace Church** – 3 pm, community is invited to the free viewing of the Disney movie “Inside Out” at Grace Church, Seven Lakes Plaza, Seven Lakes. Bring a friend, popcorn and water provided.

- **A Night at the Opera** – 7 pm, Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Single performance with limited seating. Maestro David Michael Wolff and The Carolina Philharmonic. Tickets: 910-687-0287, The Carolina Philharmonic Box Office, 5 Market Square, Pinehurst.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 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.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am, Sunday School, Ages 3 - Adult; 11 am, Worship, Youth Sunday, Child Care provided.
- **Grace Church Seven Lakes** – 10:15 am, Con-

temporary Worship and Service, Nursery and Children's Ministry provided, Seven Lakes Plaza.

- **Science for the Average Citizen** – 3 pm, Learn what kinds of opportunities you have to contribute to science. Participate in studies about birds, frogs, ladybugs, and many others. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 6 pm, Youth Supper and Meeting, Crawford Center Kitchen.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Program* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

- **“Hippocampus” School for the Healthy Brain** – 2 pm – Program is designed to help promote Brain Health. 215-0900, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

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Antiques

(Continued from page 12)

Terrell said.

"[We ask] what treasures do you have today?" Hinline said.

She wants to ensure that the dealers get the credit they deserve, because they are the ones who make the store a success.

"Without dealers, we wouldn't have a store," Terrell said. "[They are] energetic dealers who love what they do."

West End Antiques also thanks its customers – without whom there would be no business.

"We are meeting some wonderful customers and are enjoying so much seeing their repeat visits to the store," Terrell said.

West End Antiques is the third antiques store in West End, joining Pastimes and Medleyanna's — giving antique shoppers one more reason to stop in West End.

West End Antiques works with the other stores, referring customers to one another and providing more options for those who make a long drive into the area in search for rare items.

"Who wants to drive an hour and go to just one store?" Terrell said. "It makes us our own area."

West End Antiques currently has two "Open" signs as well as flags as a sign of their opening. Tinted windows prevent passers-by from viewing into the shop from the road, but have no fear – they are open!

"The tint on the windows keeps furniture and other items from fading in the hot sun," Terrell said. "We apologize that customers cannot see straight into the store

during the daytime, but felt it necessary to tint the windows."

West End Antiques is located at 5326 NC Highway 211 next door to Pastimes and across the street from Medleyanna's. They are currently open Tuesday through Friday from 11 am to 5 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.

Questions? Call Susan Terrell at 910-673-0762. Be sure to check out the West End Antique Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/WEndAntiques16>.

"We want to say thank you to all our vendors and customers," Terrell said. "Without you, the store would not be possible. We are overwhelmed with gratitude."



Susan Terrell at West End Antiques

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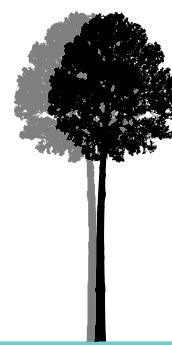
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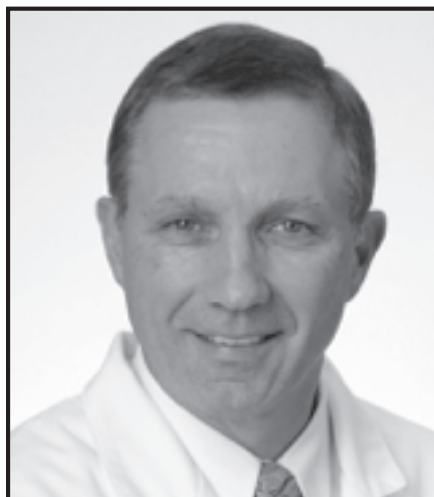


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We're Growing!

**FirstHealth is pleased to welcome James R. Liffbrig, M.D.,
to FirstHealth Family Medicine in Seven Lakes.**

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

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

All providers are currently accepting new patients.

53-110-14



www.firsthealth.org

FirstHealth
FAMILY MEDICINE

Westside Annual Meeting

(Continued from front page)

member of the office team, holding down the front desk and taking responsibility for website postings, the message board, and amenities reservations.

Noting that Pattis came to Seven Lakes West straight out of the military, Goodman joked that he had finally learned to say "please hold," instead of "stand by."

Mike Ellison "handles everything else," Goodman said. Ellison takes care of maintenance projects, set up for meetings and events, and manages the yard waste area.

Committee accomplishments

Turning to the work of SWLA Committees, Goodman said the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] has processed 357 improvement projects and 17 new construction projects in the past year, compared to 258 and 19 last year.

The committee developed a "Quick Permit Application" for minor items, like removing dead trees or replacing roofs with similar roofing. They

also reviewed the ARC standards with an eye to simplifying or condensing them where possible.

The Events Committee offered a variety of activities, including Johnson's Point Concerts, a new members reception, a children's Christmas Party with Santa, Christmas Social, July 4th fireworks and classes in Yoga, Tai Chi, meditation, water aerobics, and cooking classes.

