



■ Chatham Mill embarks on brand new mission. Page 6.

■ Change at the top for Chatham schools. Page 10.



Mary Linker, Phyllis M. Rocco and Vanessa Jeffries are working with other Chatham Public Health Department employees on the Dismantling Racism program.

## Rx to end racism

By Mary Bastin

Change and problem solving come slowly and sometimes painfully to all communities. Almost always, successful ways of dealing with change are brought about by insightful leadership. Such was the case in 2001 when the Chatham County Public Health Department initiated a program to help people work together for better health for all of our citizens. The management team at the department initiated a program called "Dismantling Racism".

The next **DISMANTLING RACISM** workshop will be held June 17-18. Call Vanessa Jeffries at 545-8318.

Phyllis M. Rocco, the Acting Director of the Health Department, says, "retaining a qualified and diverse public health workforce was our first objective. We have looked back over the years at employment factors and are pleased to see the progress we have made."

An interview with Rocco; Vanessa Jeffries, Health Education Supervisor; and Mary Linker, Social Work Supervisor revealed the energy and support the staff has contributed to make this program successful. From the very beginning, managers and staff have worked hard putting together a process that will continue to deal effectively with change in the years to come. The need for change became apparent when the county department studied infant mortality issues in 1997. Later the problems were highlighted nationally by a study titled, "Unequal Treatment, Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities In Health Care" presented by the Institute of Health of the National Academies. The findings of these studies pointed out that the actions of well-meaning people were actually creating systems that were failing the people they were meant to serve.

The roots of the problem were found in unrecognized attitudes and policies designed to serve diverse race, ethnic and economic populations. The Dismantling Racism program began with a workshop for staff members and volunteers. To develop follow-up strategy, a Change Team was organized. This group meets bi-monthly to design action plans and tools for evaluating their progress. Two other groups meet bi-monthly. These are called Caucus Groups. One has all

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## Northeast Chatham building on fast track

By Robert N. Eby

New residential and commercial construction in Northeast Chatham is ready to explode. Even as the Chatham County Board of Commissioners is struggling to find funding for all of the county's infrastructure needs, construction has been increasing every year since 1999. Data from the county's planning department show that, in 2004, 565 residential building permits were issued for Northeast Chatham (Northwood High School District), 85 percent of the total issued in all of the county.

It appears that the Commissioners will be struggling with infrastructure needs for some time to come. Briar Chapel, Newland Communities' recently approved development, is moving ahead rapidly. According to Newland's project manager for Briar Chapel, Mitch Barron, applications for all required permits are being filed. He anticipates that infra-

Year	Building permits granted in NE Chatham	Total permits granted in Chatham	Percent granted in NE Chatham
2000	328	555	59.1%
2001	388	641	60.5%
2002	464	699	66.4%
2003	486	681	71.4%
2004	565	665	85.0%

structure for Phase 1 will begin late in 2005. The first entrance roads are planned off of US 15-501 at Herndon Woods and off of Andrews Store Road. Phase 1 will include some 300-plus living units, a site for a new public school (likely a middle school), and the first one-third of the wastewater treatment plant. The first living units are projected to be available by late 2006.

Nearby and in Pittsboro, recently approved developments are finding ready buyers. Powell Place at the southwest corner of US 15-501 and US 64 Bypass, calling for about 900 living units, is moving ahead with Phase 1, which will consist of 99 living units. According to

Pittsboro Planning Director, David Monroe, building permits for four individual homes have been obtained. Also the in-town developments of Potterstone Village (about 150 homes) and Chatham Forest (208 homes) are filling up.

On a tract at the southeast corner of US 15-501 and US 64 Bypass, opposite Powell Place, developer Ricky Spoon has obtained town approval for Bellemont Station, which will include a 17-acre shopping center and probably a large Lowe's home improvement store. Spoon says that Lowe's will make a final go / no-go

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## Wireless internet in Chatham aims to offer access to all

By George Pauly

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development, in 2000 the U.S. ranked third in internet users connecting with highspeed internet (broadband) connections. Now we rank 11th. In Chatham only about 65 percent of residents have access to broadband, and only a fraction of these subscribe at rates from \$40 a month and up.

In a recent trend, communities have been providing wireless broadband to their residents. Carrboro already provides free wireless broadband and Chapel Hill is in the planning stages. Philadelphia, after a fight with the telecom giants, is moving ahead with providing its residents broadband wireless for less than \$20 a month. Manteo provides free wireless internet access to students through a public-private partnership.

Bret Pedigo of Blast Internet Services

in Pittsboro says widespread availability of wireless broadband will promote business, education, and community development. In addition, technologies such as low-cost internet telephones, telemedicine, home security, new video services, and multiplayer internet video games are enhanced by the availability of wireless broadband.

Wireless provides significant cost savings in deployment compared to cable broadband or DSL (phone line broadband). You don't have to dig up roads or hang cable.

Already in Chatham, Blast provides a 900-megahertz (MHz) technology wireless broadband service to some areas, at monthly rates comparable to those of the DSL and cable broadband providers. In more widespread use today is a short-range wireless broadband technology called WiFi (rhymes with "my pie"). WiFi is used in homes and businesses for low-cost networking. Equipment for simple situations is inexpensive and readily

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# briefs & announcements

## dispatches

### Habitat Home Stores growing

Recent visitors to the Chatham Habitat for Humanity's original Home Store have noticed a lot of activity behind the building at 467 West Street in Pittsboro. Earth has been bulldozed, pipes have been laid and foundations poured. All this is in preparation for a brand new store scheduled to open July 5.

Chatham Habitat Board member and volunteer Bob Gabor detailed the reasons behind the construction.

"We're bursting at the seams again," he said. "There simply isn't room in either of the Chatham Habitat Home Stores for all our donated merchandise. Something had to give."

Chatham Habitat for Humanity's original Home Store moved to its present location in September of 2002. Store profits and donations quickly overwhelmed floor and shelves. To alleviate the problem Chatham Habitat rented a vacant store on Salisbury Street in 2003 and dubbed it Home Store Too, dedicated to the sale of building supplies, hardware, lighting and plumbing fixtures, etc.

The original Home Store will move into the new 7,200 square foot building on West Street. Home Store Too will occupy the existing building.

Both stores will feature deep discount moving sales a few weeks before moving into their new quarters. The grand opening of both stores is July 5. There will be music and food to celebrate this next phase in Chatham Habitat for Humanity's mission: to offer affordable houses to Chatham citizens in need of them.

— Amy Powell

### Piedmont Farm Tour a record success

The 10th annual Piedmont Farm Tour set a record for both attendance and monies raised. About 2,000 people joined the tour of 30 local farms on the weekend of April 23 and 24, making more than 8,300 stops. The farms are located in Chatham, Orange and Alamance counties. Organizers say preliminary numbers show the event raised about \$13,000.

The funds that were raised go to support the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, which works to support and promote sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices. It has offices in Pittsboro and Columbia, SC.



Harland's Creek Farm, west of Pittsboro, was part of the Farm Tour this year. In addition to organic produce, flowers and herbs, the farm features the Alston-Degraffenried House, which was built in 1810 and is a National Historic Site.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

### Sweet 16 for Haw River Festival

The Haw River Festival, featuring music, art, puppets, environmental displays and activities, is holding its 16th celebration on Saturday afternoon, May 7. River monitoring at Bynum Beach and try some river monitoring, kids painting their very own critter cut-out made by Bynum's own Clyde Jones and Mickey Le Pew - the enviro clown are all on the program.

At presstime, the onstage line-up includes Bus Stop Eddy, Michael Chandler and Don Johnson and friends, the Never, JAAFAR, Cynthia Crossen and the Festival Jam, Claudia and Myrna Lopez, and the fabulous Paper Hand Puppet Intervention Project with a performance of their new show "CATYWONKUS".

Proceeds from the Haw River Festival help fund the work of the Haw River Association throughout the year to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

## briefs

### Human rights for women worldwide

As Don Lein discussed in his article in the Winter 2004 issue, "Chatham vs. the World," Chatham's children will have fierce competition for employment in the future and will need a first rate education. Chatham's young girls will need this as much as boys.

A Lunch & Learn session on May 25 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on U.S. 15-501 in Chapel Hill will feature Beth Dehghan, a long-time women's rights activist from Iran. She recently returned from a

meeting in Beijing of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, where she joined some 6,000 other women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action ratified in 1995.

She will speak on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality 10 years after Beijing. For lunch reservation, send a check for \$15 payable to "UNA West Triangle Chapter," to Barbara Walburn, 247 Carolina Meadows Villa, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. The deadline is May 20. For more information, call 967-6853.

### Civil War 'Grave Hunter' to speak

Though he may not enjoy the typical American hobby, David Waller has found his niche tracking down Civil War grave sites and will share his unusual passion when he speaks in Siler City Friday, May 13, 7 p.m., at the Dry Dock seafood restaurant across from the Wren Library.

