

# CHATHAM County Line

"where all voices are heard"

vol. 2, issue 4

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summer 2004

## CHATHAM DREAMS



■ Creating art out of dreams. Page 5.

■ Dreams of gardening across the generations. Page 3.



## Butterfly in the end zone

By Khalil Abdullah

An ancient Chinese text describes the musings of a philosopher. He is wondering whether his dream of himself as a butterfly is the reality or, in fact, whether the butterfly is now dreaming of life as a human. It reminds me of the current state of America, its history, politics, and culture, particularly when viewed through the prism of television and film.



I have occasion to speak to young folk and I don't hold their chronological deficiencies against them. For instance, my wife is talking to our 19 year-old daughter, an aspiring interior designer, and I'm half listening while sipping coffee. They're talking about a missed opportunity to purchase some object of art when my wife and I both say, "at that price, you could have bought it for a song." My daughter stares blankly. Total incomprehension. We say again, first looking at each other with raised eyebrows and then back at her, "you know, for a song." Country and Western, rap or hip-hop, this verbal disconnect had nothing to do with rejecting sage advice. It merely illustrated the ever present and always shifting sands of generation and culture.

It has been said that England and the United States are two countries divided by a common language. Yet now, on our home ground alone, our dialogues careen between the Atlantic and the Pacific replete with references to movies and television shows seen and unseen — and the stars that wax and wane in those peculiar galaxies. I am clueless but I am not alone.

I had a taste of being clueless in grade school. Television was still new enough to be the leading topic of the next day's conversation with one's peers. However, informed conversation was necessarily based on two premises. The first was that you had a television and the second was that you were allowed to stay up late enough to watch the shows that merited comment. Not until I was 10 did we get a set. Until then, television meant going next door to my buddy's house during daylight hours after school but before homework. Night viewing wasn't an option. Jack Paar and Johnny Carson, the kings of late night, never became

BUTTERFLY continued on page 4.

## What should we expect from the two new county commissioners?

By Bunkey Morgan

During the election this year we will be electing two new commissioners. Below are a few of the qualities I would like to see in them.

It is no doubt they need to have an enormous amount of energy and at the same time they must realize things cannot be changed overnight. I do not believe you can find anyone in Chatham County who would not say some changes are needed. It depends who you talk to on what changes they would like to see. That is the first problem a newly elected commissioner has, trying to please as many citizens as he or she can. Watch what you promise on the campaign trail, you will need help to fulfill it. Serving as a county commissioner is definitely a give and take proposition, sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. Just because you think you do not agree with one or two of the sitting commissioners, work together to better Chatham County.

Hopefully they will listen to anything and everything people have to say on the issues, but vote your conscience, your vote is the only one that counts. This is especially true when you get the advice of the citizen advisory boards and committees left over from the commissioner you are replacing, remember this when you make your appointments. Take all the time necessary making sure your potential appointee is the right person for "that committee".

Even if a certain special group of citizens help you win please make sure you consider the consequences your decision will have on the entire county. All of us know of the east/west rift in the county, it was here before we were and it will most likely be here after we are gone, but the commissioners can help mend the ill feelings and we must strive to do so.

Chatham County citizens are fortunate to have employment opportunities in the adjoining counties. Our unemployment rate is below 4 percent, but we must create jobs within our county. We still must remember there are 99 more counties trying to do the same. It is natural for a candidate to state

WHAT TO EXPECT continued on page 5.

## Why should we elect Patrick Barnes as county commissioner?

By Larry Hicks

**Rule #1:** "Do no harm." An article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* in June sought to paint the upcoming County Commissioner election as a "rift between east and west." There are those currently in office that would like to have people believe this. In truth, the rift is between those who want to manage growth, with a holistic vision of Chatham's complexities, and those who feel the appropriate placebo to economic development is rampant, unchecked growth in the east to feed the tax engine that would allegedly benefit those in the west. The problem with the latter is that it fails Rule #1, in that it sacrifices the quality of life for residents in the east, the quality of the drinking water in Jordan Lake for all of Chatham, and the involvement of Chatham's citizens in dictating their own future, all with the misplaced idea that the ensuing tax benefit will outweigh all else.

For Patrick Barnes, and for many of us, this is an unacceptable strategy that continues to fail in realizing any true long-term benefit. Patrick calls Chatham County, where he has lived his entire life, 'A jewel of this Great State of North Carolina'. He feels it needs to be treated as such. Three main issues face Chatham: economic development, citizen involvement, and, after 25 years of planning, implementing the County's adopted vision and the adopted Land Conservation and Development Plan.

**Economic Development:** Patrick Barnes, believes that we need to attract sustainable business, and with it a livable wage, to Chatham County. Economic development that depends on rooftops and waste dumps fails in the vision of managed growth that the County Board of Commissioners adopted in April 1997. It fails in the directives of the Land Conservation and Development Plan, adopted by the BOC in November 2001. Other than Chatham being a bedroom community for the Triangle, what sustainable long term economic and employment strategy does Chatham currently have?

Residential development is important, but not to the sacrifice of the rest of the

WHY ELECT continued on page 9.

# POLITICS

# briefs & announcements

## dispatches

### New CCCC president chosen

Central Carolina Community College Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Matthew S. Garrett has been selected by the College Board of Trustees as president elect. The selection is subject to the successful negotiation of a contract with Garrett and the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges.

Following an executive session that lasted over an hour, the sixteen trustees selected Garrett on their first ballot by a vote of 13 to 3. Immediately following the vote on a motion by Dr. Robert Patterson, seconded by Grace Hodges and unanimously approved, Garrett was accepted as the top candidate by acclamation. The new president will assume duties August 1, 2004.



New Hope Trail officially opened on June 6.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

"I am both elated and humbled by the confidence expressed by the Board of Trustees in selecting me to be the next president of CCCC," Garrett said.

Garrett, who came to CCCC in 1987, has served in numerous capacities at the college. He has been a member of the faculty, associate dean of students, dean of student support services and executive vice president and chief academic officer.

Garrett earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in clinical psychology from East Carolina University. He completed his doctorate in education in 1992 at North Carolina State University.

He has served as part-time pastor since 1996 and was a founding member and is the current president of the Moncure-Haywood Ministerial Alliance. Garrett is married and has three college-aged children. Retiring President Marvin Joyner said, "Dr. Garrett is one of the finest educators and people I have ever known."

### Econ Development Board gets new head

The Chatham County Economic Development Corporation has elected Hal Milholen to be chairman of the Corporation's Board of Directors effective July 1.

Former Chairman Sam Adams made the announcement after the ratification by the Board of Directors at their meeting June 22. "Hal brings a great deal of intelligence, demonstrated business sense, and leadership ability to his new position," Adams said.

Milholen serves on the corporation board as the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce appointee. He has served as Chairman of the EDC Board for the past two years. He is Vice President of Sales and Marketing for The Basic Group (Siler City).

### Planning Board chairman named

Clyde Harris has been named Chairman of Chatham County's

Planning Board.

Harris was appointed by Commissioner Margaret Pollard and confirmed by the board. He will replace current Planning Board Chairman George Lucier.

Pollard's decision not to reappoint Lucier has dismayed slow-growth advocates in the county. Pollard said she wanted to appoint a black person; both she and Harris are black.

Harris, 52, has spent his career as an educator, recently retiring as principal of the Eastern N.C. School of the Deaf in Wilson. Originally from Chatham, Harris worked as assistant principal at both North Chatham School and Horton Middle School during the '90s.

He recently earned a Ph.D. in education. He has a BA and two MAs from N.C. A&T University.

"As an administrator for school-children, I do what's best for school-children," he said. "As a planning board member, I'll do what's best for Chatham County — all of Chatham County."

Harris resides in Bear Creek with his wife, Deborah, and 20-year-old son Justin.

BRIEFS continued on page 12.

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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published five times a year: Winter/Spring, Spring, Summer, Fall and Fall/Winter.

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# A Southern Gardener's American Dream

By Ginny Gregory



It all started on a beautiful summer morning. It was not muggy and the temperature was in the reasonable zone of low 80's. My daughter was home for her annual birthday visit. She and I walked together up to the greenhouse to peek at our baby bluebirds. They were nestled together looking like dryer lint with beaks. After we both did the appropriate amounts of "Ahhh...littles... too cute," my daughter and I began to talk as I watered the greenhouse. She is falling in love with gardening. It has been a slow process, but it is certainly creeping up on her. I love seeing how this passion is oozing into her cells like fresh raspberries staining a clean tablecloth.

