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# Development pressures build tensions in Chatham County

By Robert N. Eby

With developers finding a warm reception from the current Chatham County Board of Commissioners, a parallel increase in public pressure for use of Smart Growth policies has arisen. In recent months the Commissioners have approved a storage facility on US 15-501 at Vickers Road (over the opposition of the

Planning Board), approved Chatham Downs, a new shopping center at the corner of US 15-501 and Lystra Road (despite 1,300 individual opposing petitions), and over the Christmas holidays permitted the posting on the County's web site of an emasculated version of the much discussed and long awaited Compact Community Ordinance. This version, prepared by the County's attorneys Bob Gunn

and Paul Messick, was seen by many citizens as subverting the 18-month-long public process that had produced the original Ordinance.

On Feb. 10, the Chatham County Planning Board began a review of the Ordinance with Gunn and Messick. Based on input from the attorneys, Planning Board members and the more than 100 citizens present at the meeting, the Planning Board restored most of quantitative language used in the original version of the Ordinance. After the Planning Board completes their review, the Ordinance goes back to the Commissioners, to a public hearing and then back to the Planning Board. The final step will be action by the Commissioners.

The sudden appearance of the revised version of the Compact Community Ordinance was the catalyst for local citizen groups such as Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities (of which the author is a member), Chatham County United and the Southeast Chatham Advisory Council, to organize a rally of some 450 citizens before the Jan. 20 meeting of the Commissioners, calling for more openness in County government and the rebuilding of the trust of its citizens.

TENSIONS continued on page 4.

Hundreds of opponents of a revised version of the Compact Community Ordinance thronged the County Commissioners meeting on a cold evening in January to make sure the commissioners know their concerns.

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## Chatham needs to work together for our future

By Julian Sereno

Development begets bedevilment, and Chatham County is a case in point. Rage and righteousness burn on both sides of the issue, making it uncomfortable to get close, even from a conscientiously even-handed distance. That very rancor may make the changes that Chatham County faces that much more difficult.

**OPINION**

This issue of Chatham County Line contains three articles and a cartoon that represent the views of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities. They clearly lay out what members of that organization believe and what they are about.

WORK TOGETHER continued on page 14.

## Observations on the Carrboro experience

By Julian Sereno

So what kinds of changes can Chatham residents' expect? I offer my experience as a 20-year resident of Carrboro, which has seen considerable development. And I've always sensed a cultural kinship between Carrboro and Chatham County.

How has Carrboro changed? The population has doubled, from 7,500 to 15,000. While the town looks much as it did, what used to be forests and meadows now only appear to be such; in fact they are artful landscaping outside developments featuring rows of McMansions, some on postage-stamp sized lots. The density is by design — Carrboro practices the "Smart Growth" idea of in-fill development. A house or two frequently pops up in what had once been someone's big back yard. Plans are afoot for four-story buildings.

For those who own a house, its value has increased many-fold. The homeowner only realizes cash money, of course, by selling the property or borrowing against it. Otherwise, it means paying more in property taxes. Carrboro residents pay

dearly, their tax rates are among the highest in the state. And as property appreciates, its tax basis goes up too. For those who don't own homes, it costs more to rent one or buy one.

How is Carrboro better than it was? There are many more sidewalks, so walking around town is less harrowing than it used to be. Many streets have been improved. There are lots of bike lanes and bikeways. There are three times as many restaurants; there are more galleries, more musical venues, more public art, more public festivals. There is Weaver Street Market and the enormous impact it has had on Carrboro's civic and cultural life, with twice-weekly concerts and its bustling café. There is the Century Center and the new space for the Carrboro Farmers' Market.

How is Carrboro worse than it was? During the day during the summer, there isn't any air. Ozone pollution, a hot weather plague caused by the proliferation of autos, is certainly not limited to Carrboro — it affects the entire Triangle. But from 9

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# briefs & announcements

## dispatches

### Social Health wins big Pfizer grant

The Pfizer Foundation announced new partnership grants with North Carolina HIV/AIDS organizations as part of major new initiative in nine southern states to combat the alarming rise in AIDS cases. Three North Carolina HIV/AIDS organizations received initial grants of nearly \$130,000 from the Pfizer Foundation Southern HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative. The grants are part of the \$3 million, three-year initiative to fund highly targeted prevention programs.

Out of more than 600 applicants, the Chatham Social Health Council was one of 25 chosen by the Pfizer Foundation. The Council was awarded a three-year \$50,000/year grant. Although African Americans account for just 23 percent of the population in North Carolina, they made up 72 percent of new AIDS cases reported between July of 2001 and June of 2002.