Known as the "Civil War Grave Hunter," Waller will speak to the Col. John Randolph Lane Society. The presentation is free and open to the public. A resident of Raleigh, Waller is known far and wide for tracking down the final resting places of generals and other notable Civil War figures.

Among his many trips was a relatively short drive to Brush Creek Baptist Church, near Siler City, where he visited the grave of Col. John Randolph Lane, a hero in the Battle of Gettysburg and Chatham County's highest-ranking Confederate officer.

"Tombstones are pages of history written in marble or stone," says Waller. "Cemetery research is fun, fascinating and, 99 percent of the time, free."

### Open House at Governors Club

Chatham County neighbors are invited to tour Governors Club during its annual Open House event on Sunday May 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors may tour more than 40 open homes, both spec and resale. Prices range from \$400,000 to more than \$1 million. Visitors are also invited to visit the Club House and to drive the 22 miles of roadways with their scenic vistas and landscaping.

Governors Club is home to 700 families including more than 200 children. Visitors may arrive at the Mount Carmel Church Road entrance just 3 miles from Chapel Hill or the Lystra Road entrance 1 mile East of U.S 15-501. For additional information, call 942-0500.

### 'Devil and Daniel Webster' set to song

Long Leaf Opera will perform "The Devil and Daniel Webster," a one-act American folk opera set in 1840s New Hampshire.

Based on the short story by Stephen Vincent Benet and adapted

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# Briar Chapel destroying a way of life

By Ed King

I live on 1.3 acres on Baldwin Farm Road just 200 yards off Andrews Store Road where it intersects with 15-501. I bought this house and property for \$40,000 — the first house I have ever owned — just five years ago when I retired. Julie Smith of Uncommon Properties had moved the old wood frame house onto a foundation on this beautiful property when she developed this subdivision a few years earlier on a former 11 acre tobacco farm owned by her husband's (Frank Cole) family for generations. The ad in the Advocate said, "Turn this ugly duckling into a swan." I proceeded to do just that.

I couldn't believe my good fortune. I'm a Navy veteran with two follow-up non-profit careers as a low paid teacher and hunger-fighter — for 18 years I organized community CROP hunger walks all over the Carolinas for Church World Service. I needed a simple 1000 sq. foot home that I could afford for a quiet retirement in a beautiful rural setting. My bumper sticker reads, "Live simply so that others can simply live."

Turns out Julie was as much a social worker as a realtor. She had the gut feeling that I was just the right neighbor who would round out her commu-

nity of hand-picked clients and make this "ugly duckling into a swan," so she took the house off the market prematurely so I would have all the time I needed to find a way to finance the purchase. She even took \$5,000 off the original asking price so I could afford to put on new cypress siding. That's what you call your friendly, local Carolina

## My American dream is turning into a Chatham nightmare.

neighborhood developer who was more interested in providing affordable housing for the "right neighbor" than in maximizing profits. The Chapel Hill News featured this "Unique Property" sale in a wonderful article on the front cover of its Real Estate section in 1998.

Not only did I hire my Green contractor-friend, Mark Marcopolis, to restore this old house with recycled wood he got from his deconstruction projects, I added a long porch with a gazebo attached and a wood stove for heating. I bought used furniture and appliances from the Habitat Hand-Me-Up store and stripped off the old mildewed shag rug and plywood only to find another miracle underneath: hardwood floors that looked terrific in this old cabin after sanding and applying two coats of polyurethane. Now I had

\$70,000 in the place and Self-Help Credit Union of Durham offered me a low interest mortgage for 30 years.

I tilled me an organic garden in the "back acre" and planted seven heirloom apple trees I bought locally from Lee Calhoun. I even found three homegrown Carolina sequoia seedlings at Camelia Forest nursery that I planted in honor of my three children, taking the small farmer-poet Wendell Berry's sage advice to "plant sequoias." I was a happy resident retiree, living simply and affordably according to the hallowed Chatham rural tradition of slow growth and ecological sustainability. I would live out my remaining years here in peace and quiet and my children would eventually spread my ashes over my special meditation retreat under the vines and wild blackberry bushes where I listen to the woodthrush sing to the setting sun each evening.

You know "the rest of the story" even without Paul Harvey being here to read "Page 2". My American dream is turning into a Chatham nightmare.

An obscenely wealthy Southern California outsider, right out of Hollywood/Disneyland/Knotts Berry Farm greed, becomes obsessed with gilding his lily at the expense of me and my Northern Chatham neighbors' simple rural lifestyle. He doesn't want to

build a slow-growing Fearington Village with a truly rural character. He wants to build Shangri-La with \$600,000 houses and charge Southern California prices while he "grows" Southern California banks.

What's worse, deep pockets are corrupting Chatham politics, recruiting expensive push-pollers from Southern California to assassinate Gary Phillips' character. We hear promises of increased wealth and local development, but only well-heeled lawyers, bankers, and the business elite will profit locally. We hear of higher property values, but that means higher property taxes. We hear of faster economic growth but with that come the concomitant problems of traffic/construction congestion, air/noise/light pollution, and unpaid-for additional county services. It's the same old seductive materialistic tunes we've all heard before.

We will all be breathing red dirt dust all over Northern Chatham for 10 more years. And our children and grandchildren will never know our Chatham, which we have loved and are now losing.

**Editor's Note:** The column was adapted from a letter King wrote to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on the eve of their vote to OK the Briar Chapel Development on Feb. 12.

## BUILD

continued from page 1.

decision during the first week of May. Spoon also holds 842 acres on the northeast corner of the same intersection, which he hopes to develop in the future.

Chapel Ridge, a 700-home golf community between NC 87 and old NC 87 (Old Graham Road), has reportedly already sold over 200 lots. The developers of Williams Pond (see below.) have just filed plans with the Planning Department for Meadowview, a 715 home development on 793 acres on the southern side of Chapel Ridge. The average home price is projected to be \$420,000. Across old 87 from Chapel Ridge, the Page Sub-Division (74 units on 105 acres) and the Womble Sub-Division (56 units on 202 acres) have received sketch approval by the county. Both indicate they will use Chapel Ridge's planned wastewater treatment facilities.

Other recently approved large-scale developments include: Williams Pond, a 185-home community near Bynum on the Haw River; Booth Mountain, a 182-home project between Lystra and Jack Bennett Roads; the Homestead at Jordan Lake, which calls for 454 houses on 577 acres.

North of US 64 east of Pittsboro, Toll Brothers are moving ahead with their River Oaks development. The master plan approved by Pittsboro calls for 1546 homes plus a golf course on some 773 acres. A major hurdle to be overcome, before development can proceed, is obtaining the required sewerage treatment capacity. Because its existing wastewater plant is fully committed, Pittsboro has just extended its moratorium on large-scale develop-

ments for another year. Toll Brothers are exploring a variety of alternative solutions.

Existing up-scale communities continue to add homes steadily. The Governor's Club complex, Fearington Village, and The Preserve, routinely obtain more building permits. Governor's Village has just obtained approval to add 49 homes and 76 town homes. At Fearington the continuing care retirement community of Galloway Ridge is nearing completion; 233 living units should be occupied by the end of the year. Developer R. B. Fitch has also added about 300 acres to provide for future expansion of Fearington Village.

Further a field from Pittsboro, construction continues at a rapid pace in other residential communities. On NC 751 at the Durham County line, Colvard Farms, which advertises homes from the mid-\$500,000, has 31 occupied homes and another 21 under construction. Eventually there will be 238 homes on 292 acres. Nearby on O'Kelly Church Road, the gated Hills of Rosemont is building 68 homes on some 400 acres.

Infrastructure is being installed for Amberly, a G. S. Carolina developed community of 5,000-plus homes in Cary, part of which is in Chatham County. Hundreds of acres have already been cleared and new roads constructed in both Chatham and Wake Counties. In Chatham, Del Webb, a subsidiary of Pulte Brothers, plans to build a Sun City of 1262 age restricted homes on 520 acres with the first units ready by year-end 2005. Also in Chatham, the Bedford Builders Group is moving ahead with Peninsula, which calls for 300 high-end single family homes.

Robert N. Eby writes about development for Chatham County Line and has actively followed the Chatham development

scene. He moved to Chatham County in 1995 after retiring from his profession as a chemical engineer.



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# Chickweed highlights mystery of weeding

By Ginny Gregory



Where exactly does chickweed come from? I mean, one moment you look out your window and the beginning of spring is well on its way. Flowers are blooming (Vibernums look like Snow balls), birds sitting on nests (our cardinal mama is named "lipstick" ...due to her fabulous beak), violas are going crazy in the driveway where they have seeded and then slowly you turn and the dainty, little hairs of the chickweed have started to spread out ready to claim the young garden. Now, I am here to tell you that I cleaned all the chickweed out of my upper terraces due to a baby shower held at the Blue Moon late April. So how can this prissy looking weed not only be back, but also have the nerve to look like a tired toupee when you pull it up?