The Amenities Committee completed and furnished the new gazebo at West Side Park, purchased new furniture for the tennis courts, and installed an outdoor shower at Johnson's Point.

The Lake & Dam Committee completed the Toe Drain Project and installed a fence and gate to keep folks from driving vehicles on the downstream face of the dam. Violations of lake rules now carry over to the following year, putting more teeth in enforcement.

Goodman said Legal Affairs had completed a project mapping out those lots that are qualified as equestrian lots in Morganwood. A major

update of the bylaws was also completed.

Legal Affairs successfully obtained County involvement in attempting to correct the dilapidated condition of structures at the old Stanley Furniture plant.

Infrastructure completed Phase 2 of the road repaving project by rebuilding and repaving Longleaf Drive from Smathers to Beacon Ridge. The committee also completed

removal of an unused radio tower near the boat and trailer storage area, replaced a community-owned storm drainage line and pump on Butterfly Court, and completed major street patching on Smathers, Morganwood, Wertz, and Wagoner.

Goodman said the SLWLA website now has more than 1150 members and continues to grow. The Communications Committee completed two

surveys of the membership and hosted a community forum on communication methods.

On the Security front, gate guards are now being used to verify membership cards at Johnson's Point. The bar code system was updated.

Finance not only completed the FY2017 budget, streamlining the process, but also created the Plan of Action

(See "Westside," p. 21)



The FY2017 Seven Lakes West Board of Directors — Bob Van Houten, Ben Benjamin, Duane Coppeler, Stan Makson, Jack Lattin, and Parks Cobb

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Renée & Eddie Voncannon

Westside Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 20)

for the Accumulation of Adequate Reserves, designed to help the Board ensure that reserves are gradually built to adequate levels.

The committee also reviewed all of the Association's insurance policies and changed financial institutions, realizing a cost savings.

Goodman announced the members of the FY2017 Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board, who include: Brian Benjamin, Jim Pierman, Tom Rudzienska, Diane Silberhorn, Shannon Stites, Michael Swenson, and Jessica Wimberly.

Praise for volunteers

Finally, Goodman praised the work of volunteers, who save the Association hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars each year by contributing their time and efforts.

"We have a lot of armchair quarterbacks in this neighborhood," Goodman said. "And while nothing is wrong with a little quarterbacking, it would be nice to channel some of that energy into helping out instead."

"There has been a lot of discussion lately about the dues," Goodman said. "Our community continues to improve. I think that is what we all want. We certainly don't want it to go the other way."

"And so, in order to keep our home values up and maintain this as the lovely community that it is, we will all need to participate."

"Pinewild might pay less

in dues than we do, but they don't have to maintain their own roads or dam. They don't have a lake like ours, and they pay city taxes on top of their dues.

"If you start asking around, you will find that with all of our wonderful amenities, we are a bargain as far as gated communities go."

Pinch hitters

Goodman thanked Ed Silberhorn, Stan Makson, and Bob Fewkes for stepping into to vacant Board seats.

She noted that Silberhorn saved more than \$13,000 of the \$18,000 budgeted for Legal Affairs.

After announcing her immediate resignation for

personal reasons, Goodman received a standing ovation in appreciation of her service at the close of the Annual Meeting.

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Dear friend,

Hi there.

Whenever I'm out after hours, I run into people that walk up to me and shake my hand. I used to be surprised, but I have kind of gotten used to it.

They almost always say, "Hey Doc, I know who you are. I've seen your AD with the picture of you and your staff. I just wanted to shake your hand and tell you I believe in what you do, and my friend loves what you did for her hip pain and foot pain."

I'm flattered of course, so little more about that photo, and

I'm a licensed doctor of in practice in NC **25 years**. I love I love my staff, and I most of all, I you... get out of pain.

Now granted there are a lot that they can help you get out of DO NOT have the advanced and now have available at my office.

There are a lot of people that heel pain, foot pain, plantar pain, shin pain, shoulder pain, and even neck pain, but with our Therapy, we've been able to help a majority of people finally get out of pain.

Its strange how life is, because now people come to see me with neuropathy, fibromyalgia, carpal tunnel pain, etc. Some even come to me with tingling in their hands and feet.

Here's what some of my patients have said lately: "I just love what you're doing. The Pressure Wave Therapy is the most amazing therapy I've ever had used on me. It's amazing."

Right now, there are a lot of Americans just like you that don't have good health insurance.

They go to the doctor, and find out that their deductible is sky high, or their benefits have been reduced so much they can hardly afford to go to the doctor. **THAT'S WHERE I COME IN**. Due to the Pressure Wave Therapy and the 4 step treatment program, you can potentially get the relief you want... in just four visits.

That means you're going to never have to worry about insurance because the fees are so affordable, you're going to get out of pain, and you're not going to have to take a second mortgage out on your home to pay for your health care. This is especially important to you if you are self-employed or on a budget.