"The hub of our prevention work is in Siler City ..." said Holly Baddour, executive director of the Chatham Social Health Council in Pittsboro. It's also home to escalating rates of HIV/AIDS among African Americans and Latinos. "We've found that the best way to reach African Americans and Latinos is through fairly non-traditional approaches" including taking prevention messages and services to churches, barbershops and Latino grocery stores, said Baddour, who has found support from many in the religious community.

Since 2001, 46 percent of the estimated new HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S. have been reported in the South. While the southern region accounts for little more than one-third of the total population, it is where 40 percent of the people estimated to be living with the AIDS call home.

### Seven abandoned lab pups adopted

Joey Howell and Lisa Neal found seven abandoned lab puppies on a bitter cold January night on Pleasant Hill Church Road near their house. They managed to keep them warm for one night, but had no choice but to take them to the Chatham County Animal Shelter. The shelter said that after a week Animal Control could start euthanizing the puppies. Ms. Neal sent out an email, with photos of the puppies, telling of the plight and their urgent need for homes.

The Shelter has never seen anything



Despite snow and treacherous roads, adoptive families rushed to rescue seven lab pups from the animal shelter.

like it. They received 200 phone calls on the first day; more than 1000 calls before it was over with from all over the state. There was a waiting list for those seven pups. The Shelter adopted out at least another 20 pups due to overflow calls responding to that e-mail. No dogs were euthanized at all that week.

The snow and treacherous roads did not deter the new adoptive families from picking up their puppies from the shelter as soon as they were allowed; most of them right after that snow. The puppies, three girls and four boys, are now living in Raleigh (2), Holly Springs, Durham, Chapel Hill, Advance NC, and Apex.

## briefs

### Haw River Clean-Up-A-Thon

On Sat., March 13 at sites along the Haw River and creeks in Alamance, Orange and Chatham counties and Jordan Lake, volunteers will be cleaning up trash on foot and from canoes — before the trash becomes a danger to wildlife and water quality. This is the 14th year of the Clean-Up-A-Thon; tons of unsightly and polluting trash has been removed from the river.

An amazing assortment of things that are thrown away make their way into streams. We even have a "weird trash" contest each year to judge the strangest findings. Past entries included a blue plastic shark, a three-foot rubber chicken and an 1906 German grammar book.

Local businesses and friends of the volunteers donate money for the river clean-up to raise funds for the Haw River Assembly's work to protect the river year-round. These funds support the annual Haw River Festival for schoolchildren, the Haw River Watch volunteer water monitoring program and the Stream Steward project for communities.

To volunteer or for more information call the Haw River Assembly at 919.542.5790 or click on [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org)

### Workshop to teach about septic systems

A homeowner septic system workshop will be held on Tues., March 9 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Chatham County Agriculture Building in Pittsboro. Homeowners, prospective homeowners, realtors, builders and developers are urged to attend. Topics will include lot evaluation, septic system design considerations, when to pump, cleaning filters, landscaping over the drainfield, additives, greywater, signs of failure, permits and inspections required for repairs, management entities, reports and record-keeping, and cautions about septic system inspections for home buyers. New technologies including low-pressure pipe, drip, pretreatment and tire chips will be discussed.

The workshop is sponsored by the Chatham County Agricultural Extension Service. A registration fee of \$5 can be paid at the door; call 542-8202 to pre-register. For more details go to [www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/).

### Free help with income taxes

Orange County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is sponsoring VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), a free income tax preparation service in Orange and Chatham counties for low-to middle-income people of any age. Trained VITA volunteers can assist with preparing computerized standard federal and state forms. Free electronic filing provided.

Service is mainly by appointment only though some walk-in assistance will be provided at certain sites. Hospital and home visits can be arranged for the homebound or disabled. Contact 968-2070 (Chapel Hill and Carrboro sites), 245-2015 (Hillsborough), 542-4512 (Pittsboro and Siler City sites), and in Spanish 245-2010. For other information, visit [www.co.orange.nc.us](http://www.co.orange.nc.us).

### 4-H focuses on family programs

4-H knows how difficult it is to fit work, family, and home life into a demanding schedule. Often, parents spend time driving their children from one activity to another and miss out on time spent together. 4-H works to solve this problem by encouraging family involvement in 4-H. It's not just a youth organization, it's a family organization. 4-H provides children and their parents with over 200 projects and activities that are designed to help you learn and grow together. You and

your family can take part in 4-H by joining one of the clubs located throughout the county or forming a new club. 4-H clubs are young people having fun with friends and learning new skills. The club is led by adult helpers and meets once a month. For more information, call the Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development Program in Chatham County at 919-542-8202.