I can remember saying myself...well; at least it's easy to pull up! But half an acre of it could make you lose your humor.

That leads me back to the original question...where does chickweed come from? You know that quaint definition of a weed...any plant in the wrong location. I had that on my mind lately as I was pulling chickweed hoping to unearth Lily of the Valley (given to us by the famous Sister Evelyn). Pass alongs are so important. They make you "feel" so clearly the memory of the person who gave you the plants. Sister Evelyn lived in a log house near Rolesville. She was a nun without a convent (like doctors without borders).

She had a remarkable take on life. Her voice was soft and tender. Everything in her house had a special meaning...from someone important in her life. When she offered the Lily of the Valley, I was touched. That is one plant that smells like a grandmother. It is soooo sweet and delicate and at the same time it is the fragrance of passion. It sleeps for several years then starts to gallop across your garden. I personally think it is a wonderful take over. Sister Evelyn truly believed that you should live simply so others can simply live. Lily of the Valley can be too much of a good thing...a real clutter plant... thus it is the perfect pass along plant.

I am always pondering about why I garden? I mean I know why, because I am crazy in love with the whole scene, but there are so many levels to "why". Like Sister Evelyn, I am a passionate person. Creating gardens for others gives me the opportunity to share my love of plants. I love to walk through a client's garden and point out the new treasures about to pop, the incredible creatures peeking around the corner or catching a glimpse of a new spot of color at the same moment. It is pure excitement. So clean...so easy. Learning to tend a garden is like learning to see. The more you look, the more you see. The more you weed, the more you learn which plants are weeds. The more you prune, the more you learn what is the right way to prune and ...WHEN is the right time. After you move a plant around in your

garden three times to find the spot it wants and it works...now that is S-A-T-I-F-A-C-T-I-O-N...gardening style. I love learning and sharing what I have come to learn. It is the ultimate pass along.

Today a good friend and I exchanged work. She is a fabulous

needed for a job at one garden center. They had a Japanese maple available, but the price made me blanch. Now these maples are worth every penny, but I was really looking not to put too much into this one for this particular client (the house is going to be on the market in June). I was about to

just pay whatever and eat the possibility of profit when I thought ...Let's go look at this friend who grows Japanese maples.... in Dogwood Acres no less. Well, we took off with me wondering what would be there...a million one-gallon babies...a few choice specimens...no idea.

When we turned into the growers drive, I about passed out. I don't think I have ever seen such a plethora of Japanese maples in my life. It was a forest of them as far as I could see. Just breathtaking. As the breeze blew through the cut leaf branches and the high canopy of old oaks let in a dappling of sunlight...well, I was inside someone's dream and I relished it to the max. There was no maple for my particular job, but the experience was so rich. I got a chance to look and I got to really see.

My owl is calling to me as I finish up. I call him my "Hootie" owl. Maybe he knows where chickweed comes from? Happy weeding!

*Ginny Gregory is the owner and creative energy behind "Beyond The Pail...Creating Gardens and Beyond". For more information, please check [www.beyondthepail.net](http://www.beyondthepail.net).*

## GARDENING



*Stellaria media, aka chickweed*

Indian cook and cooks for all kinds of events (from 300 to 1000 people). She had a huge event this past Sunday and her house looked like Hurricane Fran had careened through the kitchen. I wanted her to help me organize my greenhouse, which looked like plant loons had been let loose in it. So we traded. I helped her find her sink and she helped me find my greenhouse benches. Great exchange! We then went in search of plants.

After searching high and low for a Japanese maple, she calmly mentioned that she had a friend that grew them. I had located several of the plants I

## RACISM

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white members and the other all People of Color members. They meet separately to discuss issues and then come together to work out solutions to various problems they've identified.

Workshops have been held twice a year and attended by as many as 60 people. Jeffries said that actually thirty is a better number because people get so involved in the discussions, they all want a chance to talk. The workshops are two-day events that cover such topics as "Class and Ethnicity", "Individual and Institutional Racism", as well as "Cultural Racism". The schedule allows time for people to share their own experiences growing up or stories about communities in which they have lived.

Jeffries, Rocco and Linker all

agreed that this is lifetime work. They pointed out that the staff finds it hard to deal with problems that don't get solved on a timely basis. After all, health practitioners expect the patient to take their medicine and get better.

Dismantling Racism is a continuing effort. Working with diverse groups of people is an ongoing learning experience. Linker thinks the fact that the county is small right now helps us build systems and institutions that will be more successful in the future. "As a service provider we are still small and we can confront attitudes and bring about the changes that are needed," she said.

This group of health care professionals has learned a lot about breaking down barriers. Jeffries said that at first most people want to avoid the subject of racism. She usually

encounters resistance to talk about it. "A lot of white people think it's about being mean to people and they know they aren't guilty of that," she said. "Then when institutional racism comes up, they just never thought about it before."

Getting people together to talk to each other is what builds a stronger community. As we share our stories and experiences, we can

begin to understand each other. Linker says she feels very positive about our ability to do that. "There are many progressive people in Chatham who are willing to work on building better relationships with others who live here."

*Mary Bastin is a writer, artist and environmental advocate who loves Chatham County and the diversity of the people who live here.*

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# Nona Mensah teaches kids to learn



Nona Mensah, a second-grade teacher at Perry Harrison Elementary School, moved to the wilds of Chatham County in the mid-'80s.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

By Judy Hogan

Nona drew my attention during a discussion of *The Kite Runner* at the Pittsboro Library when she said, of teaching: "If you believe children will learn, they will." I have found that to be true of all teaching, but I've never heard it so simply and convincingly expressed. Nona teaches second grade at Perry Harrison Elementary School. Her joy in teaching radiates from her.

We sat in her home in a rural setting off Old Graham Road on a recent Sunday afternoon. She set a glass of cold Thai tea before me and gestured to a plate of fruit.

Nona arrived here in the mid-80s, having lived until then in the North. She left a job she liked in New Jersey, working as Education Director for a neighborhood center. She lived two blocks from work, but she became aware that there were crack houses in her apartment building. When someone threw a shoe into her son's window, scaring him, she knew she couldn't stay there any longer. She asked for spiritual guidance, and the answer she received was North Carolina, though she knew no one here and very little about our state. She read up and then asked her son whether he'd rather live in the mountains, in the woods (the Piedmont), or at the beach, where they had lived some years before in Connecticut. He chose the woods. So they packed up, prepared to camp for awhile, and drove to a Jordan Lake park. Then she looked for a place to live and a job. She heard of a house she could rent, but the landlord was suspicious. He had never heard of a woman living in a tent. He thought she might be "running from the law." So she took him to see her campsite. He rented her the house in Pittsboro. She was unable to obtain a teaching job here at first. Finally Chatham hired her as a teacher's aide working with learning disabled children at Pittsboro Elementary. Several years later, when she had decided to seek a teaching position in another county and went to the

Principal at Pittsboro Elementary for a recommendation, Mrs. Bishop said, "Don't leave us. I'll hire you when I open North Chatham Elementary in 1991." From there she moved to Perry Harrison when it opened in 1997.

Her three sons are now out on their own, and she speaks of them with pride. Living with her now is the 90-year-old aunt who raised her and encouraged her to be her own person, which Nona very much is. She says, now that she has more time, she wants to give back to the community that provided her with a new life. Her newest idea is to arrange some events and projects for Chatham teens who need extra boosts to their self-esteem. She wants to take a small group on trips, use the arts to encourage their self-expression, and to have fun doing the research and planning with them as well as the actual visits to places of interest in N.C.

Generally, Nona sees learning as fun. I was amazed when she told me

how she teaches her second-graders to learn. "We'll be studying seven continents, starting this week," she said. "They'll be divided into seven small groups. They'll use the library and the internet to learn about their continents. Then I'll encourage their families to take them to restaurants which serve foods eaten on those continents. They can do dances, dress in native costumes, or prepare food eaten on their continents as part of the presentations each group makes." It was clear that Nona looked forward to this project as much as she knew the children would.

What advice would she give others? "Do something you care passionately about. Maybe it involves people. Maybe you love to garden. If so, then make a beautiful garden. I pass many beautiful gardens when I drive to work. Each lovely garden blesses my heart with joy."

The county issue that concerns her is education: "We need to provide our children with the highest quality education possible. With all this development coming in, we need to be sure we plan for it and don't end up with overcrowded schools, a lowering of our standards, and a loss of good teachers."

Chatham County has so many assets among its citizens, and I've written in this column about many I've found, but among our finest assets I would place Nona, with her love of teaching and of children. I can easily imagine the smiling, eager faces in her "children garden" when she explains the new continent project.

*Judy Hogan lives in Moncure, is a poet and writer and teaches freshmen at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.*

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# Chatham Mills weaves its way into county's future

By Tom Roberts

One winter in the early 1920s, a member of the Kluge family from New Jersey came to Chatham County and Pittsboro to escape the bitter cold of the winter and do a little hunting. The trip was a success and Kluge returned again and again to hunt, but of more importance to the economy and citizens of Pittsboro and Chatham County, he decided to establish a business operation here. Chatham Mills was born and for the next 70 years it was an important part of many people's lives in Chatham County.