"Some of these plants need to get into a container or into the ground," she said ... I nodded and kept watering. "You at least need to dead head the spent flowers," she continued ... I rolled my eyes toward her and groaned in the way mothers do when they are hearing something from their children that is ever so true, but ya really don't want to hear it. "What?" she asked.

"Well, I started last year putting all the leftover plants in the greenhouse into the garden. This year I've been crazy busy working on other people's gardens and haven't gotten it together to get The Blue Moon Garden right for the summer ... I'm behind. I have sent out the alarm and next Saturday I'm having a Plant-A-Thon. Julian is coming on Friday to help me just set plants in the garden and then on Saturday morning the madness will begin. There will be five of us in total."

"Well, that sounds like a plan," she said sounding much more like the parent than the daughter.

Then I noticed a huge smile had rolled over her face. "What?" I asked

with a smirk! It was in that moment that I knew she got it.

"I can see it now," she said, "every-one assuming the gardeners pose ... butts in the air, heart shaped spades in the ground ... the bell rings and away you go madly planting, talking about new plants you've run into, about favorite gardens you're designing or are gardening ... new books you've read, movies you've seen and before you know it the garden has gotten this won-



When I saw her garden, I was all but reduced to tears. There were huge zinnias and sunflowers everywhere, dinner plate dahlias, and veggies ...

derful jump start for the summer. You will have turned a work day into a 'magic in the garden' day."

All I could do was smile and give her an enormous hug. My daughter, the one who does not like to get dirty, hates to sweat and really doesn't want to encounter bugs, is getting it.

She, like me, started with flowers. She arranged them at Fearrington for a brief period and during that time rented a house that had a small garden area. We worked it together ... through muggy evenings, Bermuda grass, Johnson weed and mosquitoes ... we put together all of her loves. She learned some plant names, realized some failures and found out what happens in the south when you don't have time to weed for two weeks.

Later my daughter relocated to her old boarding school in New England to teach and run a dorm. I felt sure that the location would not allow her to get into gardening, but then the call came in early last May. "How do you make a raised row?" she said.

"A what?" I replied.

"One of our teachers relocated and gave me their spot in the communal garden. It's all tilled up so, how do you actually make a raised row?" she continued. I gave very detailed directions, talked about tools needed and then thought that well ... you know how things are ... you dream when it is cool, but when the mosquitoes (black flies for her) and muggy heat come out the garden plan just doesn't quite materialize in the way you had envisioned.

Time went by and my daughter

toes, Swiss chard, spinach, peppers and kale. Everywhere I looked I saw more treats. I threw my arms up in the air and screamed with joy and about squeezed her to death with pride and excitement. She had stumbled on my passion and made it her own. I felt so much love and pure pleasure that day as we walked arm in arm back to her apartment with kale and onions in our hands to make her favorite kale dish.

As we ate supper together that night, I realized that I had achieved the American Dream ... my version of it. I had raised a daughter through enormous hardships. She had grown through all of the normal trials of childhood as well as some hard times of her own. She had found herself in her own skin and like my mother and my mother's mother she was making the delights and disasters of gardening and nature ... hers. I have passed on a part of me that will be forever with her. It will have a new twist ... her twist.

No wonder that as she boarded the plane from this birthday visit, she carried eggplant seedlings from my greenhouse to plant into her garden.

*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). She recommends Gardening In The Humid South by Edmond O'Rourke & Leon Standifer as a summer must read.

came back to the Blue Moon for a break after she was through teaching summer school. I returned to help her with the finishing touches of moving in (part of every parent's job description). As we pulled ourselves out of the car she said, "Lets go look in the garden to see what we can cook up for supper. I'm sure the weeds have taken over again, but please ignore the weeds. I wanted you to see it in perfect condition, but I've been away so..."

When I saw her garden, I was all but reduced to tears. There were huge zinnias and sunflowers everywhere, dinner plate dahlias, and veggies ... toma-



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# Why settle for anything less than happiness?

By Betty Phillips

Isn't this the American dream: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? When I write about happiness on my website or counsel my therapy and coaching clients about happiness, I

## Neighbor to Neighbor

mean personal happiness, contentment and fulfillment. More about that later.

The joint themes of this edition, the American Dream and Chatham County politics, intrigued me. I am pleased to be a resident of Chatham County with its natural beauty, forests, pastures, streams, meandering back roads and pastoral scenes punctuated by towns and homes. Why can't we all pursue our happiness and our American dreams here in Chatham County? The current political struggle seems to be an attempt to define the nature and future of Chatham County. It is true that Chatham County is less well defined than some surrounding areas; we are not the City of Medicine, the Paris of the Piedmont or a Town and Gown center. But why not celebrate the diversity of Chatham County without premature attempts to define us? Ideally our political system will be inclusive and not exclusive, celebrating the diversity of our farmers, commuters, small businesses, artists and potters, gardeners, musicians, writers, bed and breakfasts, and so forth. There is nothing wrong with the profit motive, but let's keep the profit here in Chatham County. We can and should share Chatham County with newcomers but not only in huge developments which promote a cookie-cutter style of life.

When I first moved to Chatham County I was immediately attracted to the beauty of the land as well as the unde-



Take time to enjoy the fireworks.

veloped nature of the area. Knowing that the population at the time would not support a psychology office, I became a partner in a psychology private practice in Durham named Main Street Clinical Associates. My husband and I chose to live in Chatham County where we could pursue our happiness and build our dream house on 10 acres of forested land, amidst towering pine trees with Crowes Creek running through our land. Soon I found I wanted to add flowers and gardens and waterfalls as I tamed some of the overgrowth in the forest. Every Monday, though, I'd leave my garden to get in my car and make the commute to Durham. Every day, that is, until I decided to build my Forest Garden office on my Chatham County homestead.

Since I've moved here, the population growth in Chatham County has benefited me, since there are more potential clients for my psychological practice. In my opinion, the American

Dream in Chatham County can't be the selfish position of "no growth" since we can share our beautiful county with newcomers. All can benefit and pursue our happiness here with compatible growth, allowing for many independent homes, farms and businesses without over-commercializing the area, without over-developing and selling too much of our land to big out-of-town developers.

While Chatham County lovers can promote a county Declaration of Independence through local political action, I advise also looking within to pursue psychological happiness. My husband and I built the Forest Garden office to exemplify the natural approach to peace and tranquility as a perfect site for life improvement through psychological counseling or personal coaching. Summer is a perfect time to step aside from our work world, not just to pursue a vacation, but also to take stock of our life problems and goals and make a plan for improvement. Come out to Forest Garden for a visit just to see what can happen when we resolve to take a first step toward positive life change.

Please take advantage of the articles on my web site in the "The Reading Room" at [www.MainStreetClinicalAssociates.com](http://www.MainStreetClinicalAssociates.com). The advice in these articles and in referenced self-help books is a good place to start in your own self-care life program. It's important to realize that we do actually have a choice: we can choose to optimize our happiness and contentment or we can give in to stress, discontent, negativism, misery. Most people think we are trapped by negative feelings and negative life circumstances, not realizing that we have a choice to surmount these difficulties or remain ensnared by life problems.

As we celebrate the independence of our county this summer, let's resolve to look around us for the beauty in life, preserve the best assets of our county, our homes, and our lives as we continue in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Betty Phillips is a clinical psychologist with more than 30 years of experience in counseling and life coaching. Contact her by e-mail at [BettyPhillips@BellSouth.net](mailto:BettyPhillips@BellSouth.net)

## BUTTERFLY

continued from page 1.

part of my working vocabulary. Even when we got a set, those shows came on too late. Clueless.

Decades later, I still take a pass on Leno and Letterman. "Friends" went off the air. I only saw the commercials for it; never saw the show. "Seinfeld" had its final "most watched" episode. I missed the whole series run. Other than CSI, I guess I'm out of the mainstream, and with cable and satellite TV exponentially expanding the a la carte menu, will there ever again be a common meeting place?

Born too late for the golden age of radio, I never sat by the wood stove or fireplace waiting for Franklin Roosevelt's words of inspirational perseverance. But, there was a brief period later in time — whether we took offense, had a different view, or rejoiced in the sublime idiocy of it all — that connected us like the spider's strands. I'm not sure it was during the legendary golden age of television. But I was there and felt it. It was broader than the internet. It was a moment that lasted for some years and resonated. Was it simply that everyone touched the same source or dreamed the same dreams?

