

## BRIEFS

### Ringing bells across Chatham

The holiday season is upon us and more than 100 residents of Galloway Ridge and Fearington are again ringing the bell for Salvation Army in front of Lowes Food Store in Chatham Crossing. They will be ringing the bell through Dec 24. All of the money collected in Chatham County stays in Chatham County. This is but one of many locations for Salvation Army bell ringers in Chatham County.

The residents of Governor's Club will also be ringing the bell at the Food Lion outside their front entrance. The Wal Mart in Siler City will be another location for the Red Kettle.

In addition to the bell ringing, there will be Toy Collection Boxes at SunTrust-Galloway and Fearington Village; and First Citizens Bank in Chatham Downs Shopping Center and in Pittsboro on Hanks Street. Capital Bank in Pittsboro and Siler City will be collecting coats for the needy as well. Money collected during the Christmas Kettle Campaign goes to support services throughout the year such as assistance with utilities, medicines, emergency lodging, and disaster assistance, just to name a few. Last year over 1300 individuals in Chatham County were served and over 1500 children. Salvation Army works closely with our

schools in the county to identify those children who have needs.

The Salvation Army of Chatham County was organized in 1984 and since then have been providing assistance to Chatham County residents who find themselves in dire emergencies.

Because of the generosity seen in Chatham, we are able to continue serving those in our county who need it the most. Please feel free to contact either Salvation Army office should you have any questions or concerns. The Pittsboro office phone number is 919.542.1593 and the Siler City office number is 919.663.0443.

### Chatham Marketplace events for this year and next

Chatham Marketplace is happy to host a holiday Tasting and Tapas on December 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. French wines from Epicur Wines will be paired with some delectable French foods for your culinary delight. Come and enjoy great food and great wine and learn about the amazing selection of wines that we carry. We will be open regular hours on Christmas Eve (7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and we will be closed on Christmas Day.

On January 1, 2011, we will be open all day and we will be offering 10 percent discount on ALL purchases to celebrate.

On January 5 from 6-7 p.m. we will have a New Owner Orientation and all owners are welcome.

January 11 is our Board of Directors meeting from 4-7 p.m. All owners are welcome to attend this event.

We will be hosting an Aura Cacia Spa Day on January 15 from 1-2 p.m. This is a free event and will include free samples.

On January 19 we will be hosting another Tasting and Tapas from 7-9 p.m.

### Creative Writing classes at CCC for Spring

The new Certificate in Creative Writing Program at Central Carolina Community College announces a roster of nine exciting spring classes and workshops.

Fiction classes include *Short Stories, Flesh and Bone*, with Melissa Delbridge and *Introduction to Fiction*, with Nancy Peacock. Nonfiction classes include *Write Your Life Story*, with Karen Pullen, and Poetry classes include *Poetry Workshop: Energizing Your Short Poem*, with Tom Dow.

One day workshops are available on *Writing to Sell, Screenwriting, Poetry, Young Adult Fiction, Techniques Used in Writing Harry Potter Stories*, and *Strategies for the Writing Life*, among others.

See [www.cccc.edu/creativewriting](http://www.cccc.edu/creativewriting) for detailed information. To register, call: 919.542.6495

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## TOAST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



The tasting room at Starrlight Mead.

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Remick, who runs the General Store Café, says that in his case selling mixed drinks hasn't been particularly beneficial for business. It is expensive, with licenses and various fees. Most customers, happily, drink responsibly. The norm is one drink, be it a cocktail or beer or wine with dinner. This is good, because most have to drive home over country roads.

Of course, Chatham has had its share of moonshiners. Fred Vatter, who wrote about moonshining in Chatham in our November 2007 issue, had this to say:

"They were generally relatively small operations intended to supplement farm income.

"Sheriff John W. Emerson served from 1949 to 1967 and was active in tracking down stills. He and his deputies uncovered about 10 to 12 bootlegging operations monthly in the early days of his service. The still operators often paid their fines of \$100 to \$200 and went back to work the next night.

"One moonshiner, John Vestal was caught for a third time and was sentenced to either eight months in prison or a \$3,500 fine. He decided that he couldn't clear \$3,500 in eight months and elected to take the prison term.

Chatham is now host to three vineyards and wineries, a microbrewery, and the most recent addition, a mead distillery. Starrlight Mead makes wine from honey. Visitors to all of those establishments are encouraged to sample their

wares and stock up for home.

Chatham's vintners are small operations. Some are run by couples. That is the case with Starrlight Mead, located in Pittsboro behind Chatham Marketplace beneath the Chatham Mills water tower. It is the creation of Becky and Ben Starr, and it has been open since Labor Day weekend.

"We've been making mead for about six years," said Becky. "We entered our first competition two years later and we took best in show."

They decided then and there to make and market mead for their livelihood. "Our business plan took more than four years to put together," she said.

Residents of northern Durham County, they chose Chatham to locate their winery for number of reasons. Chatham County is central to their market so they can distribute throughout the entire Triangle. Costs are reasonable. And it is charming and beautiful.

So far, they have been welcomed warmly and demand for their mead has been so strong that they are having trouble keeping some of their five varieties in stock.

Wineries provide keys to Chatham's future. They attract tourists who visit and shop, bringing home with them Chatham's bounty and spreading money wherever they go.

Julian Sereno is editor and publisher of Chatham County Line.