Chatham Mills produced high quality woven labels for the next 70 plus years. At one time Chatham Mills, considered the largest producer of woven labels in the world, produced



PHOTO BY JULIAN SERENO

labels for some of the worlds best known brands and businesses. Examples include Coca-Cola, Mercedes Benz, Marshall Field, and Saks Fifth Avenue, to name a few. Occasionally some labels would disappear from the Mill, especially labels like Saks Fifth Avenue, and would appear sewn into the clothing of some of the more brand-conscious residents of

Pittsboro. (This story was told by a former Chatham County Commissioner who will remain a confidential source).

During the course of the Mill's history, many people were associated with the Mill and worked there for multiples of decades. Ralph Riddle, a former Mill manager, was employed for 43 years. Johnnie Farrar worked for the Mill for 31 years as did several of his brothers, for years. The number of people whose lives the Mill touched over the years is numerous. Through company sponsored events, to working together, close bonds and friendships were formed and have lasted for generations. People married, had children, and families grew up with Chatham Mills as a part of their lives. In talking with long time residents of the area, almost everyone has a connection to the Mill, either having worked there or having friends or relatives who worked there.

In 1996, Chatham Mills ceased production and closed its doors, a victim of technology and changing markets. The machinery that was in use at the time the mill closed had been cutting edge technology in its day and was used for many decades. The machinery in use at the time of closing dated back to the early part of the twentieth century and was no longer cost-effective, even though the quality of the product

exceeds the product available today.

In 1997, the property was purchased by Chatham Mills Development Corp. With a belief and a vision that this architectural gem of a building had a continuing role to play in the economic and cultural life of Pittsboro and Chatham County, the building and site have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and renovation was begun following the Secretary of the Interior's standards for renovations of historic structures.

Chatham Mills is currently home to several businesses including a growing bio-tech company, CellzDirect, UNC Dialysis, the offices of UNC Hospice and Chatham Mills Development Corp leasing offices. The new food co-op, Chatham MarketPlace, has signed a lease and will open sometime this fall. There are other tenants that will be announced soon, as the details are worked out.

Chatham Mills has been the site of art shows, "Loom" curated by Jeff Waites, and performances of the play Millworker and a production of Faust. More events are planned. Chatham Mills continues to play an important role in the community as the county and town grow and change.

*Tom Roberts is a lifelong resident of Orange County, NC and a graduate UNC Chapel Hill. He is vice president of Chatham Mills Development Corp.*

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# A SENSE OF... CHANGE

By Rita Spina

There's a taste, flavor, feeling about change in the air in Chatham County. It's barely perceptible, but here and there in what I see and hear I know there is something different beginning to happen...SOME CHANGE.

I think I sensed it first when I participated in the "Dismantling Racism" program in 1999 started by the Health Department for staff and volunteers. I knew racism was an issue in the county, but it was rarely spoken or written about, and I felt little to nothing was being done about it. And where early in our history, it was racism between black and white, it was now African-American, Latino and white. And I also remember when the then Commissioners made their trip to Mexico to begin to understand more about the Latino culture. And then, not too many weeks ago, lo and behold, when the news coverage reported on the trial brought by Mr. Phillips, racism was seen as one of the problems that had possibly precipitated this event. THAT'S A CHANGE.

That same trial also pointed to citizens' responsibility to speak out in their own behalf when they have previously been afraid. What is more refreshing for all of us in our roles as citizens than to know that it is not only legal, but also "the right thing to do"? We are

learning that government, as well as the individual, must be held accountable. THAT'S A CHANGE.

I have also learned about the myriad of new community groups and volunteer organizations that are now functioning for the betterment of EVERY citizen in the county. They cut across EVERY dimension: African-American, Latino, white, poor, middle-class, wealthy, healthy, sick, gay or straight, fat or thin, from infant to centenarian, and more. They are primarily educational, supportive, and interested in helping people make good and intelligent and secure choices for themselves and their families. And the number of volunteers in the county is continually growing. THAT'S A CHANGE.

Education seems to be in the foreground for all citizens today, at every level. The new Board of Education and the Community College have put more out on the table than ever before and seem intent on making sure that students, younger and older, will have more opportunities for preparation for this twenty-first century. THAT'S A CHANGE.

Citizens are beginning to go on record more often, specifically when it comes to discourse with those who govern. Those who are in government at any level are elected to these positions and are to be the representatives of our citizens' points of view. And although

viewpoints can differ widely, it is critical to know that we are entitled to open and participatory government. I may not like, nor may you, decisions that are made that favor "the others" views, but more discussion is beginning to take place in some government halls and citizens are beginning to become more pro-active than ever before. It is OUR government after all, and THAT'S A CHANGE.

Where will all these CHANGES take us? I don't know. But I do know that this is the nature of things, because we are all changing all the time, from day to day and year to year, as we grow and as we age. CHANGE is most often healthy, often difficult and sometimes painful; sometimes productive, sometimes not. It triggers both resistance and resourcefulness in those who are directly involved in the change process. Good information, open and respectful discussion, honest appraisal and the willingness on the part of all to do "the right thing" can continue to produce THAT CHANGE which is beneficial to Chatham and all its citizens.

*Rita Spina is a retired psychologist, long-term volunteer with Chatham County Health Department, structural artist, Board Member of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities. She co-authored a book, Beyond the Traditional Family—Voices of Diversity (1996).*

## WIRELESS

continued from page 1.  
available.

A related trend is for businesses to provide WiFi for their customers. Friendly Ford in Pittsboro provides WiFi for their customers, and Blast provisions free WiFi access at the General Store Cafe and at Jaycee Park in Pittsboro.

Wes Milholen, who provides web development services through his company NervousDesign.com, was recently using the WiFi Access Point the General Store Cafe for a meeting with a client. Milholen says he regularly uses public WiFi for meetings.

An employee of Friendly Ford said that most people use their service for business. "People get some work done while waiting for their car."

Despite the benefits of wireless broadband, there is no consensus on how to make it available to us. Models include public utility service, similar to sewer or water service, public-private partnerships, and commercial deployment. In the United States, commercial deployment has resulted in relatively expensive and slow service with limited availability compared to other countries. The county government is in a strong position to participate in wireless because they approve permits for cell towers that are ideal locations for wire-

less broadband antennas.

There may be some benefit in waiting. WiFi and 900 MHz are available now, but there are new technologies in the pipeline, such as WiMax and 802.20. WiMax has a range of several miles from one antenna. This technology has the potential to transform the way we access the internet. Intel released its first WiMax chip this month. Low cost WiMax gear should be available in quantity next year.

*George Pauly, a resident of Chatham County for over 15 years, is a dot-com entrepreneur and freelance internet and database technology provider with Ring Associates, LLC (ringllc.com).*

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# The Way Love Circles

By Gary Phillips

I can remember the first time my father was ever angry with me, or I think I can. We were going to the store together. I sat in the front with him, on a long bench seat big enough for four. My habit was to slide over close enough to touch him. I might put my hand on his big leg for comfort, or lean against his body if I was sleepy. Sometimes I sat straight and tall to peek over the dashboard. We talked. I was five years old.

The car was a two-tone green and white 1956 Chevy. Before this there was a blue '49 Mercury which was the first car my father ever owned, his transition from mule and wagon days to a man who boarded in town and carried in his pocket stiff cotton-mill cash. Then he met my mother, an irrepressible generous mountain girl with a pin-up poster body, and they got pregnant together, probably in the Mercury coupe, and then they got married and then several months later, well, I was born.

So my father traded in the Mercury for a four-door family car, but he described the coupe so well and so lovingly to me that I can almost think I knew it. I can imagine myself captured in my mother's arms for safety or sleeping in the wide back seat of that luxury world which was my father's first taste of owning something fine by the world's standard, him still close in the shadow of the boy who went barefoot to school for lack of shoes, who got oranges for Christmas if he was lucky, whose father took him out of the eighth grade to make him walk behind a mule for 14 hours a day, every day.

We are driving to the store, my father and I, and I am sitting close beside him on the long bench seat. My hand is resting on his lap and I am excited: we are going to the store. The store is the only store I know, a rambling old frame building at the crossroads of Green Creek, with a high porch, dark wooden floors and a fat round wood stove. The wood stove is always surrounded by white men in

overalls, kind men mostly, at least to me, men who daily pass judgement upon the workings of the world as they take turns opening the stove door to spit tobacco juice into the fire. I can hear the sizzle; I can smell the wood smoke and tobacco runnel.

I want a treat. I need a nickel. When Daddy says: "No, you can't. Now get along while I pay for the gas," I am not disappointed. I have friends here. I walk into the circle of old farmers and beg a coin. They give readily, good-humored laughter their reward for the generosity of the moment.