In Hollywood on the Potomac, our federal city, a routinely quoted aphorism is: "all politics is played between the 40-yard lines." I've discussed this phrase with the chronologically challenged and individuals for whom sports metaphors comprise the Rosetta Stone of the English language. As an attempt to characterize the supposed rationality of our political process, between the 40-yard lines suggested that the most extreme elements of philosophical or decadent thought would find no fertile soil in which to grow. There once was some inherent truth in the intent, if not the accuracy of the description.

Today, the phrase is still apt, but for less sanguine reasons. Power for power's sake; power for money's sake: though both have been undercurrents in American history, they now stand unapologetically and without shame at the apogee of American culture and politics. Between the 40-yard lines: little difference between the two parties, between entertainment and politics, or between truth and fiction. Not a novel observation, just a reluctant confirmation.

My daughter and I were walking back to the car after purchasing some food for her pet rabbit, Leo the Lop. We ventured into that cinematic realm of discourse. "Did you see 'WaterWorld?' " she asked. "Only parts, when I was channel surfing," I said, adding, "I thought it was kind of long." "Me, too," she said, "and the people seemed to be dirty, at least the bad guys, like everyone needed a bath." "Well, they were looking for land," I reminded her. She paused. "Yes, but with all that water, you'd think they'd be clean — maybe they should have been looking for soap." I thought, "Maybe they thought they were butterflies," but I didn't say it.

Khalil Abdullah is a writer, editor and business development consultant in Washington, D.C.

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# Call for art about dreams, politics

By Deborah R. Meyer

*"To go to school and fenisch my Schooling without getting pregnant."*

—DEFINITION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM OFFERED BY A 15-YEAR OLD DETROIT PUPIL, NEWSWEEK, JUNE 29, 1987.

Throughout September 2002, an outdoor sculpture show took place on our farm in Chatham County, which is off Jones Ferry Road. It was born out of a desire to commemorate the horrific events of September 11 by creating artwork that said to those who died, "We know you were here. Your life, whatever its span, made a difference. We remember you."

That first show included the work of 11 artists with several pieces by Chatham County metal artist, Frank Mangieri. His cousin was a firefighter who died striving to save victims at the World Trade Center in New York. Frank made roses in honor of his cousin. Thomas Rockriver, also of Chatham, created metal sculptures from found objects such as sparkplugs. My family, who live in Chicago, and Eric Brantley, who I live with, and myself, created three, large floating green lily pads covered with silk lillies and floated them on our large pond. The talented artisans at Storybook Metal Shop, also on Jones Ferry Road, made a magnificent sculpture that soars to the skies but is so bounded to the earth. It remains on the farm, a gift from my parents, as a reminder of how powerful art is. Everyone who created, everyone who viewed the show at its opening and throughout the month felt it helped mark the tragic events in a special way that didn't include buildings on fire, people falling from windows to their death and the bulldozers clearing ground zero.

There was never an intention to make the sculpture show an annual one but before the first one was over, one of the many artists had already decided there had to be a next year, which there was. Chatham metal sculptor, Tamera Mulanix, joined the artist roster creating stunning pieces, some which moved in the wind.



Give your muse wings and celebrate your creativity.

And so a tradition has taken root. On August 28, the third annual outdoor sculpture show opens at 4 p.m. with a picnic. We provide the food. Viewers provide the admiration and laughter. Most of the works will be for sale (and the artist gets every dime) but the prime directive is for people to just come and enjoy moving through acres of artwork and seeing the farm animals. There is no charge nor are reservations required. Every Friday evening in September, beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at dark, people are invited to come for wine and cheese. Children are encouraged to attend, and dogs are welcome if they are on leashes. The number of artists from the Triangle who will be showing their work has grown and new Chatham artists include Forrest Greenslade and Michael Oakley.

And here is the challenge. For the past month I've been soaking in the focus of this issue of Chatham County Line — politics and the American dream. I read *The Great Divide*, by Studs Terkel, a sermon on the American Dream by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., magazine articles on the American Dream and of course, on politics. 'Tis the season. With art as my passion, I came up with this proposal. Anyone and everyone, artists and laymen alike, are invited to create a piece of art for the opening of this show that has to do with politics or the American

dream (or both). Artwork does not have to be sculpture and we will have tables set up for small pieces and hanging space available for two-dimensional work. Interested? Give me a call at 942-3252 or email me at [tirzah5@earthlink.net](mailto:tirzah5@earthlink.net) and let me know. You can bring the art-

work before the opening to set it up, or just show up at the opening with it. In the fall issue of Chatham County Line we'll include as many of the artworks as possible. Feel free to write up a statement to display with the artwork, which can be any medium, size, etc. Questions are welcome anytime.

Directions to our farm — We live off of Jones Ferry Road on Wild Horse Run, which is a mile past Frosty Trading Post on the right. Our driveway has a street sign, Wild Horse Run. The mailbox is green and will be distinctively marked for the sculpture show. Turn into the gravel drive and follow it straight until it dead ends at our home. There are driveways off to the left and the right that aren't ours. Park anywhere including around by the barn.

I hope your mind is already whirring, wondering what to create, how to create it. Let the muses fly.

*Deborah R. Meyer is a writer who often writes about art and animals.*

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## WHAT TO EXPECT

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he/she will bring jobs to the county, but it is not as easy as they think. If they do have that magic touch, I will give them all the support I have.

We must face the fact that many manufacturing jobs and industries are sending jobs overseas. A few days ago one of the local newspapers started a series of articles on "The Price of Progress, a future that looks worse than the past". They wrote: "there has always been the belief held by most of us that our life would be better than our parents, our children's lives better than ours. No more. For the first time, North Carolina's workers face the future knowing that supporting a family will be harder, not easier. With our county's agriculture and textile diminishing the future of rural Chatham does not look promising and biotechnolo-

gy won't replace all the jobs lost". The days when a person could leave high school and expect to make a decent living are long gone. We must make sure we work with our Chatham County School System so to prepare our students for the real world. Working with Central Carolina Community College is a must for our county. Our students, especially from the lower and middle-income families, have to prepare themselves for jobs that require face-to-face contact; they cannot ship those jobs overseas. Community colleges are the best teaching these skills.

There are eight good candidates running for two seats and I wish all of them the best. Let's all strive to elect the two who will work for all of the citizens of Chatham County.

*BunKey Morgan is a Chatham County Commissioner.*

# London family lived many American Dreams

For many people the great American Dream is the ability to lead a meaningful life ... to use their talents in rewarding work, to earn the respect of their fellow citizens, to overcome adversity with a positive outlook, and give back to the community which has nurtured them.

One Chatham family whose efforts enhanced not only their own lives, but those of their county, state and church, were the Londons of Pittsboro. It all started in 1765 when John London came to North Carolina from England to be the Deputy Secretary of Governor William Tryon. He married Ann Mauger of Charleston, S.C. settled in Wilmington, N.C., and it was there that Henry Adolphus London was born on April 9, 1808. Henry graduated from UNC and engaged in the mercantile business in Wilmington from 1828 to 1836, when he and his wife, Sally Margaret Lord moved to Pittsboro. There he engaged in mercantile enterprises for most of his life.

In 1853 Henry became Treasurer of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company which was featured in a previous column. The Cape Fear River and its network of tributaries in Chatham County were regularly plagued by seasonal floods, but led by Henry Adolphus London's optimism the company had constructed 13 dams and 14 locks on the Cape Fear and six dams and eight locks on the Deep River. A company-owned steamer, the "John H. Haughton," actually made a few successful passages through the system to Haywood in Chatham. Unfortunately, perennial severe flooding combined with neglect during the Civil War caused the demise of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company in 1868.

In spite of this shattered dream, Henry Adolphus London remained active in the religious and public life of Chatham, serving as Chairman of the Board of Justices, Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and in 1870 was elected treasurer of the county. A History of St. Bartholomew's Parish in Pittsboro, published in 1983, lists him as senior warden of the church from 1861 until he died in 1882.

Henry attended almost every convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and Bishop Theodore Lyman described him as "an honor to the Diocese, and one whose memory will be long and tenderly cherished."

William Lord London, the second son of Henry and Sally was born in 1838 and was a life-long citizen of Pittsboro. He entered his father's mercantile business early, and left to enlist in the Chatham Rifles at the out-

## CHATHAM'S HISTORICAL HERITAGE

by Fred J. Vatter



break of the Civil War. He rose through the ranks and by May 1862, William Lord London was made Captain of Company I, 32nd Regiment of North Carolina Troops. Following Gettysburg, the Colonel of his regiment said of William that

"To his skill and gallantry is greatly due whatever of service the regiment may have rendered in the battle."