You are the one that will BENEFIT big time from this amazing offer - Look, you know as well as I do, health care should NOT cost you an arm and a leg. So to sweeten this offer, all you have to do is SAVE this piece of paper, and bring it with you when you come to the office.

When you bring this AD in before the end of the month, you'll get all four treatments at a reduced rate.

I'll tell you exactly how much your treatments will cost ...during your "doctors report of findings." And remember. There are no hidden fees. Nothing in small print. None of that. You'll get all four treatments for - One Set Fee.

Is this for you? If you are NOT a candidate for this therapy, I'm going to tell you that upfront. That means if we talk and you're NOT a candidate, you'll walk out owing me *NOTHING*. Zip. NADA! That's just how I work. I want to treat you like I'd want to be treated.

You'll find out that I am a doctor who tells you the truth, and doesn't pull any punches. If you want to get better - I'm going to do everything I can... to help you.

If you want to struggle with your pain however, and take drugs that have side effects, I will honor that. Our office is both friendly and warm, plus we give you a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. We care about our patients.

The office is called Wright Chiropractic Clinic and is located at 4317 Seven Lakes Plaza, Seven Lakes, NC. **My phone number is** (910) 673-2225. We want to help you.



Ed Silberhorn was presented with a "Legal Eagle" for his service to the Westside Association



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OPINION

Editorial

Time to step up

I've been pretty hard on the Board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] in this space recently — and I think with good reason.

That said, it's appropriate to add that I have the highest respect for each of the individual members of the SLLA Board, and for the institution as a whole. And I have exactly the same opinion of the members of the Westside Board.

It is a wonderful thing that folks will step up and volunteer huge amounts of their personal time to make this community run more effectively and to make sure the infrastructure is maintained, instead of falling apart.

It's such a wonderful thing, in fact, that I want to encourage each person reading this column to consider how they might become involved in the effort.

Not everyone has the intestinal fortitude to serve on the Board, of course. But the Board badly needs more folks to step up and serve — particularly young folks with families, and particularly women.

The composition of the Seven Lakes Boards have always leaned strongly toward retired men. And there's nothing wrong with male retirees. But any representative body is going to make better decisions if it looks more like the community it represents.

As just one example: None of the current members of either Seven Lakes Board of Directors have young children living at home.

But twenty-five percent of Seven Lakers have a child 18 or younger in the home. We need more representatives of young families on the Board.

Here's one more: 52 percent of the folks living in Seven Lakes are women; the one woman on

the SLLA Board represents 17 percent of the total. The SLWLA Board just lost its one female Board Member.

The Boards of Directors on both sides of Seven Lakes are currently operating shorthanded. It could be that you have the pair of hands that they need.

Still, if you can't see yourself sitting up at the Board table, you could investigate joining one of the committees — or just volunteering for an event, like the Easter Egg Hunt.

Twenty years ago, when I first bought this newspaper, there were far more community events in Seven Lakes than there are now.

There was a St. Patrick's Day parade and dinner, complete with corned beef sandwiches. There were trips to the State Fair and the Biltmore Estate. There were lots of community gatherings that brought neighbors together and built community spirit.

It would be nice to see a resurgence of that community spirit, lest this burg become just a bedroom community for Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

Seven Lakes is uniquely beautiful, uniquely friendly place — as we all reminded ourselves when, a few weeks ago, we mourned Fred Lawrence, whose vision set the whole thing in motion.

We owe it to ourselves, our families, and to Fred's memory, to rebuild not just the infrastructure of this place, but to rebuild, as well, its sense of community.

That rebuilding starts with you — and with each of your neighbors. So, why not check in with the office or with a Board Member, and figure out how you can contribute.

— Greg Hankins, Editor

Outside the box?

Someone asked me what the title of this column means. The phrase usually refers to thinking creatively, not limiting your ideas or questions to the same old way of looking at things.

Basically, I'll deal with religion, especially the Christian faith, of which I am a part, as I assume most of you readers are. Here are some of the topics that have challenged my thinking as I preached and pastored for more than fifty years.

Is the Christian faith the only "true religion?"

What does it mean that the Bible is our source of authority? Is everything in the Bible true? How can we disagree without being disagreeable?

What kind of person was Jesus? Did he actually have supernatural, even divine wisdom when he was here on earth?

What was he trying to teach us, a system of proper beliefs, or insights on how to live our faith in this world?

Why has the church so often been opposed to scientific discoveries, such as the earth revolving around the sun, the process of evolution, the equality of the sexes and the races, global warming? . . . and the list goes on.

How can we believe that God is in control of the world, when at the same time we complain that things are in a total mess?

How can we say that same sex marriage erodes the foundation of our society, when heterosexual mar-

riage doesn't exactly have a great track record? Maybe the gays will actually do better!

Perhaps I can describe the box we need to move outside of as something like this: God created the universe, and everything and everyone in it. All people are sinners (cf Adam and Eve) and human history unfolds

Outside the Box

Harry Bronkar

God's "plan of salvation" so that we can become "born again" and receive salvation and go to heaven. All other world religions have deviated from these truths. Faith in the crucified and risen Christ is the only real pathway to salvation.