They know my father; they respect him. They know me from the store banter of everyday. They all want to act my grandfather; it's the way of the country world, where family extends into familiarity, and all life's connected to locality with a thick rope of communal love, at the best of times, or hard-edged prejudice at the worst. I've experienced them both.

I walk up to my father with an ice cream bar in my hand, triumphant. When I reach for his hand I see dark clouds gather in his face and I am confused, lost. I wait, still.

"Where did you get that?" He has my other arm in his hand, the one that does not have the ice cream.

I point to the men around the stove, who are silent and watching. I see them rise in their bodies as if to attention and say

(I know that only one man speaks but somehow it seems as if all are speaking): "Aw, it's okay, Gurley... He just..." and something else but I cannot listen because my father has turned his attention to me again, and I am afraid of him.

He makes me take the ice cream back to the grocer and exchange it for the nickel and take the nickel to the men while he leaves the store without me. When I climb down the long steps of the porch with tears in my eyes he is waiting, still storm-faced. On the ride home I hug the door while he says over and over: "Don't ever do that again. Don't you ever beg money from strangers again, or I'll stripe your legs so hard you won't sit for a week.

Do you hear me?" I hear him, tight in my grief and hurt, staring out the window to the farm fields and the barns and the cows.

I puzzled this knot for years, puzzle it still. How can a person who loves you and nurtures you give you harm? Love and hurt, so closely twined, the snake around the stick, a dancer at spinning pirouette, the child who hates you just for a minute, just for a second, the scorn in his eyes when he looks at you across a table, a room, a world. Sometimes love is leaping across the spaces of our hate to find the other shore, the far green country, if only for a while. In love, we wait. In waiting we love.

My father helped me with this, sitting 30 years later in the same kitchen we returned to when I was five and wounded by his anger. He told the story to me while my own boy slept in my lap, of a young scared father who felt humiliated and angry at himself because he didn't have a penny in his pocket past the gas money to get himself to work, who couldn't give his son a nickel because he didn't have a nickel, not in his pocket and not in the world, who had tears in his own eyes for the long ride home and his son who pressed himself against the door at the far end of the long bench seat. It was a revelation to me, holding Adam's little body in my arms, how my father felt it so intensely every time I withdrew myself from him, how abandoned he felt, and lost.

I saw the vulnerable 5-year-old that was me; I saw the stubborn adolescent; I saw the teenager raging out of the house with a scowl. In a moment of clarity I saw my own sons and how they would hurt me, drag me through the mud of love to some other country, some other person waiting to take my skin. I hugged Adam so hard that he woke for a second, put his hand upon my cheek, and drifted back to sleep.

Gary Phillips is an entrepreneur, a writer and a naturalist. He is also the former chair of the Board of County Commissioners in Chatham County.

## Change

How many therapists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, but the light bulb has to really want to change.

How many humans does it take to change the world?

Only one, but she has to really want to change.

If you want to change the world, change the state.

If you want to change the state, change the city.

If you want to change the city, change the neighborhood.

If you want to change the neighborhood, change the family.

If you want to change the family, change yourself.

If you change yourself, you will change the world. ♦

And even that's not enough, wanting to. You have to start, fall, get up, start again, fall, lick your wounds, get up, trip, fall, quit, scream, start again... ad nauseum.

And not only is there no guarantee of success, most of the teachers will

tell you it's almost impossible to succeed, at least in one lifetime.

So. Why bother?

Why not? What else is there to do?

Novels and bonbons?

Not for long.

The tiniest bit of awareness leads to another tiny bit of awareness, and awareness leads to discomfort, and discomfort leads to either action or death. Our choice.

They say we choose to be born and to whom and where and when. Wow, what a concept! After that, society spends twenty or so years beating the individuality and magic out of us. Then we spend another twenty or thirty years limping along as half people trying to succeed in the material world. Then, about halfway to the end, everything starts to itch, or ache, or drive us crazy, and we either ignore it or we start scratching or rubbing, driving our own selves crazy trying to find out who, what, how and why.

And then we begin to live in reverse, step by step trying to regain all the parts



Rocky River Tales  
by Maggie Wilson

of ourselves that we've stuffed in the basement of our souls because those parts were unacceptable. And we're surprised when the itches and aches and

crazy-nesses don't go away.

I'm changing, already! What more do you want? When do I get there? Where's my ta-da moment?

Then you remember—there is no there. There is only here.

Then you read, there is no ta-da moment, only little hmmm... moments when you get the teeniest glimpse, dangling like a carrot in front of a whipped race horse, and you go charging off around the circle. Again.

If you want to change the world, change yourself.

No problem. Let me just finish changing this lead into gold first.

Same thing, says Pooh.

Both seem impossible and both are relentlessly attempted by stubborn humans, encouraged by sadistic gurus, jabbered about in self-help workshops and mooned about by crazy poets.

And even though the trick is to

change back into who you really are, who you've really been all along, surprise! That doesn't make it any easier.

Oh, hey. This is like so helpful, like people are really going to want to read this depressing stuff.

Yeah, right. They'd rather read good news, like the interesting things the government is doing or what new development is being proposed in the county.

Stop it you two.

Is there any good news?

Well, some people have made it.

And, we're not alone in trying.

And, as I said before, there's nothing better to do.

And, when you change yourself, when you accept who you really truly are, then you change the world—you help the whole world step toward accepting who it really is.

And the light bulb, too.

Maggie Wilson is a writer and artist living in Chatham. Read more of Maggie's writing on her web site, [www.maggiwilson.com](http://www.maggiwilson.com)

♦Someone else said this but I don't know who. If you do, please email me: [maggiwilson@mindspring.com](mailto:maggiwilson@mindspring.com)

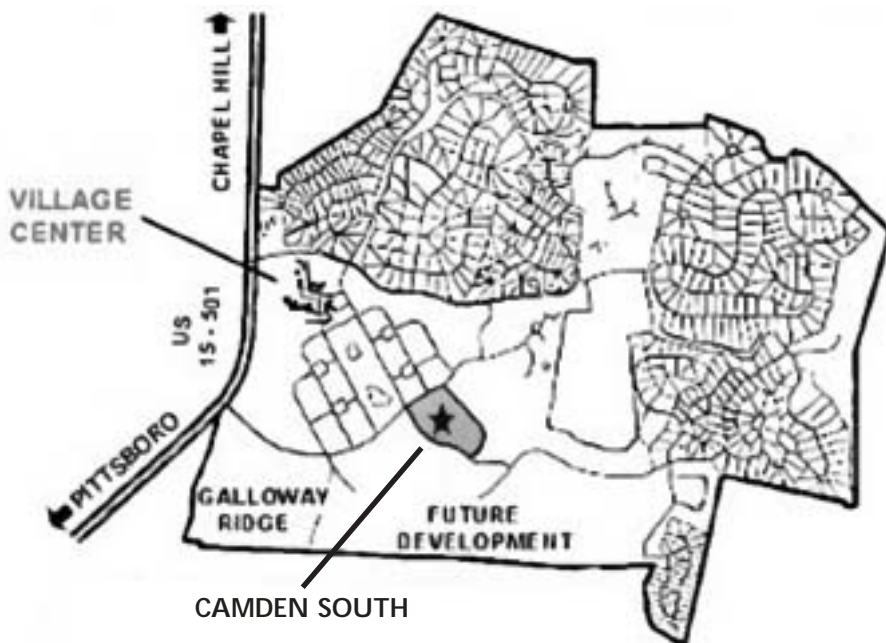


# New development at Fearrington

By Phoebe Lockley-Fox

Located eight miles south of Chapel Hill resides the community of Fearrington Village, a bustling village center of shops and services tucked away on farm land dating to the 1700s. Once a working dairy farm, many of the original farm buildings now house a collection of high quality shops, including a bookstore, plant nursery, home and garden shop, Market Café and the award winning Fearrington House Country Inn & Restaurant. The Village is beautifully accented by manicured gardens and Belted Galloway cows and goats grazing in the pasture.

Since 1974, more than 1200 families have settled in homes nestled in the woodlands surrounding the Village Center. With planned, gradual growth through 2015, our residents can continue to enjoy the natural setting with biking and walking paths, a playground, a bocci court, tennis courts, the Fearrington Swim and Croquet Club and the clubhouse and meeting facility called The Gathering Place. There is a wonderful mix of ages and interests in the community. And, the new, innovative wellness programming at our on-site Duke Center for Living will ensure an



enriching, active lifestyle for years to come.

New and resale homes at Fearrington range from modest to grand, from contemporary to classic and currently include townhouses, patio homes, courtyard homes and single family homes, all being built by Fitch Creations, Inc. As both developer and builder Fitch Creations, Inc., practices the art of balancing the demands of building custom homes with the requirements of efficient production. The result for our customer is considerable as homeowners can

choose a level of customization unmatched in our price range.