In 1864, while on furlough recovering from wounds, William married Caroline Haughton, and they eventually produced seven little Londons, two daughters and five sons. He returned to Pittsborough

was paroled and returned to Pittsboro.

In the spring of 1865, UNC President David Swain notified the former members of London's class that all who returned and delivered their commencement orations, would receive their diplomas. Henry walked 18 miles to Chapel Hill, received the degree, and then walked back to Pittsboro. He set up a law practice, was a charter member of the State Bar Association, and became a prominent lawyer. In 1878 London founded the Chatham Record and continued as its editor until he died in 1918. Always endeavoring to keep active in the community, he became President of both the State Press Association and the State Literary and Historical Association, and was a Trustee of UNC. He even served as the press agent for Eng and Cheng, the famous Siamese twins.

Henry was elected to the State Senate, and was its President Pro Tem in 1901 and 1903. He was known as an ethical person. His first editorial in the Chatham Record had stated that while it would strongly favor the principles and interests of the Democratic-Conservative Party, it would "have a due regard for the feelings and opinions of those who differ from us. We shall be ready to point out the shortcomings and misdeeds for friends as well as our opponents." As a State Senator he personally exemplified this philosophy in the early 1900's when leading Democrats brought impeachment charges against two Republican members of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Partisan politics caused every Democratic Senator except

London to vote "guilty". A woman subsequently wrote to ask, "For Heaven's sake, why did you vote as you did?" London's brief reply was, "For Heaven's sake, Madam!"

When Henry Armand London died in 1918 he was buried, dressed in Confederate Gray, in St Bartholomew's church cemetery in Pittsboro. The beautiful churchyard is the final resting place of a number of Londons who were so active in St Bartholomew's growth and in service to its community. A visit to the historic 172 year old church enables one to view the many memorials and gifts in honor of various members of the London family, who found joy in serving their country, state, church and community.

**Sources for this column included:** *Chatham County 1771-1971* by Hadley, Horton, Strowd; *St. Bartholomew's Parish 1832-1983* by Martha Hope Smith; *Chatham News-Record - A 1976 Bicentennial Salute*.

*Fred J. Vatter is past president of the Chatham County Historical Society, an organization for which he is also a board member and museum curator.*



The London family of Pittsboro first made it to these shores before the Revolutionary War.

after the war, eventually took over his father's mercantile business, and in September 1901 became President of the newly organized Bank of Pittsboro, the county's first bank. A year later William Lord London became secretary-treasurer of the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company whose mill was in Bynum. He also served as Senior Warden of St. Bartholomew's Church for over 30 years, and was active in the United Confederate Veterans, being elected Brigadier-General of the Second Brigade. When the railroad came to Pittsboro in 1887 William Lord London was chief marshal of the celebratory parade.

William's brother, Henry Armand London was born in 1846. He attended UNC but in 1864 Henry and his entire senior class left school to enlist in the Confederate Army. While serving as a courier to General Grimes of the North Carolina 32nd Regiment in April 1865, Henry Armand London carried the order to Cox's North Carolina Brigade to make the last charge by the Confederate Army, and then carried the last order by Lee—to cease fire after the surrender at Appomattox. After the surrender, Private London

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## 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

# Mildred's Store

By Judy Hogan

"When I was young, people used to say, 'If you come to Moncure and drink the water, you'll never leave,'" Mildred Hill tells me. She was born in 1927 about a quarter mile from where she lives now on Moncure Loop Road.

When I arrived to talk with her, her husband, James, beamed at me and ushered me into their home. He is the farmer in the family, Mildred tells me. It's easy to see, without their saying a word, how much they love each other.

Mildred has worked for more than 30 years at Ray's Supermarket on Old U.S. 1 in Moncure. She puts more than 100 percent into her job. She likes meeting people, even if they come in for directions or only to buy a few cents worth of candy. She gives the children a little bag for their penny candy and is told she spoils them. "But one day these kids might have to feed me," she says. Her "children" call her up on Mother's Day. Mildred's daughter says, "Mama's got so many children, she doesn't know what to do."

When people arrive in the area for temporary jobs, they feel welcome in "Mildred's store," as some people call it. She tells them: "It's not my store. I'm just an employee." But the name persists. People come back to see her. She doesn't always remember them as well as they remember her, but she's always glad to see them. If her customers are complaining, she tries to lift them up. She works 6 a.m. - noon four days a week and is glad she can still work. She retired for a couple of months, but she doesn't like to sit around, so she went back to Ray's.

When she was younger, she worked in the Townsend chicken plant and later at the Senior Citizen Center. It was there that Tommy Barry observed her working with the elderly and told her he wanted her to work for him. She said, "I don't know nothing about no store." But he showed up one night about 10 p.m. He wanted her social security number and for her to start work the next morning. She said, "I don't know how to work the cash register," but he said, "Nancy will train you." She agreed to try it.

How have things changed in Moncure? Not a lot, Mildred says. There

## WOMEN OF CHATHAM

was more farmland back then and more people worked on farms. Now few do. There are more houses and more people now. "When I was growing up, everybody was our parents. If we misbehaved at somebody else's house, we got a whipping there and another one when we got home." She doesn't know how parents always got the word as there was no telephone then, but they did.

Nowadays parents get mad if you correct their children, but not back then.

In her spare time Mildred enjoys working for her church, Liberty Chapel. She also belongs to Eastern Star, and she checks on several friends who live by themselves. She enjoys her daughters and her grandchildren.

"I don't believe in sitting down. I'd rather give myself than have my hand out all the time. I always try to solve my own problems. If I ask help, it's because I really need it." When she doesn't feel up to par, still she keeps going, acts like she's not sick, and soon forgets about it.



Mildred Hill

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

"If I can move, I go on."

Mildred is concerned about the continuing attempts by Waste Industries to site a landfill in Moncure. "We don't need all that trash from other places

being dumped here."

She'd like to see everybody get water and decent roads. "It was hard to get our road paved back in the late 70s. We started going, two carloads of us, to the County Commissioners' meeting every Monday. Gus Murchison had told us to keep coming. The numbers dwindled until it was just Floyd Davis and I going, but we kept on. Finally the Commissioners told us: 'You've been faithful. We are going to pave your road.' When the work was completed, we had a cookout to thank them. There are other people who would like their roads paved. They complain about the dust, but they don't do anything. You have to work at it, put effort into it. People don't just come and give you something."

Mildred's advice to others: "Use your energy, work as long as you can, and do for yourselves. Help one another and love one another because God loves us all, regardless of color."

Judy Hogan is a freelance writer and poet living in Moncure near Jordan Lake Dam. She's a regular contributor to Chatham County Line and loves to go in Moncure's little stores.

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# Dreaming in black and white

*When I want to read a good book, I write one.*

— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

I thought that quote was fairly audacious until I wrote a book and discovered what a miracle that is. A book written just for me. Wow.

I rambled around collecting stories for a long time before I finally started to write them, and now that I have, I'm amazed at the things that come out of my fingers when I get out of the way and let the spirits speak. And I'm amazed over and over as I read and re-read what I've written, how the words speak to me, teach me. BTW, I'm using the term "I" loosely here—I really have a hard time taking credit for these words, and often, when I'm reading, I'll come upon a scene that is a complete, eye-opening surprise to me. I'm not alone in here, believe me, and often it's one of these others who's doing the writing.

So, what's this got to do with my American Dream? Well, I'm reading *The Celestine Prophecy* right now, the fifth and sixth insights that talk about personal dramas and finding the reasons why we were born, and I've been thinking back over my rambling life and what stands out for me



*Rocky River Tales*  
by Maggie Wilson

is that all the opposite-ends-of-the-spectrum people I've met — engineers, corporate managers, drug dealers, salespeople, computer weenies, preachers, artists, therapists — are all the same, all put their pants on one leg at a time.

No matter what race, economic status, education, spiritual or religious bent people have, they're all doing what they can with what they know. Some are struggling to learn more, some have their heads in the sand, some are seeking power, some love, some are successful in cultural terms, some are successful in personal terms, but everyone is doing what he or she thinks is right, and every one is a real person.

My American dream, and I think the reason why I was born, is to keep rambling around, collecting and writing stories about real people living real lives, and to keep learning from and being amazed at what I read.