### N.C. taxpayers can vote for reform

This year, you as a taxpayer have a chance to support fair courts and fair elections — without it costing you anything. There's a new feature on the N.C. income-tax form that allows you to say "Yes" to the Public Campaign Financing Fund. The new "check-off" box on the tax form doesn't change the amount you owe or reduce your refund; but it shows support for a new program that is the first step for real "voter-owned elections" in North Carolina.

When you say "Yes," the N.C. Revenue Dept. will send \$3 to the Public Campaign Financing Fund. (If you use a tax consultant, be sure to tell them to mark "Yes" on the \$3 box for the Fund.) The Fund supports distribution of a nonpartisan Voter's Guide,

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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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# Development plans ignite Second Battle of Brooklyn

## New York Notes

by Timothy W. Stanley III

George Washington lost the first one, big time. The British Redcoats chased him and his Continental Army from the potato fields of Long Island, through Brooklyn and across the East River like a bouncer in front of Lizzie Gruber's SUV. George Washington meandered for a while thereafter through Manhattan, crossed many rivers and ultimately redeemed himself by winning the Battle of Trenton, New Jersey. The father of his country returned some years later to give his farewell address in Manhattan, but, as far as is known, never returned to Brooklyn.

The New Jersey Nets professional basketball franchise followed a similar path to its current home in the Meadowlands, but, despite two consecutive appearances in the NBA Finals, the team has never won an NBA Championship and loses tens of million of dollars each year. The franchise is said to be cursed for having once traded away its greatest star — Julius Erving, the Nets' version of the Bambino. Among the handful of subsequent Nets stars, one was killed in a car crash, another retired due to liver damage and a third, Jayson Williams, is now on trial for having killed his chauffeur with shotgun and then trying to disguise the mishap as a suicide.

It was no surprise, then, that the current owners of the Nets, having failed for years to dispel the curse by moving the team to a new arena in Newark (a dubious strategy in any case), put the franchise up for sale. What did surprise was the emergence of four legitimate bidders, at a price more than double what the current owners paid ten years earlier, with one of the leading bids coming in from the unlikely alliance of a real estate developer from Cleveland named Bruce Ratner and a top rapper named Jay Z. The biggest surprise of all was the plan of Ratner-Jay Z group to move the franchise to a new arena in Brooklyn. When, in January, the League announced its approval of the sale to Ratner and Jay Z, the stage was set for the Second Battle of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn fared much better during the industrial revolution than it did during the War of Independence. In the following hundred years, the rivers crossed so heroically by George Washington had become crisscrossed with bridges and tunnels, the Brooklyn Navy Yard began building the first of many great warships and, from Coney Island to Greenpoint, the area became America's third largest city and its premiere industrial enclave. In the 1890s, the first of the great treasons was foisted on Brooklyn: Consolidation into the City of New York. The second great treason was the move in 1957 of the beloved Brooklyn Dodgers to Los Angeles, an act of betrayal by the still-maligned Walter O'Malley that occurred in the context of suburbanization and industrial decline. By 1977



many parts of the Borough had literally been burned away, leaving only the truly steadfast and the immobile behind.

Why would a successful rapper and an equally successful real estate executive join forces to acquire a cursed and all but insolvent basketball franchise? The answer was unveiled in a gaudy ceremony in Brooklyn recently. The Brooklyn Nets' new arena is to be the centerpiece of a new mixed use real estate complex with four new office towers and 4500 apartments on 21 acres of land, 10 acres of which, containing scores of converted apartments and many thriving if untidy small businesses, needs to be condemned. Several hundred millions of public dollars are going to be required to pay for the infrastructure and land assemblage, but, like the cost of the war in Iraq, exact amounts cannot be determined at this time. The arena and real estate complex has been designed by Frank Gehry, the world's hottest architect whose signature use of curved titanium walls has made the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles icons of contemporary design. Unlike these other Gehry masterpieces, the Nets arena is also going to have a garden on the roof.

The Mayor, Governor, Borough President and a host of civic leaders all attended the unveiling and expressed their support for returning major league professional sports to Brooklyn. Marty Markowitz, the rotund if diminutive Borough President challenged former Nets star Bernard King — also in attendance and so far immune to the curse — to a game of one-on-one at the ceremony. A portable hoop was conveniently at hand. A series of fawning news articles quickly followed.