So stick with me as we grapple with questions like these. Feel free to write letters to the editor.

I welcome questions you would like to have addressed, similar to the pattern that my friend, Don Welch, used in this space that I have inherited.

Together we may move outside the box, or at least expand its dimensions.

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

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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When the newspaper and the Board disagree

Sometimes, in this business, the folks who run things and the newspaper find themselves on opposite sides of an issue.

A good example is the recent debate about how to staff the swimming pool in Seven Lakes North.

The Times and members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board have had some honest, but serious, disagreements about how and when

major projects should be vetted by the Treasurer and his Finance Committee and presented to the Board and the membership.

I believe that the Board should have laid out its complete plan for overhauling Northside pool operations — including cost comparisons — prior to making any decisions about staffing. (And I'm talking about laying out salaries and hard costs — not assigning a dollar value to a human life, as one Director suggested during the Annual Meeting.)

Laying out comparable costs for the membership to see is not what the Board did, and, based on recent conversations I've had with Board members, they don't

seem to think that's the way things should be done.

I have the same opinion about the new electronic access and security camera system the Board plans to begin implementing this year.

What we know is that the Board has authorized spend-

veillance system, rather than, for instance, in road repaving.

We also don't know how the membership feels about being videotaped when they are at play at the pool, Sequoia Point, or the tennis courts. Maybe we should survey them and find out?

There's a ton of talent on the SLLA's Finance Committee that could whip up that analysis and a survey in short order, if only the Board would ask them to do so.

The current members of the Board apparently disagree and figure it's okay to piece-meal something that is both a major capital expense and a major change in the way the Association does business.

So, the Board and I are going to be disagreeing about some of these things in the future. Part of the responsibility of a newspaper is to hold elected officials to account. I take that responsibility seriously.

As readers of this newspaper, you should know that my only interest is what I understand to be in the best interest of the community and the best practices of good government.

As readers of this newspaper, you should also know that these pages are open to any member of the SLLA Board of Directors, anytime. If a Director, or the Board as a whole, has information to communicate, a point to make, or criticism to rebut, I am happy to provide them

space to do just that.

It's always been that way; but, oddly, very few Board Members have seen fit to take me up on that offer. Outgoing President Chuck Leach implied during the Annual Meeting that Board members have a code of

(See "Digging," p. 24)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

ing up to \$40,000 on gates, cameras, keypads, and the centralized computers that process access requests and store video recordings. We know that there are plans to expand this system in coming years to provide access to other amenities — game room, basketball court, tennis court, debris site — and maybe even to use it in place of a front gate guard during overnight hours.

What we don't know is the total cost of all that, and I think we should. Before we spend \$40,000 for the first piece of the system, we should take a look at the cost of the whole ball of wax to make sure we want to invest that much money in an electronic access and sur-

Lifeguards needed

Dear Editor:

As a longtime resident of this community and a retired member of Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc., I feel compelled to weigh in on the lifeguards for our pool.

We have been fortunate to not have had a severe problem at the pool all these years. We have had a dedicated pool manager and well trained lifeguards in the past and I would hope this would continue.

Yes, I agree, well trained lifeguards may be harder to find this year, but I personally think it is well worth our time and effort.

Something for our Board of Directors to consider: If there is a problem at the pool and 911 is needed, the best possible response time for the County EMS, coming from West End, is at least five minutes. A certified lifeguard should be attending to the person "in trouble" while waiting for the professional help to arrive.

This is just some food for thought and I do hope the Board will consider continuing to using life guards at our pool this Summer.

This community is special and deserves the best.

T. Ray Jackson
Seven Lakes North

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'Spiritual Life after 60' lectures at St. Joseph

Monsignor Steve Worsley will offer insights into distinctly Catholic customs as the weekly "Spiritual Life After 60" lecture series resumes on Saturday, April 9 at St. Joseph of the Pines.

Worsley, Director of Mission Outreach at St. Joseph of the Pines, will begin each lecture on Saturdays at 9:30 am, at The Chapel at Pine Knoll, 590 Central Dr. in

Southern Pines. Lectures will be followed by coffee, juice and pastries.

The first session Saturday, April 9 – Where's Limbo? And Whatever Happened to Purgatory? – will explore how Catholic teaching addresses the question of what happens to believers who die as sinners.

The second session Saturday, April 16 – How Do You

Get to Be Pope? (Or Monsignor?) – delves into who makes the decision and how much it costs. It also addresses where bishops and cardinals fit in the lineup and who needs them.

The third session Saturday, April 23 – Marriage and Priesthood: What's the Connection? – covers the ways these vocations are similar and connected. It also

answers the question of whether Catholic priests can get married.

For more information about the program, call (910) 246-3125.

Digging

(Continued from page 23)

ethics that prevents them from addressing issues in this newspaper.

If the Board has saddled itself with that sort of nonsense, that's really too bad. Why would Board Members deprive themselves of using the one mode of communication that is most likely to reach the entire membership?