Here's an excerpt about an American dream from my book, *Emma's Search for Grace*:

Emma thinks about the stories she has heard  
black mothers and white fathers  
black fathers and white mothers  
black-and-white-mixed  
over and over.  
The blacks and the whites always  
trying to be together  
in spite of those trying desperately  
to keep them apart.  
Is it instinct?  
Because we really are one species,  
not different?  
Because we need to be mixed,  
we need the black and the white,  
we need both?  
We certainly need to acknowledge  
that  
we each have lights and shadows.  
Are our skin colors symbolic of that?  
No, not that black people are bad,  
not hardly.  
But the shadows

the way the poets talk about  
shadow—  
it's not all bad either.  
Our shadows contain the parts of  
ourselves that we don't claim  
that for one reason or another we  
don't want to have.  
Good and bad are relative terms  
anyway.  
What's good to one person, one  
family,  
clan, group,  
culture,  
is bad to another.  
What's a strong trait in one group  
is a weak trait in a different group.  
So.  
If we got all mixed up racially  
maybe then we'd be mixed up  
culturally too  
and we wouldn't be able to hate  
each other any more.  
And we wouldn't be told that parts  
of our selves are unacceptable.  
We could really be our true selves.  
Be what we came here to be.  
Maybe in my next life.

*Maggie Wilson is an artist and writer  
living in her dream house in Chatham.  
Her website is  
[www.maggiwilson.com](http://www.maggiwilson.com)*

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## Natural remedies for allergies

By Robert Malik Lawrence

Spring and summer is such a beautiful time of year, when all of the flowers and trees are budding and blossoming. However as the pollen load increases, almost anyone can will experience days of sneezing and watery eyes. For the more environmentally sensitive it is much worse.

Chinese medicine sees allergies as a deficiency of Wei Qi, or defensive energy. This encompasses the western concept of the immune system, and yet is slightly different at the same time. Over the centuries the

Chinese doctors developed a wide variety of herbal formulas to treat the whole spectrum of allergic conditions that people can suffer from. These formulas are adjusted to treat the varied symptoms of each individual, and long term care with Chinese medicine is very effective in reducing allergic reactions and even eliminating them all together.

There are a couple of simple home remedies that are effective for mild allergy symptoms, and are especially effective for children. In western terms, allergies are a stress reaction.

And the adrenal glands are a major player in stress management in the body. The B vitamins deal directly with the adrenals and stress, so by adding a good dose of the B complex into your daily vitamin program will help significantly. Another effective remedy is ginger tea. It must be from the fresh ginger root. In Chinese medicine there is a difference in how fresh ginger and dry ginger act on the body. And it is the fresh ginger that will treat simple airborne allergies. The recipe is about 1 inch of root per cup of tea, chop the root, place in simmering water and simmer 10 – 15 minutes. I recommend that you make up a large batch, a quart or so per person, and drink this throughout the day. If you only have occasional reactions, than just drink the tea as you need. If you tend to suffer longer or have chronic allergies, then drink this daily. It is best to drink the tea straight, but for children you can sweeten it, and it should be less strong — 1/2 inch of root per cup for children 6-12 years, 1/4 inch per cup children 1-6 years. With young children, often just taking the vitamin B complex is sufficient.

*Robert Malik Lawrence is a licensed acupuncturist with a practice in Pittsboro and Chapel Hill. He received his certification in acupuncture from Nan Jing University of Chinese Medicine, Nan Jing China. You can contact him at 444-1462.*

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## happenings

Every Tuesday at 4 p.m. **Farmers' Market at Ferrington.** Local farmers sell their finest produce at the Ferrington Farmers Market, located next to the Administration Building. Call 542.4000.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. **Pre-School Storytime at McIntyre's.** McIntyre's Fine Books & Bookends is pleased to announce Pre-School Storytime. For more information, call Sarah at 542.3030.

Saturday, July 3 at 11 a.m. **Steven Sherrill** visits to read from his latest novel, *Visits from the Drowned Girl.* Call McIntyre's at 542.3030.

Friday, July 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market. **Europa Jazz** a local band will bring their music to the Market Cafe, Europa's music might be described as funky folk music, with a world beat flavor added by multiple percussionists. 542.5505.

Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m. Local author **Michael Parker** will join us to read from his new novel, *Virginia Loves.* Call McIntyre's for more information, 542.3030.

Sunday, July 11, 2 p.m. We are pleased to welcome local mystery author **Elen Hunter** who will share readings from her series set in Wilmington, N.C., *Murder on the Candlelight Tour* and *Murder at the Azalea Festival.* Call McIntyre's for more information at 919-542-3030.

Wednesday, July 14 at 5:30 p.m. The Ferrington Grocery Company will host an After Hours Wine Tasting featuring the **Wines of Austria**, along with Hors d'Oeuvres. The Wednesday Wine Tastings are \$20.00 per person and reservations can be made by calling 545.5717.

Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m. Join North Carolina author **Valerie Leff** who will read from her new book *Better Homes and Husbands*, which is about class and caste feuds, played out with ferocity and etiquette, within the brick and limestone walls of one very exclusive address during a tumultuous period of social change. Valerie Leff is co-director of the Great Smokies Writing Program at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Call 542.3030.

Saturday, July 17, 11 a.m. Come on out for a fun reading with **Karin Gillespie** who will be reading from her first novel, *Get Your Bottom Dollar.* Serving up heaping portions of small-town wit and Southern cadence, this novel crackles with more secrets than a slumber party. Call McIntyre's for more information, 542.3030.

Sunday, July 18, 2 p.m. Author **Heather Ash** will discuss her newest book, *The Four Elements of Change.* In the book, Ms. Ash shares heartfelt wisdom on how to live a centered life, even in the midst of change. Heather Ash is the founder of the Toltec Center of Creative Intent and the creator of nation-wide SpiritWeavers programs, designed to support spirit-based community. Call McIntyre's for details at 542.3030.

Wednesday, July 21 through Thursday, July 22, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Whitehall Antiques at Ferrington Summer Seminar "Silver Savvy."** Learn all you need to know to be truly savvy about silver, and acquire the tools of the trade required to identify forms, recognize style periods, and understand construction techniques, measure weights, research hallmarks and estimate values. Conducted by Shirley Swaab and David P. Lindquist, this workshop-styled two-day seminar will combine color slides and expert commentary with hands-on research. For reservations, contact Elizabeth Lindquist or Denise Quinlan at 942.3179. The cost of the seminar is \$285.00.

Friday, July 23 through Saturday, July 24, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Whitehalls at Ferrington Summer Seminar "Wood Identification for the Non-Botanist/Non-Lumberjack."** This two-day seminar will help develop a clear understanding of the wood used in furniture to help identify, date, and geographically place antique furniture. A set of antique wood samples for each attendee is included. Presented by David P. Lindquist and Elizabeth Lindquist. For reservations, contact Elizabeth Lindquist or Denise Quinlan at 942.3179. The cost of the seminar is \$325.00.

Friday, July 23, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market. **Laura Ridgeway** will bring her variety of upbeat nostalgic jazz standards to the Market Cafe. For more information call the Market at 542.5505.

Saturday, July 24, 11 a.m. Please join **Sarah Messer** discuss her new book, *Red House: Being a Mostly Accurate Account of New England's Oldest Continuously Lived-In House.* Sarah Messer teaches poetry and creative nonfiction at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Call McIntyre's at 542.3030.

Sunday, July 25 through Monday, July 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

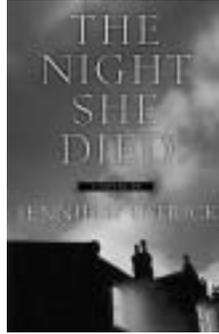
**Whitehalls Antiques at Ferrington Summer Seminar "Rugs and Carpets and Floor Coverings - Oh My!"** Take the "oh my" out of identifying various types of floor coverings by taking this *Aubusson to Zaranad* class. Presented by Dr. Douglas M. Lay. For reservations, contact Elizabeth Lindquist or Denise Quinlan at 942.3179. The cost of the seminar is \$285.00.

Friday, July 30, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Come join **Guilty Pleasures**, a popular bluegrass trio, as they bring their unique sounds of traditional bluegrass, blues and folk music to the Market Cafe. Call the Market for details, 542.5505.

Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m. Join author **Mindy Friddle** as she reads from her novel, *The Garden Angel.* Set in a Southern, city-swallowed town, *The Garden Angel* tells the story of two women and their unlikely friendship. Call McIntyre's for details at 542.3030.