Camden South, the latest phase at Fearrington, will combine modern luxuries with old-fashioned, walk-to-town convenience. With both one and two story models spanning a considerable size range, many different tastes and wish lists can be accommodated in Camden Park South homes.

Standard features will include nine-foot ceilings, screened porches, hardwood floors, Corian countertops and custom cabinetry. With an association to take care of the lawn work,

you'll have more time than ever to stroll the village streets, enjoy the 17-acre central park, or perhaps pick up the New York Times and an espresso at the Market Café, just around the corner in the Village.

The first step to moving to Camden South is selecting the home-site. With 20 new lots available in this phase, finding the right location is as simple as contacting our Sales Office to arrange an appointment. After selecting your lot, the next step of the process is to meet with Jon Condoret, Fearrington's architect. Jon has been involved in the development of the Village for over 20 years and with his office on site, is always available to work with each customer to adapt one of the many floorplans that Camden South offers. Jon's goal is to combine the hallmarks of his designs together with your special needs to create the ideal home. Camden South homes will be airy, light, logically organized, and refreshingly innovative.

For information on Camden South and other phases currently under construction, please contact Fitch Creations, Inc at 542-4000.

*Phoebe Lockley-Fox is Director of Public Relations for Fearrington Village.*

## Looking for land's highest, best use

By Melody Troncale

*Wednesday Afternoon with Don and Jay:*

The smell of the Mercedes was familiar, leather, cigars, and dog. Wind blew in the downed windows, my hair tangled and grew tossed, all the aromas were right, just a hint but enough to evoke long forgotten joys of exploration and business with my grandfather.

I was 11 years old then, now listening to the men in the front seat discuss real estate, I stared out the window and the beauty of the South in early spring struck me.

I was torn, years of proclaiming a love and protection of the land and now due to a life changing accident I found myself in Real Estate once again.

I wondered what the difference years away from real estate would make. How can I maintain my integrity, help people find their most precious commodity, a place to rest their head, raise their family, have a life and still protect the nature and beauty of the land that rolled by me?

Listening to Jay and Don answer their cell phones, setting appointments, speaking with clients, I wondered, could these be the same type of men my grandfather dealt with? Jay spoke of the dairies and how someone had come in, bought a huge piece of land, and divided it into 10 acres parcels, was that the answer, put it in the deeds? Was 10 acres enough? Would it allow for the deer, beaver, birds, fish, lizards and people? Don pointed out family land that went back generations. Bigger chunks that had slowly dwindled down to 40- and 50-acre parcels.

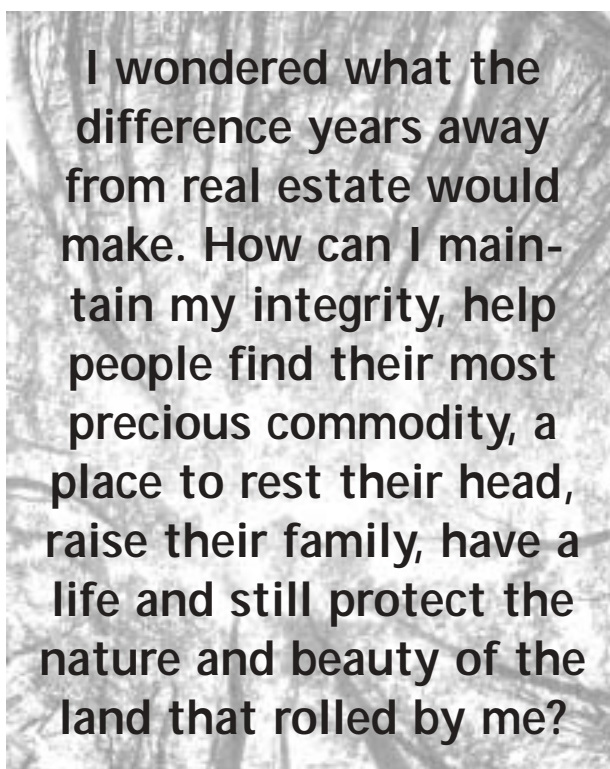
We stopped to see a condo in Chapel Hill, nice place, great for investment, then I thought but what about the single mother, the schools are so great here what an opportunity for her to build some equity, she could own something, build a life here, but how do I find her, how do I let her know before

it is gone. If this hadn't been developed she couldn't live here, more internal uncertainty what is best for all?

Next is the 250 acres, the home has been spilt off, clear cut areas are a bruise on the land, but you can see other areas have been turned into pasture and horse farm. The land is starting to flourish; purple wild flowers are blooming along the gravel driveway.

The men I accompanied walk by, one has left his cell phone in the gatehouse, and the other says it is on the fireplace mantle.

The fireplace mantel... a long forgotten memory surfaces again, I am at the Home Place leaning with my head on the mantle. It's early spring, looking across the green pasture of my grandfather's — Papa's — farm, I am crying, they have clear cut the pines across the field, a place I loved to explore with



**I wondered what the difference years away from real estate would make. How can I maintain my integrity, help people find their most precious commodity, a place to rest their head, raise their family, have a life and still protect the nature and beauty of the land that rolled by me?**

ferns and creeks, secret spots that you could dream in, thick moss would cradle you as the sun filtered through the trees, coolness would sweep across bare knees and toes, red clay from the creek bed made wonderful creations.

"Not our land," Papa says.

"Why did they have to leave it like that? It's hurt land, don't they know the soil will wash? One heavy rain... where is the lizard that lived in the creek, Papa, don't they understand?"

Papa looked at me with kindness and infinite sadness, years of wisdom in his eyes. Then a resolve entered his gaze, "Stop crying, use your imagination Mellie Anne, see what it could be, see the roll of the land, can it be healed, kept beautiful, can you make a place for everyone or will it belong to only one person, who will heal it and maintain the glory of it for generations to come. What is its highest and best use? What do you choose? How will you create it, who do you know? What steps can you take?... Can you find your lizard?"

I got back into the Mercedes, the windows were now rolled up, the air conditioner on, cell phones were ringing, a silent tear rolled down my cheek, I had come face to face with the same dilemma he had faced everyday and everyday had to choose. Understanding is sometimes painful and bittersweet, at that moment riding in the back while Don and Jay busily answered phones I felt the closest I had ever felt to my Grandfather. I remembered finding the lizard and the promise of life for her even through vastly changed, I remembered Papa's voice and the wisdom he shared.

I will also remember the kindness of Don and Jay and the resolve in their eyes as they shared a beautiful spring morning with me and their dilemma of highest and best use of the land.

*Melody Troncale is a local potter and serves on the Board of the Arts Incubator in Siler City. She recently joined Weaver Street Realty.*

## CHATHAM COUNTY LINE RACK LOCATIONS

■ BONLEE: B.C. Trading Post and Archery  
BYNUM: Bynum General Store ■ CARRBORO: El Centro Latino, Cliff's Meat Market, Open Eye Café, Weaver Street Market, Bon's Barbecue (Carrboro Plaza), Willow Creek Plaza ■ CHAPEL HILL: Chapel Hill Public Library, Whole Foods (formerly Wellspring), Chapel Hill Senior Center, Branch Books, Davis Library (UNC), Undergraduate Library (UNC), Journalism School (UNC), Weaver Street Market at Southern Village ■ COLE PARK PLAZA: Lowes Foods ■ Frosty's Trading Post (Hamlet Chapel/Jones Ferry) ■ FEARRINGTON: Market Café, McIntyre's Books ■ GULF: J.R. Moore & Sons Country Store ■ JORDAN LAKE: Governor's Club Owner's Building, Carolina Meadows ■ Farrell's Store (Lystra/Fearrington) ■ Lake Mart Mobile (U.S. 64, Wilsonville) ■ Wilsonville General Store/Exxon (U.S. 64) ■ Topps Station (U.S. 64/Mt. Gilead) ■ MONCURE: Jordan Dam Mini Mart (U.S. 1), Ray's Supermarket (Old U.S. 1), Community Store, Brickhaven (Corinth Road) ■ PITTSBORO: Cooper Gas Station (15-501N), General Store Café, Cane Creek Video, Lowe's Foods, Food Lion, Pittsboro Memorial Library, Ronnie's Quick Stop, Central Carolina Community College, Scoreboard Grill, S&T Soda Shoppe, Senior Center ■ SILER CITY: Arts Incubator Gallery, City Barber Shop, Farmer's Alliance Store, Food Lion (U.S. 64 Siler Crossing), Wren Library, El Vinculo Latino/Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Central Carolina Community College, Best Mart, Piggly Wiggly ■ SILK HOPE: Silk Hope Service ■ GOLDSTON: Bright Mart

## Schools hire a new boss

The Chatham County Board of Education is pleased to announce that it has hired Dr. Ann Hart as the new superintendent of the Chatham County Schools. Dr. Hart is the current superintendent of the Catawba County Schools here in North Carolina, a position she has held for the last five years. Prior to becoming superintendent of the Catawba County Schools, Dr. Hart served as the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for seven years.