The tabloids fell in line, of course. *New York Magazine* quoted Ratner to say that the Nets deal would be the crowning achievement of his ambition to help bring about one of the country's great urban renaissances. *The New York Times* issued a special supplement about the Nets and the new arena complex — a journalistic device usually reserved for the end of wars and moonwalks — though the Grey Lady was always careful to note in glowing coverage that the same Bruce Ratner is coincidentally also the developer of the Times' new headquarters building in Manhattan. Even Andrew Zimbalist, the Smith College professor who is a much quoted naysayer about public financing for sports franchises, had kind things to say about the Brooklyn

arena.

So, is the battle over before it starts? Not according to Patti Hagan, a leader of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition and the face of the opposition. She claims that the 10 acres slated for condemnation are home to 864 people and 437 jobs. She adds that Brooklyn is already overdeveloped and challenges the politicians not to "push through a field of schemes in which the public pays for private profits. Don't mortgage what makes Brooklyn unique to subsidize a developer's hoop dreams." Hagan's antipathy toward the new Nets complex is shared by many of her neighbors.

The fact is, Brooklyn's renaissance has already taken place. The value of nearby brownstones has tripled in just five years. The bridges and tunnels that used to carry working class John

Travolta-clones into "the City" for a better lives now carry Manhattanites the other way. Well-heeled burghers have found that it is cheaper to rent apartments for their daughters on the East Side than in bohemian Williamsburg. The prospect of Kenyon Martin and Jason Kidd wielding silver shovels at a groundbreaking on Flatbush Avenue sends many local residents into convulsions. Class and race have replaced powder and flint as the weapons of choice in this new Battle of Brooklyn; the outcome is far from clear.

Like George Washington the first time around, the opponents have a clear strategy: fight, fall back, and delay. Every year that passes before the Brooklyn arena is built will cost Ratner and Jay Z tens of millions of dollars as the Nets continue to play in front of empty seats in New Jersey. With fortuitous turns in litigation, support from local Councilwoman Tish James, and reliance on the curse of the Nets, opponents hope the new owners will be forced to follow the old ones: sell the franchise and move it somewhere else. Next time, maybe to ... Chatham County.

*Timothy W. Stanley III is Manhattan correspondent for Chatham County Line.*



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## TENSIONS

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At the next Board meeting Commissioner Bob Atwater took a strong public stand against the intersection of the County's attorneys' version of the Ordinance, decrying the lack of openness and the attorneys' giving directions to the County's staff on what and when to post items to the County's web site. Commissioner Atwater has received strong support from many citizens, but has not yet convinced his fellow commissioners of the correctness of his position.

Meanwhile Newland Communities has been waiting adoption of the Ordinance before submitting a new proposal for its Briar Chapel Development of some 2200 to 2400 homes. If the process to adopt this Ordinance should continue to drag on endlessly, Newland could decide to submit a new proposal for Briar Chapel at any time. There is nothing legally stopping such an action.

In addition to the pressure on the Commissioners brought by the public rally, they are also facing a suit over their approval of Chatham Downs, the retail development featuring a Harris Teeter supermarket. The plaintiff appears to be contending that proper legal procedures were not followed in voting approval of the required conditional use permit.

Following a public hearing, The Homestead, a newly proposed residential development of some 475 high-priced homes on the western shore of Jordan Lake, is currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. The developers, Jordan Lake LLC, seek rezoning of their 577 acre tract from the current 1 home per 5 acres to 1 home per acre.

The developer claims that they will make a positive contribution to the county's income, with tax revenue exceeding the cost of services the county would provide by more than \$945,000 per year. Citizens have disputed the accuracy of this claim and have expressed concern over the potential pollution of the water in Jordan Lake. The Planning Board will give its recommendations to the Commissioners in March at which time the Commissioners will reach a decision on approval.

The quality of Jordan Lake's water takes on ever increasing importance as the Commissioners are moving ahead with plans to extend public water to all of Chatham. A vote is scheduled in



The Rev. Carrie Bolton talks about development concerns to the Chatham County Commissioners.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

July to establish three new water districts in the southern and western parts of the county which do not have access to public water.

In Fearington Village construction of Galloway Ridge, a Continuing Care Retirement Community of some 233 units and a Duke University Center for Living, is underway. Marketing Director Stan Finch, projects a completion date in the latter part of 2005.

Widening of US 15-501 from Chapel Hill to the north end of Pittsboro continues ever so slowly, having well exceeded its scheduled completion date of year-end 2003. When finished it will provide even more pressure for development in Pittsboro. The already approved Powell Place, consisting of about 1,000 living units plus commercial buildings on 148 acres at the intersection of US 64 and US 15-501, likely will break ground by mid-2004, according to Pittsboro's new Planning Director, David Monroe.