Thursday, August 5, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. C'mon out and support/partake in **McIntyre's Open Mike Night**, hosted by the inimitable **Peter Mock.** Bring something you're working on or a favorite passage to read from and sit back... enjoy. Call Pete at the bookstore for details, 542.3030.

Friday, August 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market. Come join **Harmony Keeney** and **Mark Wells**, a duo of jazz vocalist and keyboardist, at the Market Cafe as they entertain with songs of Gershwin, Rogers & Hart, Cole Porter and many others. Call the Market for details, 542.5505.



Sunday, August 8, 2 p.m. Former Durham resident and new mystery author **Jennifer Patrick** visits to read from *The Night She Died.* Love leads to murder in this moody, luminous debut set in modern-day Georgia. Call McIntyre's for details at 542.3030.

Friday, August 13, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market. **Saludos Compay** will bring their jazz-fused Latin rhythms to the Market Cafe once again. Singer/songwriter Pablo Valencia sings original songs as well as time-honored favorites from all over Cuba, and Central and South America. Intricately woven rhythms are supplied by percussionist Chuck Nolan and keyboardist Erich Lieth adds inventive improvisations. Call the Market for details, 542.5505.

Sunday, August 15, 2 p.m. Local North Carolina author **Jonathan Farlow** will join us at McIntyre's to read from his novel, *Holy War.* This is a tale of discovery, of fear, of basketball and bowling. 542.3030

Friday, August 20, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market. Come join **Guilty Pleasures**, a popular bluegrass trio, as they bring their unique sounds of traditional bluegrass, blues and folk music to the Market Cafe. Call the Market for details, 542.5505.

Saturday, August 21, 11 a.m. Greensboro writer **Quinn Dalton** will join us to discuss her first novel, *High Strung* at McIntyre's. 542.3030

Sunday, August 22, 2 p.m. Please join local author, teacher and counselor **Kathy Oddenino** at McIntyre's. She will be reading from her seventh book, *The Journey Home: Our Evolving Consciousness.* The author invites readers to embrace a new way of thinking about and understanding themselves and our world. 542.3030.

Friday, August 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Music at the Market.

**Jon Shain** is a veteran singer-songwriter who's been turning heads for years with his words, his fiery acoustic guitar work, and his evolved musical style -- combining improvised piedmont blues with bluegrass, swing, and ragtime. For more information call the Market at 542.5505.

Saturday, August 28, 11 a.m. Join us in welcoming **Mary Lou Randoir**, who will read from her book *Animal Grace: Entering a Spiritual Relationship with Our Fellow Creature* at McIntyre's. 542.3030.

Thursday, September 2, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. C'mon out and support/partake in **McIntyre's Open Mike Night**, hosted by the inimitable **Peter Mock.** Bring something you're working on or a favorite passage to read from and sit back... enjoy. Call Pete at the bookstore for details, 542.3030.

Saturday, September 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saveur Magazine Cooking Class.** Join Ferrington House Chef de Cuisine Graham Fox for a day of culinary exploration and enjoyment with a one-day cooking class and demonstration. Luncheon where guests will enjoy the fruits of the morning's labors. Chef de cuisine Graham Fox will share his secrets for a perfectly prepared seafood feast (with the exception of dessert, of course!). The menu will include Jumbo Lump Crab Cake with a Horseshoe Potato Salad, Tomato Chutney, and a Baby Herb Salad; Shrimp and Vegetable Brochettes; Grilled Striped Bass with Fennel Salad; and Blueberry Shortcake with Orange Syrup and Clotted Cream. Cost: \$165 per day session. 20 percent of all proceeds will benefit Share Our Strength. Call 1.877.334.6464 for registration and questions.

September Sunday 19 and Monday September 20. **Flavors of Fall Dinner with Chef Cory Mattson.** Join Chef Cory Mattson for a Cooking Class focusing on the Flavors of Fall. Chef Mattson will instruct students on creating a menu which will include Chowder; Red Deer Loin; Quail; Root Vegetable Medley and Apple Cobbler. Ferrington House Cooking Class students meet on the Sunday evening for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a short discussion with the Chef before enjoying dinner at the Ferrington House Restaurant. On the Monday, following a gourmet Breakfast, students head to the kitchen for a short talk followed by a morning of hands-on instruction. The rates for the cooking package, depending on the choice of accommodations, range from \$415 - \$625 plus tax. Call 542.2121 or e-mail [thouse@ferrington.com](mailto:thouse@ferrington.com) for further information or reservations.

Wednesday, September 22, 1 p.m. Join us for a special Book Club Luncheon with **Dani Shapiro** to discuss her new book, *Family History.* The luncheon is limited to 30 persons, and will be followed by an open reading at 3:30 p.m. at McIntyre's. To reserve a space, please call McIntyre's at 542.3030. The luncheon will be served at the Market Cafe, and will include an entree and beverage for \$10.

Saturday, September 25, 11 a.m. Join North Carolina author **John McNally** as he reads from his latest novel, *The Book of Ralph.* Call McIntyre's for details at 542.3030.

Sunday, September 26, 2 p.m. Author **Judy Goldman** returns to McIntyre's to share her new novel *Early Leaving.* Call McIntyre's for details at 542.3030.

## WHY ELECT

continued from page 1.

vision, (again Rule #1). True economic development requires a proactive BOC to build the appropriate infrastructure and require the Economic Development Corporation to creatively and actively sell the County, not sell it short, or sell it out. Chatham County is far better than this.

**Citizen Involvement:** Patrick Barnes believes that the only special interests he will listen to are the interests of the citizens. Citizen involvement means what it says. On the other hand, the majority of the current BOC would prefer that the citizens not be involved. Special interests and their monies are currently driving decisions in our County, while the citizens are being shut out, one voice at a time. It is the citizens, however, that will live with the consequences.

**Implementing Adopted Plans:** Patrick Barnes notes the key

to Chatham's future is in implementing the already-adopted Vision and the already-adopted Land Conservation and Development Plan. I totally agree. I wrote an article for the Chatham County Line in the summer of 2003 titled, *Land-Use Plan Way to Shape Future ...* to see where we should go, take a look in the mirror, <http://chathamcounty-line.org/SMMR03.pdf>. In it, I noted 25 years of citizen planning and 25 years of our elected official's failure to fully implement a plan. I was hopeful at the time that this board would be different, that it would be proactive. I was wrong ...

As with many of its predecessors, members of this Board are failing to develop plans for managing growth, they are failing to implement the Land Conservation and Development Plan, and they are failing to listen to and involve citizens, the true stakeholders of this county. Instead, the majority of the board vote on projects based solely on the argument of purported tax advan-

tages (an argument which, in and of itself, in the long run is flawed).

When questioned, candidates in this upcoming BOC election, with the clear exception of Patrick Barnes and Mike Cross, have indicated they will review the plan, change it if necessary, or scrap it and start all over. Patrick Barnes notes that this is what we've done for 25 years. The Board of Commissioners needs to get off the fence and get on with the business of its citizens. It needs to implement the Land Conservation and Development Plan. Patrick Barnes intends to do just that.

So, why would we not vote for Patrick Barnes?

*Larry Hicks, a resident of Chatham County for 18 years, has been involved in planning efforts including the Strategic Plan Development Committee (SPDC), Chair of the Strategic Plan Steering Team (SPST), Chair of the Land Use Plan Implementation Committee (LUPIC), and a member of the Planning Board. Larry is also Chair*

*of Healthy Chatham, a community-based action team sponsored through the County Health Department, which has worked at incorporating the ideals of the adopted Chatham County Strategic Plan relating to health issues.*

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## opinion

## Deciding Chatham County's Future



ILLUSTRATION BY CARL GRANATH

## King's Dream and Mine

By the Rev. Bertha Thomas



On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King addressed a crowd of 200,000 marchers in Washington, D.C., who were pressing Congress to pass important Civil Rights legislation. His speech became a landmark of American history.

I'll never forget his phrase: "I have a dream." King dreamed of equality at work and at play for all people in America. He wanted all little children – black and white – to walk, play, and learn together someday. This was his dream for America. He never lived to see these things come to light for darkness took his life. Yet his dream did come to pass for the children at school and at play and for the adults in the work place and in public places. Forty-one years later I still hear his voice saying, "I have a dream."

King gave his life for his dream, but the dream never died. It was planted in the hearts of people for generations

and will never die. America is a garden of dreams. You are free to pursue the dream you believe strongly in. We are born with visions and dreams within us. We have to follow the light of our inner visions. We must work to make our dreams come true. Here we have opportunities to become what we are inside, whether good or bad. Let's work for the good within us and overpower the bad. America gives every person the opportunity for accomplishment, but each of us must work toward our own inner goals.