The Board believes that Dr. Hart has the ability and skills necessary to continue to move the Chatham County Schools forward. Under Dr. Hart's leadership in student achievement, test scores in Catawba County have increased



Dr. Ann Hart, incoming superintendent of Chatham County Schools, stands with outgoing superintendent Dr. Larry Mabe.

significantly over the last five years. Also, during Dr. Hart's tenure, the Catawba County Schools significantly increased its fund balance, resulting in a fiscally healthier school system. Dr. Hart has significant experience overseeing a school building program, experience which will be very important in her new position. Dr. Hart has shown leadership in working with her

local board of county commissioners and other business leaders in developing community support for the Catawba County Schools.

The Chatham County Board of Education is excited to welcome Dr. Hart as its new leader and asks the Chatham County community and the staff of the Chatham County Schools to work with her to help make our schools the best they can be.

## Horton Club plants tree in memory of James Arthurs

Surrounding the memorial tree are, from left, Megan Alvord, Kennedy Strowd, Travis Richardson, and Joshua Davis. All are members of the Science Club.



By Beth S. McCollough

Horton Middle School Science Club planted a tree on Earth Day in memory of James W. Arthurs, a longtime teacher at the school who died the week before. The tree is a Kwanzan Cherry, which will produce beautiful pink flowers every year in mid-April. The tree was donated by Scott Oldham.

"Horton Middle School would like to extend a

warm thanks to Mr. Oldham and his family, for donating such a beautiful tree in memory of Mr. Arthurs," said Dan Barnwell, science teacher.

The tree is located in front of the parking lot at the gym. Plans are being made to include a monument for the tree.

*Beth S. McCollough is Public Relations/Community Schools Coordinator for Chatham County Schools*

## ADVERTISE IN CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

Full page (10 x 16") — \$700

Half page (5 x 16" or 10 x 8") — \$375

Quarter page (2.5 x 16" or 5 x 8") — \$200

Eighth page (2.5 x 8" or 5 x 4") — \$125

Business Card (3.5 x 2" or 2 x 3.5") — \$ 35

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## BRIEFS

continued from page 2.

by Douglas Moore, "The Devil and Daniel Webster" revolves around a down-on-his-luck farmer who makes a deal with the devil for seven years of prosperity. When it comes time to pay up, orator and hero of the common man Daniel Webster comes to the rescue.

"It's very accessible," says company artistic director Ranny Umberger, who helped establish Long Leaf. "It's not a terribly modern, contemporary work. It's not one that someone has to work hard to understand."

Performances are May 13-14 at 8 p.m. and May 15 at 2 p.m. at East Chapel Hill High School, on Weaver Dairy Road. For ticket reservations, call 919.530.7339

## 4-H Camps offer fun

Chatham County 4-H is hosting a number of day camps.

Three camps will be conducted at Vista Point at Jordan Lake for boys and girls ages 6-12. The dates for the camps are June 6-10, June 13-17 and June 20-24, 2005.

A second horse camp has

been announced to be held at Camp Millstone August 10-August 13, 2005. This Horse Adventures camp is for youth ages 9-13 and is limited to a total of 60 campers. This camp is for all riding skill levels. Equine instruction will be held in the mornings and regular camp activities will be held in the afternoon.

For rates and more information about 4-H in Chatham County, please contact Sarah Hardison, Extension Agent, 4-H at 919.542.

**Got briefs?** Fax your news to 919.932.2602 or email us at [chathamcoline@mindspring.com](mailto:chathamcoline@mindspring.com)



ILLUSTRATION BY CARL GRANATH

## Neighborhood rumble stumbles?

When the big and powerful *News & Observer* declared war on the battle scarred Durham *Herald-Sun* I thought we would get a real old fashioned circulation war with somebody like Pat O'Brien on one side and Cary Grant on the other. Alas, it is no fun at all.

The N&O attacked with a small bore pop-gun disguised as a Saturday only feature section with a few feature stories, no hard news but lot and lots of automobile advertising aimed at Durham County. Management says they are saturating Durham driveways with 50,000 copies every Saturday morning. Those readers who already get the N&O also get a copy of the weak weekly. Since the price of newsprint just went up again, that is a huge investment.

It is hard to figure returns on that investment. I subscribe to both papers because that is my business but I live between two families that take neither. Their N&O throw-aways lie in the vicinity of the driveway until they are run over several times by the family car or rot in the rain. As you can see, two out of three Durham readers are not interested in the weekly. So, it is a small sampling but as accurate as some of the polls taken in the last election.

The *Herald-Sun*, in the meantime, has been trotting along peacefully, seemingly unscathed by the "onslaught." Instead, it took a strange editorial turn sharply to the left. Once considered a moderate —and sometimes stuttering—voice of Middle of the Road, the *Herald-Sun's* editorial cartoons make Chapel Hill look like contented centrists. If you truly hate George Bush and truly believe he is the root of all evil, meaner than the meanest junkyard dog, then your paper of choice has to be the *Herald-Sun*.

The editorials are not that far left but there is nothing like a liberal cartoon first thing in the morning with a cup of coffee to set off a conservative heart attack. My general feeling is only college professors and other newspapermen read editorials. But that cartoon will knock your eyes straight in the morning.

As much as I admired Jim Wise's column in the *Herald-Sun*, I somehow doubt you can build a successful Saturday morning newspaper around one columnist. On the other side, the *Herald-Sun's* great losses were Al Carson, sportswriter Al Featherston and political cartoonist John Cole. Carson is having a ball in Oxford, Feather is still looking around and Cole has cartoons in the N&O Saturday section but rumor is he is leaving for Pennsylvania soon. Now if you really wanted to start something that is a perfect trio of damned fine newspapermen.

*R.L. Taylor is a contributor to Chatham County Line. He has been a newspaperman for more than 50 years, working as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was Director of Special Projects at the Herald-Sun from 1981 to 1992.*

### TO THE EDITOR:

I am curious about something in Don Lein's article, "Environmental movement has betrayed its scientific roots," in your Winter/Spring issue. I watched Michael Crichton speak recently on television as part of his book tour. I liked what I heard. I grew up in Nigeria, where malaria was a frequent visitor. I've read about malaria's treatment with DDT, and also read Rachel Carson, whose profound message I appreciate. I'm not sure I understand Mr. Lein's reference to WWII soldiers "bathing in DDT with no ill effects."

It seems to me that we continue to learn "the hard way" about the ill effects of neurotoxins as our diseases increase. Science continues to study our nervous system, and as we learn more about our human design, we can understand the cause and effects of disease better and can become healthier people.

Rachel Carson's legacy, in my mind, invites questions and answers that go to the heart of our understanding that we are chemical beings, interdependent with Nature and Earth (and the Universe), which includes but is not limited to the treatment of malaria with DDT. I appreciate Mr. Lein's article, and love the stimulus to think afresh about what "environmentalism" means and how we each relate to the earth and how the earth relates to us.

*Margaret Martin, Graham, NC*

# Dictatorship of relativism

By Don Lein

According to Pope Benedict XVI we are heading toward this ethical quagmire where "egos and desires...are the final measure."

How did we come to arrive at this moral impasse? Although hedonism is as old as man, the intellectual underpinnings of today's relativism are more recent. Relativism was given its greatest impetus with the publication in 1859 of the "Origin of the Species" by Charles Darwin. Darwin's theory postulated the "production of higher animals". It further indicated that morality arose from the law of the preservation of the species, and as conditions change — so does morality. This theory of morality allowed "science" to banish traditional Judeo-Christian morality. The "anthropocentric fable" was no longer tenable in the light of Darwin.

Pope Benedict XVI is an intellectual and recognizes the societal implications of embracing a Darwinian based moral relativism. Richard Weikart in a new book "From Darwin to Hitler" traces the intellectual history of Darwinian thought by scientists and philosophers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. To ensure the survival of the fittest, the "unfit" must be eliminated — that was the moral imperative of Darwinism. Death was beneficial as the vehicle for eliminating the "unfit" and life was viewed as utilitarian in that it allowed humans to pass DNA to the next generation.

This movement was not entirely an European phenomenon. Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, called the unfit "human weeds". Madison Grant, President of the N Y

Zoological Society in 1916 disdained "a sentimental belief in the sanctity of human life" and stated that "The laws of nature require the obliteration of the unfit." Who were the unfit — Asians, Africans, the disabled, the mentally deranged, the weak, criminals, the sick, and in Hitler's case the non-Aryans and, specifically, the Jews. What methods were permissible to "obliterate" these unfit — euthanasia, sterilization, segregation, infanticide, abortion (Sanger only advocated it for the "weeds"), genocide, and in Hitler's case the death camps.