Board members often seem fixated on getting you to come to them — to attend their

Board meetings. I've been covering Seven Lakes Board meetings for twenty years, and I can guarantee that that's a pipe dream. Folks have better things to do with their time than to attend a Board meeting.

Still, our offer stands. We're happy to print anything the Board or individual directors want to write.

Ultimately, the SLLA Board and this newspaper have the same goal: to help make Seven Lakes a vibrant com-

munity. We do sometimes have different ideas about how to get there.

I believe those differences should be aired and debated publicly; it would be good if members of the SLLA Board would join in that debate.

It would be particularly good if they'd explain why they think it makes sense to embark on major changes in operations or major capital expenditures without fully vetting them through the Finance Committee and presenting them — anticipated costs and all — to the membership.

Plant Sales at SCC

The Sandhills Horticultural Society will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, April 9, from 8 am until noon.

Perennials, woody plants and bulbs will be for sale at the horticultural building area Steeds Hall at Sandhills

Community College.

Proceeds are used to support the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens and the students of the SCC Horticultural Program.

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Westside Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director Parks Cobb reported that his committee has identified thirteen residents who have driveway issues resulting from the recent repaving on Longleaf Drive that need to be corrected. In addition, four street locations also need to be addressed.

Cobb said he is awaiting a quote for the remediation, but noted that the actual work would have to wait until warmer weather, likely in May.

Striping has been completed on the recently paved section of Longleaf, he said.

The Committee is preparing a bid package and expects to obtain quotes from three companies for crack sealing and street patching, aiming for work that meets NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] standards.

Cobb said the Association has come to an agreement in principle with a prospective buyer of the McDonald tract along Longleaf Drive that was clearcut last year for a water-line easement.

Architectural Review

The Board approved on second reading three amendments to the Architectural

Review Standards:

- 7.11.1 requires prior written approval from the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] for accessory structures, including (but not limited to) playhouses, dog houses, dog runs, skateboard ramps, treehouses, and sheds.
- 7.11.7 requires the screening of garbage containers, AC compressors, pool equipment, and above ground utilities.
- 7.11.8 requires that homeowners replacing buried propane tanks must show the location of the new tanks on their ARC application.

The Board vote represents final approval of those items. A recombination of lots 5478 & 5479 was also approved.

ARC Director Coppeler said the Committee would like to have applications submitted two weeks in advance of the committee's monthly meeting.

Manager's report

Community Manager Jeanette Mendence reported that a thank you reception for volunteers was held on March 18, with more than eighty members in attendance.

She reminded members that the Board has an open position for Communications Director.

Mendence said the Community Center Kitchen had received its semi-annual thorough cleaning.

Committee rosters approved

Also during its Tuesday, March 20 regular meeting, the SLWLA Board approved rosters for most of the Association's committees. They include:

Insurance: Debbie Christner, John Hoffmann, Gary Kuncie, Bill Price, Dale Shepherd, and Paul Thompson.

Finance: Stan Makson (Chair), Don Friert, Diane Krauss, Don O'Shea, Steve Tableman, Mike Thomas, and Nancy Workman.

Lake: Ed Cockman, Charlie Flinchum, Bruce Keyser, Paul Kirst, Brent Neidenthal, Jason Nonwakowski, Jane Sessler, Don Smith, Dick Williams, Harrison Mabry, and Bob Van Houten.

Dam: Bob Fewkes, Mary Anne Fewkes, John Goodman, Ed Cockman, Paul Kirst, Bill Pope, Jeremy Rust, and Bob Van Houten.

Library: Barbara Card, Brian Christianson, Donna

Christianson, Kathy Cowan, Joan Leavitt, Lisa Sheridan, Ron Sickenberger, and Ann Stephens.

Amenities: Nancy Workman, Sandi Carl, Carmela Chase, Jane Sessler, Diane Silberhorn, Louise Thomas, Patsy Thomas, and Clark Trivett.

Events: Nancy Workman, Wendy Benjamin, Diane Silberhorn, Sandi Keyser, Louise Thomas, Carmela Chase, Patsy Thomas, Nelda Cockman, Jane Sessler, Sue Shepard, Cathy Menendian, Sandi Carl, Chris Beck, Alice Dropers, and Becky Graham.

Safety & Security: Ed Cockman, Terry Riddle, Jane Sessler, and Chuck Spelman.

Communications: Sandi Carl, Jim Greaves, Dan Lam-

bert, Dr. Robert Orr, Lisa Sheridan, and George Pettis.

Infrastructure: Jim Pierman, Gene Opdyke, Chuck Spelman, Jim Kuhlberg, Ray McKay, Bill Carl, George Hitchiner, Tom Lawless, Charlie Flinchum, Jeremy Rust, and Bob Nelson.

Legal: Director Ben Benjamin did not present a roster for the Legal Affairs Committee but indicated he would be recruiting.

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Fence

(Continued from page 4)

of the applicant and found that they had three large dogs in a fenced backyard.