I love America, my home sweet home. I have visited other nations, but it's nothing like coming home to where I belong. God bless America, our home sweet home.

*The Rev. Bertha Thomas is Associate Pastor at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Moncure, where she has lived most of her life. She is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line.*

## Chatham Central FFA has 2 winning teams

By Beth Snider

During the 75th annual North Carolina Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Convention, Chatham Central High School had two teams win first place in Career Development Events (CDE). Two of the team members were also high scoring individuals in their events. The convention was held June 8-10 on the campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh.

The Chatham Central Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape teams are each comprised of four students who competed on Wednesday, June 9, against teams from across North Carolina. Top CDE teams advance to the national level Career Development Event competitions to be held October 27-30 in Louisville, Ky during the 77th annual National FFA Convention. Julian Smith, Horticulture teacher, advises and coaches the Chatham Central FFA teams.

"When they announced first place for the events, our students and Mr. Smith looked out at the crowd with huge smiles. Well over 1,000 people were in attendance and they almost clapped as loudly as I did. I was amazed at the energy level of the overall convention. I wish we could bottle that enthusiasm and camaraderie," commented Mitch Stensland, Assistant Principal of Chatham Central High School.

The top scoring individual in Floriculture was Zeb Hart, who is a rising junior. His father, Lowell, was a member of the first Horticulture team of Smith's in 1974. That team won the state competition and placed tenth in the nation. The top scoring individual in Nursery/Landscape was Ryan Lambert, a rising senior. His father, Craig, is also a former student of Smith's.

The state convention had many opportunities for students and advisors like a career show, leadership workshops, campus tours, and general sessions. FFA chapter and individual member awards were programmed into general sessions as well as state officer candidate recognition and keynote speeches. During the three-day event, student club members from across the state were able to interview for scholarships and participate in national convention delegate interviews. North Carolina has over 14,600 FFA members in 228 local chapters.

"Mr. Smith's horticulture program



Floriculture team members are (left to right, row 1) Travis Coleman and Jason Douglas and (left to right, row 2) Zeb Hart and Chris Hart



Nursery team members are (left to right) Stephanie Lyons, Carrie Scott, Ryan Lambert, and Daniel Douglas

continues to be the model of excellence in education. He and his students spend so much time preparing for competitions. Their level of dedication is astounding," said John Eldridge, Principal of Chatham Central High School.

*Beth Snider is Public Relations/Community Schools Coordinator for Chatham County Schools*

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## Make your VOICE HEARD!

Write to Editor, Chatham County Line

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## Chatham Confession and Plea

Subject: A Plea from a Sinner

To all Chathamites — we need each other — all of us:

I am guilty of thinking in terms of us versus them, the Bunkyites who would sell off our future versus the others who would lock the door to any newcomers, the Yankees versus us locals, the controlling, exploiting Californians versus those who would write strict laws to protect us. I was contributing to our problems using this approach. Forgive me for I knew not what effect I was having.

I do not know how to find fair, realistic, and well thought out solutions for our county but I do know these answers will not present themselves so long as we are seduced into pitting ourselves against each other. In listening to many very different voices, I have observed us talking at each other rather than compassionately listening and, for that moment, putting ourselves in the talker's shoes.

What I hear people saying on all sides actually makes a lot of sense. None of us is wrong. We are all right, strange as this may sound.

We are inherently far better than we have been behaving. I believe this and have faith in this. We can do better than we have done so far. Our choice is really quite straight forward and obvious: either continue arguing and fighting with each other seeking to gain an edge for some time period, or find ways to put our democracy to more creative uses finding solutions that obviously pursue the objectives of all Chathamites.

I do not know where to go from here but I know when I discover I have been digging a hole I did not want, the first step is to stop digging.

My plea is that we find ways to hear compassionately the needs and wants of all our Chathamite families and to find inclusive, creative solutions. I was once told that to every complex problem, there is a simple solution — and it is wrong. No doubt, our Chatham solutions will involve more than we have done so far. Are we willing to try?

Ken Boggs, [jkennethboggs@mindspring.com](mailto:jkennethboggs@mindspring.com)

## Caveat Elector

By Don Lein

Shortly we will be faced by an array of choices regarding the future governance of our state and local governments, and shortly thereafter, national as well. It is our responsibility to choose candidates who will have the courage to lead, the integrity to handle our tax monies wisely and who most reflect our own beliefs. How do we do this? Let's look at several areas that might prove helpful.

**Taxes** — Whose money is it? Does the candidate believe that tax money belongs to the government or would they refund any unused portion to the taxpayer? If we went to a garage and received an estimate for repair services and the actual bill came to less, we would expect to pay the lesser amount. Should government be any different? Will the candidate sign(ed) a "NO NEW TAX" pledge? Does the candidate seek to add to the tax burden by offering new programs without cutting out outdated and inefficient ones? Does the candidate wish to maximize tax/fee revenues which the government will redistribute as they see fit, or does the candidate wish to leave as much money as they can in the hands of the taxpayers, recognizing that taxpayers can spend their own money much more wisely and efficiently than can politicians and bureaucrats.

**Big Government/Limited Government** — Does the candidate seek to expand or diminish governmental services? During the Clinton administration there were approximately one million jobs identified that were duplicative of jobs being done in private industry. Is the candidate for downsizing government? Downsizing is the bitter pill a

number of companies have had to take in hard times — why not governments? Is the candidate for privatizing/outsourcing government functions? In any service enterprise, personnel costs are paramount and a reduction of those should be top priority. How limited a role does the candidate think the government should have in regulating economic activity? With the demise of communism and the near bankruptcy of socialist states, this should be a key issue.

**Hard America/Soft America** — Why does America produce incompetent 18 year-olds, when compared to their peers around the world, and remarkably competent 30 year-olds resulting in American leadership economically and technologically? Michael Barone explored this paradox in a recent book, by this name, and looked at various venues where he compared the results achieved by coddling (public schools, for example) to results achieved by competition (the American workplace, for example). Does the candidate want to make our society "softer" with the deleterious results recounted by Barone, or does the candidate want to allow the citizen the maximum freedom to be what they want to be? Ultimately, it is a tradeoff of freedom versus security. The maximum security provides us with the least freedom and vice versa. We do know what has worked and failed in the past and we should be guided by that.

These are some of the fundamental issues we need to understand before we can fulfill our citizen's responsibility to cast an informed vote.

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

## News puts the boob in 'boob tube'

It dawned on me last week that I have not watched a television broadcast news in more than two years. There are some good reasons. The show-business arrogance of the three anchors is more than I can take. The Sunday meet-the-press format is old, stale and almost always one-sided.

Nor can I believe Bill Clinton's former Chief of Staff can possibly be fair reporting on Washington politics. Nevertheless, ABC promotes George Stephanopolis as a star who knows everything. Over on CBS, I quite watching Dan Rather years ago because I am not sure he is sane. I can't trust NBC because they have three networks,

NBC, CNBC, and MSNBC, none of them adequate.

I got my full dose of NBC on September 11th. President Bush was aboard Air Force One somewhere over Florida when the bombers hit New York. Nobody knew the full force of the attacks or how long they would last. It was not a good idea to give the terrorists the President's exact flight plan. Officials refused to tell reporters the president's exact location. He eventually landed—secretly—at Omaha but some members of the press were outraged. One anguished on-the-air reporter yelled, "I've already caught the Pentagon in a lie."

Most Americans try to be fair but we usually judge others by the company they keep. Don Imus, the ruling shock jock of morning radio, constantly praises

Tim Russert as the best television reporter in America. Imus also refers to Dick Cheney as a fat liar while he is not promoting a New Mexico ranch he operates for children with cancer. NBC is no fan of Bush. When Russert interviewed President Bush on television some weeks ago, Imus let his audience know he thought Bush flunked the interview. Funny, I watched it and got just the opposite idea.

CNBC and MSNBC have so-so ratings. No wonder. They tried to make a star out of Phil Donahue who got zero ratings. Maybe they learned. Dennis Miller is their prime time star as of this writing.

The other two cable news networks are the focal point of public confidence. CNN, whose main star was the thoroughly discredited Peter Arnett, has always been known as the Clinton News Network because of its political slant. The opposite end of the cable spectrum is Fox News, which is still the fastest growing cable channel. Fox's anchor, Britt Hume, is even more respected than Russert and Fox is gleefully on Bush's side on almost every issue.

