

■ Another Chatham water boss calls it quits. Page 3.

■ Polling place switches anger voters. Page 13.



South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masakela performs at Shakori Hills on April 23

Ubuntu

Music helps divided community heal, reunite

By Jordan Puryear

What miracle was it that Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa after nearly 30 years of political imprisonment?

South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu introduced us to the word ubuntu in "No Future Without Forgiveness" — "Ubuntu is very difficult to render into a western language. It speaks of the very essence of being human. When we want to give high praise to someone we say, 'yu u nobuntu'; 'Hey, so and so has ubuntu.' Then you are generous, you are hospitable, and you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have. It is to say, 'My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours.' We belong in a bundle of life. We say, 'A person is a person through other persons'...A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they are less than who they are."

Wow, if a culture embodies the morality of ubuntu it would not then be surprising that they found it in their hearts and minds to forgive rather than to seek vengeance or recompense. Vusi Mahlasela, South African singer and fighter to end apartheid, said, "It is not the one who has done wrong that is harmed when there is not forgiveness, but the wronged. For through forgiveness is freedom and the opportunity to go on."

Nelson Mandela said, "A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity." Mandela had the vision and wisdom to appoint Desmond Tutu to lead South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Its successful mission of healing the

SHAKORI continued on page 4.

ALL ABOUT CHATHAM COUNTY ELECTIONS

VOTERS TO DECIDE CHATHAM'S FUTURE

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Chatham heading in right direction

By Bunkey Morgan

This May, I will face a primary challenge from an organization known as the Chatham Coalition in the Democratic Primary. Since my election four years ago, I've known that such a challenge would come from a member of the Coalition. I have been shocked at some of the things that the Coalition has said about me.

If you ask any member of the Coalition what is this election about, they will give you only one issue — growth. For them growth is the be-all, end-all issue, that will determine the future of Chatham County.

While I believe that one word overshadows a whole host of subjects that this county has to deal with, I do agree that it will be the main topic throughout this campaign. I therefore feel I should give you my side of the story, and present why I believe that I have taken Chatham on the right path.

Let me first of all state that I would never do anything that I did not feel was right for this community. I have been often accused of being a puppet for special interests, notably big development companies. This is often used to imply that I would somehow sell this county short in order to receive their money. I can't begin to tell you how wrong that is. I want to be clear on one thing — I live in Chatham County and my children and grandchildren live here. I have an invested interest in the betterment of this County. I would not do anything that I felt hurt the community. The reason that I have chosen a policy that allows for growth is because I want what's best for Chatham.

When talking about the growth of Chatham, we must remember one thing **DIRECTION** continued on page 18.

Chatham done right vs. Chatham done wrong

By Roland McReynolds

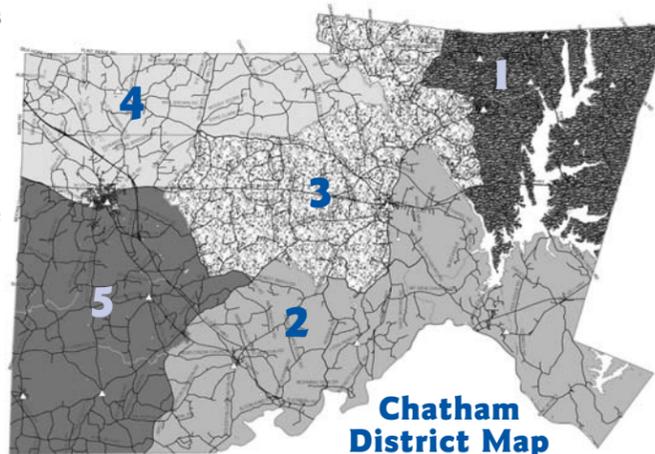
On May 2, Chatham County voters have a stark choice in the Board of Commissioners primaries. They can choose the same old crew of politicos who've proven again and again that they'll do Chatham wrong, or they can choose leaders of integrity who will do Chatham right.

The Chatham Coalition has endorsed the ticket of George Lucier, Carl Thompson and Tom Vanderbeck for the Board of Commissioners Democratic Primary because they will champion the best interests of Chatham's residents. Together, they give us hope for Chatham done right — before it's too late.

The Chatham Coalition is a grassroots political organization that supports candidates for local government office who back our platform of smart growth, quality economic development, excellent schools and open government. We are an alliance of community groups and residents dedicated to bringing positive change to Chatham government that will benefit the entire county.

Tom Vanderbeck is challenging Bunkey Morgan, Chair of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) in the race for the District 4 BOC seat. Carl Thompson is running against incumbent District 5 Commissioner Tommy Emerson, who has consistently backed Bunkey's damaging and wrongheaded policies. And George Lucier faces Mary Nettles for the open District 3 seat. Nettles says Bunkey is backing her campaign, and her behind-the-scenes politicking has included attacks meant to divide long-time residents against "outsiders" living in Chatham, much like Bunkey's own campaign in 2002.

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Chatham District Map

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