

MAIN STREET

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and volunteers and had fun getting their pictures taken at the ZimZoom photo booth which was provided by Main Street Pittsboro.

Going forward it is apparent that downtown must continue to evolve and host anchor businesses that are needed by the community, connected to the community, and resistant to economic downturns. For that reason Main Street Pittsboro believes it is important to continue integrating the County government into the fabric of downtown Pittsboro and leverage the ability of the County to redevelop its downtown campus with attractive new buildings, while exploring the potential for apartments and condos downtown along with added parking opportunities. To that end the County has hired a consultant to work with its senior staff and policy makers to develop its new plan.

In addition, when the Town of Pittsboro relocates its Town Hall to "main street" (on Salisbury Street, north and west from The City Tap) the community will have two anchors downtown that are easily within walking distance of each other and will provide daytime foot traffic for restaurants and other businesses downtown, as well as extra parking spaces during the evening and on weekends. Pittsboro's Street Fair on October 28th proved how valuable this new site will be for the Town and the County to plan and implement successful public events.

Main Street Pittsboro envisions a downtown that is pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly and will maintain a mix of buildings, public spaces, and businesses that draw visitors and customers during the week and on weekends.

To assure further vitality, downtown Pittsboro must be linked with the new developments

via transit. Main Street Pittsboro sees the importance in the future for transit to have one or two stops downtown that will link to other stops north of town, west of town to CCCC, and potentially to places within Chatham Park as well.

Finally the downtown going forward must have the flexibility to develop mixed use projects and the funding to implement the vision plan that was passed by Town Board in June of 2014.

Currently, the zoning allows residential uses above the commercial uses at the street levels downtown, but it isn't being utilized yet. In the future, downtown Pittsboro may need to allow some areas to have taller buildings to capitalize on this zoning and the desire for residents to live in a more urban setting.

Because of the inevitability of changes on the horizon, Main Street Pittsboro and our partners aim to maintain the unique character of our downtown while also celebrating the history that preceded us.

Randy Voller is the former Mayor of Pittsboro, a consultant, business owner and Democratic/progressive political activist.

PACK

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ultimately being in charge, it is easier for the rest of the dogs to get on board. The humans cannot dictate the hierarchy between the dogs, the dogs have to work that out. The humans can enforce the hierarchy. Other problems in the pack are not allowed to be worked out with aggression.

Good human pack leaders are clear and consistent with what is right and wrong. They are respected because they are good leaders. Corrections are made immediately and with

the proper energy level. If a dog totally ignores or blows off a correction or command that is a sign the energy level needs to increase. Good pack leaders win every battle.

If a dog in the pack is routinely aggressive toward another dog, it's time to think about bring in professional help. In the meantime manage the dog by keeping the dogs separated, or leashing the aggressive dog and preventing it from attacking others.

Take cues from other pack members. If they are not comfortable around a certain dog there is most likely something wrong. Don't take a "wait and see how it goes" approach. Take precautions to protect everyone, especially the very young, old, small, or sick pack members. Pay attention to your own intuition. If you feel there is a problem with a dog in your home, then there probably is.

There are other things to consider when

managing a dog pack. Dogs need regular exercise and socialization to be healthy. There should be at least one time a day they can run as fast as they can off-leash. Take the time to develop a positive relationship with each pack member. Regularly spend one-on-one time with each dog in the family. Be realistic about how many dogs the household has time, energy, and finances to handle. It's not fair for anyone if no one is getting their needs met.

Most people have a lot to learn about dogs, and mistakes will no doubt be made. The great thing is dogs are very forgiving and willing to give us another chance. When managed well, life is so much better with a dog, or two, or more!

Valerie Broadway, the Canine Coach, is a dog trainer and behavioral specialist. For more information, call 919-542-4726 or visit www.caninecoachingservices.com.

Forgiveness

BY LOU LIPSITZ

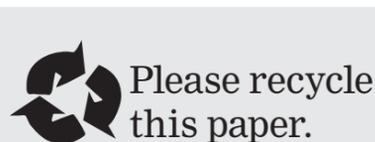
It is strange to have learned so little about someone who meant so much to me. Did he not want me to know his father was a thief and his mother a drunk? That he grew up on the streets where everyone was an enemy? Did he not want me to know there was some way to forgive him for abandoning me? Maybe he didn't even realize it had happened.

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