All this means trouble for the average American merely trying to pay his bills, keeps his kids in schools and root for his favorite team. Should he watch the station that reflects his own views or the idiots on the other channel? It might not matter because more and more Americans are not watching news shows of any kind. Twenty four hour television news has almost devoured itself. It can't possibly fill every second of the day with news without getting sloppy and careless and devoid of facts. No wonder audiences turn to re-runs of Beaver, Andy and Opie.

We are headed into the worst political summer in American history when charges and counter-charges will blow like desperate winds loaded with lightning, hail and lies. If you take time to listen, try to find logic or something that makes sense in what they say. It is hard too weed out just what the Democrats have in store for us. So far they merely hate George Bush. They have to do better than that.

It is hard to have an opinion of local television news shows because they offer so little. All local stations use the same format: news, weather, sports, usually in that order. News is usually limited to yellow tape around a crime scene. How are things in your schools? Television is not equipped to explain that. But pictures of overturned trucks and burning houses pass for news.

Weather is the heart of local stations and competition is intense to find just the right person who tells you how hot/cold/dry/wet it will be tomorrow. The poor sports guy gets about five minutes to toss out some scores and four seconds of a tape on last night's game in whatever sport is in season.

Don't expect local news to do better. They are doing the best they can.

R.L. Taylor is a contributor to Chatham County Line. He has been a newsman for 50 years, working as a reporter, editor and publisher. He has also been an advisor to newspapers in Slovakia, Romania and Russia.

### Media Meditations

by R.L. Taylor



## El Día de los libros en el condado de Chatham tiene buen éxito

Child Care Networks, Inc. y la biblioteca Wren Memorial organizaron otra vez el Día de los libros, un gran evento para niños (Book Day Celebration). El Día de los libros es una celebración multicultural de la niñez, de los libros, del bilingüismo y de lo importante que es para los miembros de una familia, leer juntos.

El primero de mayo de este año, más de 150 residentes del condado de Chatham participaron en este evento, donde se reunieron familias de diferentes grupos culturales y étnicos. Este evento se dio a cabo en la biblioteca Wren Memorial de Siler City de 11 a.m. a 1 p.m. e incluyó: entretenimiento bilingüe, una piñata, actividades para niños y una exquisita merienda. Además, cada familia que participó en el evento se llevó a casa dos libros de cuentos, en inglés y español.

El Día de los niños, en muchos países latinoamericanos, es celebrado el 30 de abril. En 1997, la autora Pat Mora empezó con la tradición de también celebrar el bilingüismo y la importancia de leerle a los niños. Desde entonces, esta celebración ha crecido tremendamente. El Pueblo, Inc., una organización en Raleigh, ha patrocinado el evento en Carolina del Norte, con fondos del W. Kellogg Foundation. Esta primavera, diferentes negocios locales también ayudaron a patrocinarlo.

Este año, el comité organizador del Día de los libros ha decidido organizar también un evento en el otoño, llamado Celebrating Literacy (Celebrando la Alfabetización). Celebrating Literacy es un evento para niños y familias con el enfoque en la celebración de los libros, los niños y la alfabetización. Celebrating Literacy (Celebrando la Alfabetización) será un gran evento y está planeado para el sábado 9 de octubre, de 10 a.m. a 1 p.m. en la biblioteca Wren Memorial en Siler City.

*Child Care Networks, Inc., ha recaudado algunos fondos de algunos negocios locales e iglesias para este evento pero todavía necesitan fondos adicionales. Para más información, llame a Nina al 542-6644, ext. 22*

## Día de los libros a big success in Chatham County

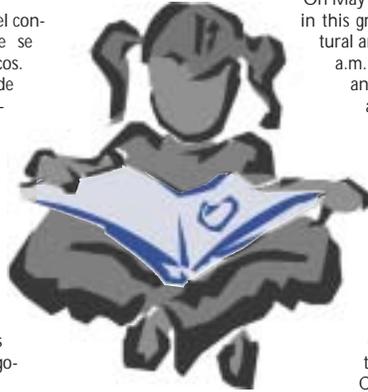
Child Care Networks, Inc. and Wren Memorial Library organized a great event for children and families, the "Día de los libros" (Book Day Celebration). Día de los libros is a multicultural celebration of children and books, of bilingüism and of families reading together.

On May 1, over 150 Chatham County residents participated in this great event, bringing together families from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The event was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wren Memorial Library in Siler City and included: bilingual entertainment, a piñata, activities for children, face painting, great snacks and refreshments. Also, each family attending the event walked away with two bilingual books, English/Spanish.

"Children's Day" is celebrated in many Latin American countries on April 30. In 1997, author Pat Mora started the Día de los Libros, a day to highlight the importance of being bilingual and of reading to children. Since then, the celebration has grown tremendously. In the past two years, funding for this event has been provided by El Pueblo, Inc., in Raleigh, with funding from the W. Kellogg Foundation. This spring, local Chatham County businesses also helped fund the event.

This year, in addition to the Día de los libros in the spring, the organizing committee has decided to hold a similar event this fall, called "Celebrating Literacy." Celebrating Literacy is an event for children and families aimed at celebrating books, children, and literacy. Celebrating Literacy will take place on Saturday, October 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wren Memorial Library in Siler City.

*Child Care Networks, Inc., has secured some funding from local businesses and corporations but is still seeking additional support. For more information, call Nina at 542-6644, ext. 22*



## BRIEFS

continued from page 2.

### briefs

#### Writers' Workshop slated for July

For writers, beginning and experienced, who need to turn off the phone, abandon the "to-do" list, shut out the demands of everyday life, and focus on their writing, we offer this July weekend retreat and two Saturday workshops. With guided writing sessions and illustrative readings, in a supportive and encouraging environment, you'll find inspiration, refueling, and nurture for your writing self.

To register for workshops and/or reserve a room, call Rosemary House at 888.643.2017. Also, the Weekend Writers Retreat July 9-11 may be reserved online when you book rooms.

For more information on these workshops, email Marjorie Hudson, or call 919.542.5029

#### Born to Breastfeed campaign begins

That's the slogan the Ad Council, in partnership with Health and Human Services, is adopting in its launch for a national Breastfeeding Awareness Campaign. The purpose is to educate the community on the relative risks of not exclusively breastfeeding babies for six months; these include a higher risk of childhood obesity, diarrhea, respiratory illness and ear infections.

While many Americans are aware of the importance of breastfeeding, our nation has some of the lowest breastfeeding rates in the developed world. The federal government has set a goal to increase the number of mothers breastfeeding at six months postpartum to 50 per cent in 2010; only 33 per cent are currently breastfeeding for this duration.

Here in Chatham County, the Chatham Breastfeeding Alliance, a community-based group has a mission to ensure that every Chatham County mother is supported in her choice to breastfeed and that she has access to the information and the professional and/or lay support necessary to be successful. For a com-

plete list of community breastfeeding resources or to find out more about the Alliance, call Susan O'Hara-Brill at 423-8943.

#### Village Rambler seeks articles, photos

The Village Rambler Magazine is always looking for writing submissions and photography. The July/August issue features an interview with Pittsboro's own Ellen Bland, who talks about her recent success with the play Millworker and discusses theater, teaching, family and what's next on her horizon. Copies are available at the General Store Café in Pittsboro, McIntyre's Books in Fearington Village, the NC Arts Incubator in Siler City, and Branch's Bookshop in Chapel Hill.

Send submissions to The Village Rambler Magazine, PO Box 5070, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-5001. For guidelines and more information visit [www.villagerambler.com](http://www.villagerambler.com).

#### Carrboro calls for festival musicians

The Town of Carrboro is seeking musicians to perform at the seventh

annual Carrboro Music Festival on Sunday, September 26th. The day long, free festival will feature all styles of music at numerous outdoor and indoor venues including The Cat's Cradle, Go! Studio, Weaver Street Market, The Century Center, Armadillo Grill, The Music Loft and the Town Commons.

The festival is an event in which performers provide their services completely free of charge. The event could not go on without their contribution of time and talent as well as the support of the community. Each year the number of performers wishing to perform has increased.

Performer applications are available through August 1 at Carrboro Town Hall, The Century Center, The Music Explorium, The Music Loft, Bryan's Guitars and the ArtsCenter as well as on the festival website [www.carrboromusicfestival.com](http://www.carrboromusicfestival.com). The deadline for applications is August 7. For more information call Gerry Williams at 260.0661 or email [musical\\_roots@bellsouth.net](mailto:musical_roots@bellsouth.net).

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