"I knew then why they wanted a fence, and why they wanted it pinned up against the house," he said.

Workman said that one neighbor in the narrow cove would have to look through the fence, and, while the current resident might not object, the Board should consider future occupants of that property.

"I am against this," Workman said. "It would be the first one on the lake. I would hate to see this Board be the one that started fences on the lake."

"This is an older home that has sat on the market for 375 days," said Ann Benton, a Westsider and Realtor® representing the buyer. "I think

we want people who are involved in our community to take these older homes, to bring them up to code, and to improve upon it, because we are all are going to get more value from our homes."

"Or do we want to see these older homes, with older floor plans, sit, and sit, and sit empty and not sell. That is a reality."

Benton said the backyard area would be landscaped and the fence would be be practically invisible.

"When I bought into this area, there were covenants," former SLWLA President Mary Ann Fewkes said. "When I bought into this area, I bought into those covenants. I bought into those standards."

Fewkes said her relatively steep lakefront property had

been terraced.

"I think there is another way," Fewkes said. "And I think the other way is important, because we have to keep the standards and covenants that we have."

Director Coppeler moved to deny the application for a variance, Makson seconded, and the Board voted four-to-none, with two recusals, to deny the application.

Bob Van Houten recused himself, noting that he works with Rust regularly and built his house. Parks Cobb also recused himself based on his relationship with the applicant and with Rust.

Rust asked the Board to vote separately on the appeal of the rejected fence application, because Rust had contended that the fence did not violate the covenants.

"We are done," President Jack Lattin replied, denying Rust's request for a second vote.

Later in the meeting, Rust objected to the fact that the ARC meets in closed session to consider applications, which prevented him from answering questions about the application.

"In my interpretation as a licensed professional in the state of North Carolina," Rust said, "I do feel that this fence is required. I would like to ask that our policies and procedures as to what rules we are using and how we are interpreting them be cleaned up for professionals such as

myself, so that, when we bring a proposal to you, we have already consulted the rules and regulations in place."

"I myself am still unclear as regards to this fence setback," Director Van Houten said. "And I ask that as a Board we get this cleared up. Because in my mind and my eyes, as I read everything, we do not have a fifty-foot setback for a fence. I still

have that question, and I'd like it clarified."

"I do not think that our fence regulation is very clear or very good," he continued, "and, as a Board, we need to clean it up, and, as an ARC Committee, they need to clean it up, because it's not very good the way it is."

Van Houten comments met with agreement from other Board members.

Women of Seven Lakes

The Women of Seven Lakes April monthly meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 14 at 2 pm in the Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall.

The guest speaker for the

April 14 meeting will be Reverend Mike Dubbs, aka "Buggsy the Clown" who volunteers at FirstHealth Hospital with a troupe of other clown volunteers.

Chasing Moonlight

Baseball fans can start the season with a little baseball history by joining sports journalist Brett Friedlander, and co-author of the book *Chasing Moonlight: The True Story of Field of Dreams' Doc Graham*.

Friedlander will give a free presentation at the Museum of the Cape Fear on Sunday, April 17, at 2 pm. He will also autograph copies of his book following the pres-

entation.

Books can be purchased at the museum the day of the program.

Archie Graham was also the big brother of Frank Porter Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and one-time US senator.

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SLLA Annual Meeting

(Continued from front page)

on the work of their committee during the annual meeting.

Finance

Treasurer Gyure noted that copies of the Board-approved budget, as well as a Treasurer's letter, was included in the Annual Meeting packet mailed to the membership. As a result, his presentation was brief.

As of February 29, he said, income was up about 1.5 percent over last year, while expenses were up 0.8 percent. That yielded net income of \$23,321.

Gyure thanked the Landowners Office staff, as well as the staff at CAS headquarters, Board Members, and the members of the Finance Committee: Conrad Meyer, Ed Sanchez, and Les Sommers.

Gyure gave a hat tip to those in the community who attend Board Meetings and encouraged more members to do so. "Each and every one of us is a shareholder" in the community, he said.

Architectural Review

Director Sackmann reported that thirteen new homes have been approved or constructed in the past year, adding that the ARB Committee has just approved a fourteenth.

She thanked her committee members: Jane Leach, Ron Zwart, Mike Conway, and

John Svedman, as well as Alice McPheeters of the Landowners Office, who assembles all the information the committee needs in order to evaluate applications.

"These people are unbelievably knowledgeable in building practices," she said of her committee members.

The goals of the ARB, she said, is to ensure that property values remain high.

She noted that committee members spent considerable time this year rewriting the architectural standards section of the rules and regulations.

Judicial and Standards

Director Racine thanked the members of the Judicial and Community Standards Committees, "who serve without recognition." The names of the members of those committees are normally not disclosed, to avoid ex parte communications about cases and reprisals for enforcement activities.