If Darwinism is to be believed we would have evolved to a higher sensitivity and put all these cruel behaviors behind us. As one who witnessed the altruism and courage of the greatest generation who brought us successfully through the depression and World War II "evolve" to the self-centeredness and cowardice of the '60s generation, I find it hard to believe the species is getting better. As a case in point, recently a potential mother upon learning that her child was going to be born with a cleft palate (a surgically correctable defect), decided upon an abortion — she didn't want the bother. Is perfection an entitlement? Is life so trivial that we can end it when it is too much of a bother? Relativism has one answer, orthodox Judeo-Christianity and Benedict XVI have another.

Just remember as you are travelling down the road to your morally relativistic utopia that the road will detour to Hell.

*Don Lein retired to Chatham County. He serves on a number of boards that deal with senior citizen issues.*

## Make your VOICE heard!

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WRITE to Editor, Chatham County Line, P.O. Box 1357, Carrboro, NC 27510  
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# CHATHAM COMUNIDAD

bilingual news ~ noticias bilingües

## Mujeres Hispánicas trabajando para crear cambios en Siler City

Por Mondy Mason y Maria Pavon

Hace un poco más de año, un grupo de mujeres hispanas en Siler City formaron una organización desde su raíz llamada Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro (Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro). La organización es una extensión de una Coalición para Paz en la Familia, grupo de ayuda contra la violencia doméstica. La visión de la nueva organización es desarrollar líderes de la comunidad y trabajar hacia el mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de los residentes de Siler City.

Aunque la lista de sus ideas es larga, las mujeres han priorizado el mejoramiento del transporte en Siler City. Viniendo de países donde el transporte público es de fácil acceso, es casi incomprensible que no haya un sistema de transporte en la ciudad de Siler City, la ciudad más grande en el condado de Chatham. El no tener transporte es una barrera grande para ser capaz de realizar actividades diarias como ir de compras al Mercado, ir al médico a clínicas, ir a la iglesia y a la lavandería. Además, el vivir en un estado que hace difícil para los inmigrantes el sacar licencias de conducir, se duplica la dificultad de pasar por alto la barrera de no tener transporte. Como dijo una mujer, "[El no tener acceso al transporte] significa que usted tenga que caminar o depender constantemente de amigos y familia para que le lleven a donde usted necesite ir."

En mayo del 2004, las mujeres se reunieron con los representantes de la Red de Tránsito de Chatham (Chatham Transit Network (CTN)) durante un Foro de la Comunidad patrocinado por la Universidad de Carolina del Norte en Siler City. Estos Foros de la Comunidad se llevan a cabo periódicamente para informar a los miembros de la comunidad acerca de resultados de las necesidades de la comunidad llamado un Análisis de la Acción Orientada de la Comunidad (AOCD). El objetivo de un AOCD se lleva a cabo con el fin de aprender acerca de las preocupaciones de la

salud y calidad de vida de las personas y el poder que la comunidad tiene, así como también para aprender sobre los recursos locales en la comunidad para resolver dichas preocupaciones. Desde 1998, diez AOCDs se han llevado a cabo en áreas del condado de Chatham y en sus alrededores. Cinco de estos análisis se llevaron a cabo en los barrios de Siler City. Todos excepto 2 de los 10 análisis indican que el transporte es una necesidad en el área del condado de Chatham y que el sistema de transporte que existe actualmente es insuficiente.

Durante el Foro de la Comunidad, los miembros del grupo Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro, otros miembros de la comunidad y CTN decidieron que un análisis a fondo sobre las necesidades de transporte era necesario. Asociándose con una investigadora del Departamento de Salud Pública de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte, las mujeres desarrollaron un banco de preguntas en cooperación con CTN y aprendieron a como realizar encuestas apropiadamente. Después de completar dicho entrenamiento en agosto, ellas comenzaron a conversar con la gente en las iglesias locales, lugares de trabajo y barrios sobre sus necesidades de transporte. Al reconocer la necesidad de aumentar la representación de hablantes del idioma inglés, las mujeres colaboraron con Voces para Acción (Voices for Action), otra organización creada desde su raíz en Siler City, para llevar a cabo las encuestas en inglés. Para finales de enero del 2005, las dos organizaciones habían realizado 363 encuestas a los residentes de Siler City para ayudar con dicha información a CTN y a los encargados de crear pólizas sobre las necesidades de transporte de los residentes de Siler City. Además, ahora que CTN está planeando poner señales de parada de autobuses en Siler City, la información puede potencial-

mente ayudarles en el planeamiento para determinar los lugares en donde dichas paradas de autobuses deben ponerse.

En general, los resultados de las encuestas sobre la necesidad de transporte público demuestran que la mayoría (85%) de la gente encuestada carecen de conocimiento de que un sistema de transporte público existe en Siler City.

Esto resultó ser verdad, inclusive en personas que han vivido en Siler City hasta más de 20 años. Cuando se pregunto sobre el costo del uso de la Red de Tránsito de Chatham

(Chatham Transit Network) (\$2.00 por persona solamente de ida), 32% pensaron que era caro, pero 62% pensaron que el precio era justo. Aunque solamente el 11% de esas personas que llenaron las encuestas usan el sistema de autobús actualmente, 85% dijeron que están interesados en usar el transporte en el futuro.

Aunque, ellas han hecho bastante en un periodo corto de plazo para ayudar a la comunidad, el trabajo no está aun completo. Las mujeres del grupo Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro están todavía trabajando hacia su objetivo de mejorar el transporte público en Siler City y mirando desde ya los cambios que ellas quieren convertirse en realidad. Como sucede con muchas cosas, el cambio parece lento y difícil. No importa mucho si uno está tratando de cambiar las actitudes de la gente o cambiar los sistemas de transporte. Estas valientes mujeres continúan hacia adelante con fe de que ellas pueden hacer una diferencia en la comunidad.

*Mondy Mason es doctor en el W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program en la University of North Carolina. Maria Pavon es vice-presidente de Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro y una trabajadora en la Coalición por la Paz en la Familia.*



## Hispanic Women Work For Change in Siler City

By Mondy Mason and Maria Pavon

A little over a year ago, a group of Hispanic women in Siler City formed a new grassroots organization called Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro (Women Improving the Future). The organization is an out-



growth of a Coalition for Family Peace domestic violence support group. The new organization's vision is to develop community leaders and work toward improving the quality of life for Siler City residents.

Though their list of ideas is long, the women have prioritized improving transportation in Siler City.

Coming from countries where public transportation is relatively easy to access, it is almost incomprehensible that there is not a transportation system in Siler City, the largest city in Chatham County. Not having transportation is a large barrier to being able to do everyday activities like going grocery shopping, seeing a doctor at the clinic, getting to church and doing laundry. In addition, living in a state that makes it difficult for immigrants to get drivers licenses makes it doubly hard to overcome the barrier of not having transportation. As one woman said,

"[Not having access to transportation] means you

have to walk or constantly depend on friends and family to take you where you need to go."

In May 2004, the women met Chatham Transit Network (CTN) representatives during a University of North Carolina sponsored Community Forum in Siler City. These Community Forums take place periodically to inform community members about results of community needs assessments called an Action Oriented Community Diagnosis (AOCD). The object of an AOCD is to assess the needs and strengths of a community and then to work with community members and service providers to identify priority issues and action steps that will effect change. Since 1998, ten AOCDs have taken place in areas in and around Chatham County. Five of the assessments took place in neighborhoods in Siler City. All but two of the 10 assessments state that transportation is a need in the area and that the system that does exist is insufficient.

During the Community Forum, women in Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro, other community members and CTN decided that an in-depth examination of transportation needs was in order. Partnering with a researcher from UNC's School of Public Health, the women developed a questionnaire in cooperation with CTN and learned how to properly conduct surveys. After completing their training in August, they began to talk with people at local churches, workplaces and neighborhoods about their transportation needs. Recognizing the need to increase representation from English-speakers, the women collaborated with Voices for Action, another grassroots organization in Siler City, to conduct surveys in English. By the end of January 2005, the two organizations had conducted

363 surveys with Siler City residents to help inform CTN and policymakers in the area about the transportation needs of residents in Siler City. In addition, now that CTN is planning to put bus stops in Siler City, the information can potentially aid them in planning for where these stops should be placed.

In general, the transportation survey results showed that most people (85 percent) surveyed are unaware that a transportation system exists in Siler City. This was true even for people who had lived in Siler City up to 20 years. When asked about the cost of using Chatham Transit Network (\$2 per person each way), 32 percent felt that it was expensive, but 62 percent felt that the price was just right. Although only 11 percent of those people who filled out surveys currently use the bus system, 85 percent said they would be interested in using it in the future.

Though they have done a lot in a short amount of time to assist their community, the work is not complete. The women in Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro are still working toward their goal of improving transportation in Siler City and seeing the changes they want come to fruition. As it is with many things, change is slow and difficult. It doesn't matter if you are trying to change people's attitudes or change transportation systems. These valiant women continue to move forward with faith that they can make a difference in their community.

*Mondy Mason is postdoctoral fellow in the W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program at the University of North Carolina. Maria Pavon is the Vice President of Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro and an Outreach Worker for the Coalition for Family Peace.*