

# CHATHAM County Line

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vol. 5, issue 8

FREE ~ GRATIS

October 2007



▶ Randy Whitt at home playing Shakori Hills Page 4



▶ Teaching near the kitchen Page 5

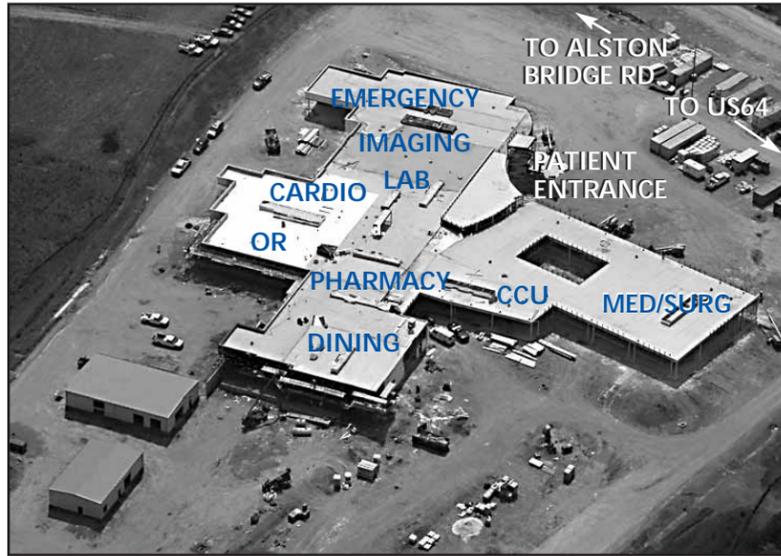
## Excitement builds with new Chatham Hospital

By Mary Bastin

For years, people in Siler City have been devoted to Chatham Hospital. The new building is cornerstone in Chatham County's new industrial park "Central Carolina Business Campus." Construction is on schedule for a summer 2008 opening.

The families and friends of the hospital, keeping up a long tradition of support, are making sure it will continue its loving and caring treatment of patients. The generosity of Siler City people to the hospital is legend. To start off gifts for the new building, the Horney Brothers, who owned the land sold to Chatham County for the industrial park, gave \$25,000 to establish and perpetually maintain a lovely courtyard for patients and their families to enjoy.

Just to mention a few gifts of note, the Rotary Club pledged \$100,000 over five years. The Town of Siler City pledged \$100,000 and the



Building is proceeding apace as Chatham Hospital's new facility goes up in Siler City.

Townsend Corporation \$50,000 over the same period. More and more people want to be partners in the hospital's future. But more support is needed to reach their \$3 million dollar goal.

Chatham Hospital is the only hospital in Chatham County. Founded in 1937, it moved to the existing location in 1950. It has had several additions and

been updated from time to time.

The hospital is a private not-for-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors. In August 2006, a contract was established with UNC Health Care Systems to oversee management of the facility. That's how Carol Straight became CEO

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## Energy efficiency can postpone new power plants

By Lloyd Yates

Next time you're in a room full of people, take a look left and right. Then pause for a moment and consider that for every two North Carolinians you see today, within 25 years, there will be a third.

Between 2000 and 2030, North Carolina's population will increase by half, to more than 12 million people, making it the seventh most populous state in the country.

Not only are there more of us each year, but statistics show our new homes are bigger than ever, and individually we're depending more and more on electricity to power our lives – to make them more productive, enjoyable and fulfilling. That electricity must come from somewhere, and through the years, that has meant increased production from power plants.

Meanwhile, our world has become much more aware of global climate issues and the factors that affect climate change, including the implications of growth for our environment.

Thus, in North Carolina, we find ourselves at an energy crossroads. As a utility, Progress Energy Carolinas is committed to making sure electricity remains available, reliable and affordable and that it is produced in an environmentally sound manner. We believe we must move forward with a balanced solution to meeting future energy needs. That balance includes a strong commitment to energy efficiency, investments in renewables and emerging energy technologies and investments in state-of-the-art power plants – both current plants and those that might be needed in the future.

We can't rely exclusively on one component or another. The balance is critical. In late May, Progress Energy announced a goal of aggressively implementing energy-efficiency programs to double the 1,000 megawatts currently being saved with existing programs. Over the next two years, we will put into effect new conservation and demand-side management programs. We will evaluate their effectiveness and participation

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Lloyd Yates is president and CEO of Progress Energy – Carolinas.

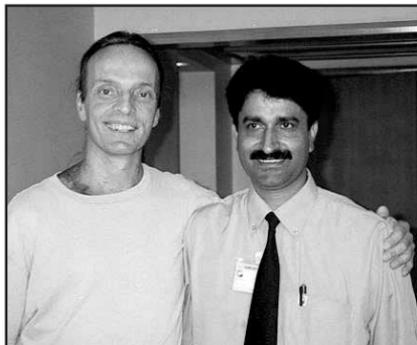
## Surgery in India saves local man's life

Triangle hospitals wouldn't treat uninsured man until after heart failure

By Maggi Ann Grace

In 2004, Howard Staab went to his family doctor in Hillsborough for a routine physical. She was alarmed at the sound of his heart. An echocardiogram revealed the diagnosis: A flailing mitral valve with severe mitral regurgitation. Howard and his 31-year-old business as a carpenter-contractor were healthy, but Howard had chosen not to have health insurance.

In September of 2004, I accompanied Howard to New Delhi, India for the heart surgery he needed. Dr. Naresh Trehan replaced Howard's mitral valve at Escorts Heart Institute for a total cost of \$6,700 (as opposed to the estimated \$200,000 at a local hospital). We stayed in India for one month. By early 2005, Howard was back at work full time, and his Durham cardiologist reports that he is in fine health. Everything turned out well for Howard, and India provided exceptional medical care. This we now know. We also know that our own country's health care system (which we tout as the best in the world) failed us. We were forced to leave our families and doctors to travel halfway around the globe to receive medical treatment that he could afford. Today, three years later, as Michael Moore so undeniably illustrates in his latest docu-



Howard Staab with one of his caretakers at the Escorts Heart Institute in New Delhi. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGGIE ANN GRACE

mentary, SICKO, — nothing has changed.

The research that led to our choosing India does not make me an expert on health care policy or on any specific medical condition. But in the past three years I have stayed in hospitals with family members and friends on many occasions, where skilled nurses are stretched beyond human limitations, and patients receive care based on degree of emergency. Last fall, my childhood friend of over 40 years died from Howard's precise diagnosis because he also was uninsured and could not afford the medical treatment that could have saved his life. My discoveries compelled me to write a

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