"We are in the process of witnessing the evolution of this community from a retirement, vacation community to a more vibrant community made of a mixture of retirees, young families with children, and working adults," Racine said. "Our interpretation and enforcement of the bylaws and rules and regulations must keep pace with the times and seek to accommodate the emerging demographics without adversely

affecting our high standards and property values."

"Both committees must balance all of these changes, and provide uniformity in the fair, honest, and compassionate enforcement of all bylaws and rules and regulations."

Racine said the committees had prepared a two-sided information sheet entitled "Did you know?" that compiles the rules and regulations that are more frequently violated.

Both Committees are seeking new members, he added. He also noted the need for two more members on the Board of Directors, adding that he has spoken with one person who definitely plans to apply and has another who is as yet on the fence.

Recreation

Reporting for the Recreation Committee, Racine thanked Mary Farley, who has chaired many of the annual events: Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th festivities, a Summer pool party, a Halloween Party at the stables, Christmas decorating, a get to know your neighbors program, and other events.

He said Stables Manager

Sam Baker had "breathed new life into the equestrian program."

Noting that he occasionally hears complaints about the lack of some activity in the community, Racine encouraged folks to "get involved," pointing to the efforts of Les Sommers and others to have a bocce court installed and then to start a bocce league.

"Get involved, and we will do everything possible to establish the program," he said.

Racine said the Recreation Committee spent "an enormous number of hours" on a proposal for a new pasture fence.

"Although their recommendation was not followed," he said, "they provided an alternative solution. That is the function of a committee: to

provide advice to the Board."

Facilities

President Leach, who has handled Facilities & Grounds, noted that he had reviewed the accomplishments of the past year in his letter included in the annual meeting packet.

But he took the opportunity to thank members of the Facilities Committee, who he described as "a unique, hard-working group of men." They include Chuck Stephenson, Jim Stewart, Dwight Young, Bill Settles, David Hale, and Terry McPheeters.

Lakes & Dams

Noting that the lakes are the Association's most valuable asset, Director Widman said the goal of the Lakes &

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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SLLA Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 27)

Dams committee is to keep the water pristine and maintain the integrity of the dams, as well as to provide safe recreational swimming, fishing, and boating.

He thanked his committee members, including Don Fentzlaff, Bob Miller, Jim Allen, Al Anderson, Ira Rozycki, Rodney Godwin, Don Thompson, Larry Hine, and Steve Gardner. He added that they represent a good cross-section of the community and of lake users.

The Committee monitors lake conditions, water quality, fish populations, and the condition of the dams, working with engineering firms when dam maintenance or repairs are needed.

Widman said the Committee had recently met with Foster Lake and Pond Management, which handles weed control the lakes, to discuss the possibility of improving the quality of fish in the lakes. In order to help decide whether to implement Foster's recommendation of a study of the fish population in each of the lakes, the committee fielded a survey, which had generated 200 responses by the time of the Annual Meeting.

The survey results so far found that 41 percent of residents use the lakes at least once a week for swimming, boating, or fishing.

Thirty-eight percent ranked swimming as the most impor-

tant lake activity, while fishing and boating tied at 22 or 23 percent.

Asked "If the lakes were properly stocked for fishing, would you use them more often?" 51 percent said yes.

Security

Director Lishawa said the Security department expenses year to date are running about 0.5 percent over budget.

"Vandalism for the year is down," he said, adding that the Committee had insisted on more aggressive patrolling by the roving security officer. In addition, the Moore County Sheriff's Office has dedicated an officer forty hours per week to the Seven Lakes area. The Committee went through six months of paper logs from the gates, hoping to build the case that the NC Department of Transportation needs to address congestion at the North and South Gates backing up onto Seven Lakes Drive.

That research demonstrated that an average of 425 cars per day pass through the visitor gates. However, that doesn't qualify for action by the state, which instead looks at the number of accidents, injuries, and deaths.

"The gates are probably the most important amenity this community wants," Lishawa said. "But the cost of doing business will continue to rise, as will the cost of manning these gates."

He thanked the members of his Security Committee, including Brenda Massimo, who takes the minutes for the meetings.

President's report

President Leach said it had been a privilege to serve the community as a Director and as President.

He recounted a number of projects aimed at replacing the community's aging infrastructure, including replacing culverts under the streets, the pasture fence, and pool pumps; repairing roofs, chimneys, and patios; and repaving roads, courts, and a parking lot.

"Although a lot has been accomplished, as you know, there remains a lot more to do," he added.

The Board undertook a rewrite of the rules and regulations, hired a community manager, and implemented a number of suggestions brought forward by community members.

Those included codifying the procedures for counting the annual meeting vote and implementing a quarterly meeting of the Board with new residents, to help orient them to the community.

Leach said he had discussed the Association's current committee structure with Community Managers Ray Sohl and Spencer Ferguson, as well as Interim Manager Jeff Allen.

"All three were in agreement

that this degree of participation results in improved transparency and recommendations that are more thoroughly researched," Leach said.

Leach said the community faces three big challenges: finding residents to serve on the Board, which is down three members; maintaining a reliable source of income in order to maintain the aging infrastructure, and "reigniting that bond of friendship, caring for one another, doing for others, respecting one another — those attitudes that for years were the thread that was woven through Seven Lakes and held this community together."

Pillorying the press

During their presentations, three members of the Board took the opportunity to object to *The Times'* recent coverage of the debate over retaining lifeguards at the swimming pool.

Director Lishawa said, "Contrary to what you may have read in the newspaper, never have the facts escaped me, not have I ever been confused when voting on an issue."

Director Gyure objected to a column that suggested that the Treasurer and Finance Committee should have provided a comparison of the cost of operating the pool

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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Access system

(Continued from page 3)

But I have no proposals. We haven't had time for these bids to come in. How can we vote on something that we can't even see?"

We are voting on absolutely nothing," Racine said. Referring to the fact that Board Members began discussing an electronic access and surveillance system in November or December, he said, "You've had five months. Why don't we have something in front of us?"

Gyure agreed that the RFP

for the project should have been included in the Directors' meeting packet. But he said prices will vary only slightly among companies and added that "time is of the essence, because we want this installed prior to the pool opening."

The Directors voted five-to-one, with Racine opposed, to move the matter to the Special Open Meeting, and voted unanimously in that meeting to move forward at a not-to-exceed cost of \$40,000. At Racine's insis-

tence, the motion included the provision that the Board must approve the final contract.

Other Business

In other business during their March SLLA Board meeting, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Reviewed a proposed job description for pool attendants, who will monitor the pool chemicals, ensure the restrooms are in good order, set out the pool umbrellas, enforce pool rules, etc.

- Reviewed a set of proposed rules and regulations for the swimming pool, which will be presented in final form for approval at the April Open Meeting.

- Debated how best to enforce pool rules, without arriving at a definitive answer.

- Tabled consideration of a draft document retention policy developed by Community Manager Spencer Ferguson. He will develop separate policies for document retention and document release. The existing policy generated controversy earlier this year when it was interpreted as preventing members from seeing draft FY2017 budget before it was approved by the Board.

- Wrote off \$3,917 in back dues and penalties owed for

a lot on which the Association foreclosed.

- Moved to the April Open Meeting a request from Gyure that a new Firearms Club be allowed to use the Game Room or North Club House for safety training and other functions, without any actual firearms present.

SLLA Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 28)

with and without lifeguards to the Board and membership before a vote was taken.

"The Treasurer and the Finance Committee did know numbers," Gyure said, "but this Board sometime around in December made a conscious effort to make sure . . . that we never looked at a dollar value to human life, so that equation was never used to ever look at how we were going to run the pool. And it should never have been done . . . I think it would have been immoral to try to equate a dollar value to human life."

Gyure's statement marked the first time in the discussion of how best to operate

the pool that any Director had suggested that a choice between the two options considered might have an impact on the safety of those using the pool.

"We are here to make sure that each and every one of us gets to use the amenities that we own," Gyure continued, "that we pay for, and that we often times struggle to maintain."

Outgoing President Leach said, "Board members subject themselves to negative press, if the decisions that they have made do not correspond to the opinion of the editor of the local paper — an opinion which, too often, is the only point of view many of our residents will ever see if

they are unable to attend a meeting."

"Individual Board Members are not permitted to respond in writing to the opinions of the press, as they are held to a higher bar. They must follow a code of ethics."

[The Times has a standing policy of welcoming letters, columns, or news articles submitted by the Board or individual Directors of either of the Seven Lakes landowners associations. Board Members are aware of this policy. We stand by our reporting on the lifeguard debate. -GH]

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April 1, 2016

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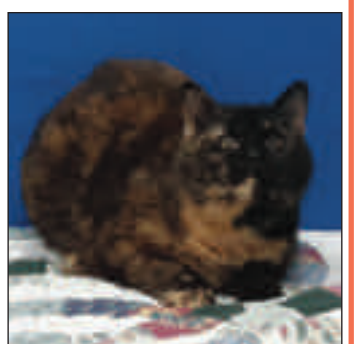
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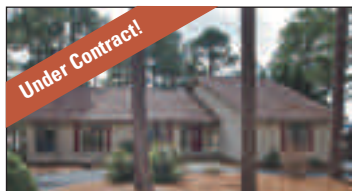
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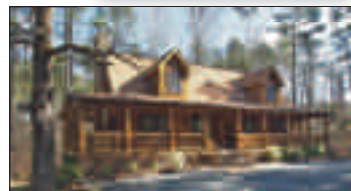
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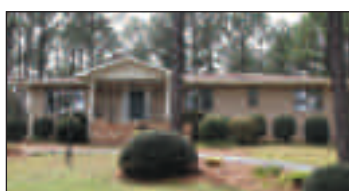
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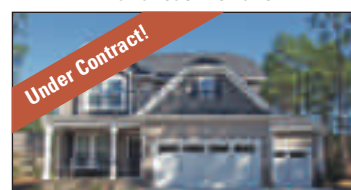
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