Pittsboro, which has reached the capacity of its water supply and sewer systems, is discussing a temporary moratorium on further development. Nevertheless, the national developer, Toll Brothers, has surfaced an informal proposal to create a residential community of some 2,000 homes plus a golf course. It would lie within Pittsboro's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction on land between US 64 and the Haw River east of town. Also, local landowner Ricky Spoon has proposed both retail and residential developments just across US 15-501 from Powell Place.



Demonstrators used theater to make a point at the Jan. 20 Commissioners' meeting.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

## CARRBORO

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or 9:30 a.m. until dusk, don't go outside if you don't have to. And exercise can be hazardous to your health.

There is much more ambient noise – traffic, sirens, car stereos. There is also more light pollution. The stars in Carrboro used to fill the sky and glisten brilliantly; now on a clear night you can still see a some, but fewer and dimmer.

Everything is a lot more expensive. Housing costs more, goods and services cost more.

Carrboro morphed from a small town into an expensive suburb. And Carrboro did this after adopting the most forward-looking "Smart Growth" planning regulations that they could write. "In-fill" development, to protect farmland from sprawl and water-

sheds from run-off, has made Carrboro one of the most densely-populated towns in North Carolina.

All that notwithstanding, nobody likes development when it's too close to home. Many years ago I signed a petition against Bel Arbor, a development off Hillsborough Street. The petition said storm run-

**Carrboro morphed from a small town to an expensive suburb. And Carrboro did this after adopting the most forward-looking "Smart Growth" planning regulations they could write.**

off from the 30 or so planned houses would flood our backyards. The developers promised it wouldn't be a problem, and they said that Bel Arbor was a moderately price development, with houses costing \$125,000, which is just what Carrboro needed.

The developers were right about the run-off; it has never been a problem. But as the development went up, the prices did too. After they had been built, the houses started selling for \$179,000. They all seemed to get snapped up like hot cakes; now I imagine they go for a quarter-mil or so.

Tough luck for the moderate-income would-be home buyer they were supposed to be built for. And that's really the rub with development. Carrboro has gotten pricey, too pricey for moderate-income families, including teachers, police officers, and those engaged in creative endeavors. Exactly who you want for neighbors. Exactly who were my neighbors 20 years ago, who made Carrboro such a pleasant place to live.

*Julian Sereno is editor and publisher of Chatham County Line.*

# Working for a better future for Chatham

By Mary Bastin

As Chatham County's largest grass roots organization, Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities is active in communicating with citizens and citizens groups that are interested in the future of the county. Since it was founded early in 2003, the group has been attending meetings of the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners as the Compact Community Ordinance has been developed. In that process, citizens have found that there are many issues in the county that are crying out to be addressed.

Geographically, Chatham is one of the largest counties in North Carolina. Historically, citizens have always disagreed over the needs of one part of the county vs. another. In getting to know long-time residents throughout Chatham, we of CCEC have discovered that there are many issues that impact all of us that are common ground where we can all work together. One of the most compelling of these is economic development. We have to find a way to provide good paying jobs in the county so that we are not a community of people commuting to the Triangle.

How do we do this? There are many ways and we can certainly learn from other counties in North Carolina what works. Some of the options are: encouraging small, privately-owned new business development and providing infrastructure in more

**It is a new day in Chatham County.  
The public outcry is just getting started. We are going to persist until we see our vision become reality.**

areas for clean industry. Working with the community college and schools to train people for new jobs is another part of that picture.

Citizens are beginning to see that residential development, in itself, does not provide the kind of growth we need. The cost of providing county infrastructure and services to huge new housing developments drains, does not add to, economic well-being. We want to take a hard look at planning for growth so that our schools can focus on improving the system we have now and not just get overwhelmed by rapid expansion.

Another issue that all the people in the county can be concerned about is protecting the water in Jordan Lake, the source of much our drinking water.

One of the greatest strengths Chatham County has that will ensure a better future for its residents is the number of young couples who live here. They are people who have wanted to stay to con-

tinue their family's history here, or they have moved here because they do not want their children to grow up in densely populated areas where gated communities and consumer-driven values are the norm. These parents are passionate about better schools, protecting the environment and building a future we can all be proud of.

CCEC is an organization that listens to the citizens of the county and is working to give people a voice to convey their various concerns. Certainly one of the most glaring needs is to engage elected officials and the staff of county government in dialogue with the people who live here. Past and present Commissioners and staff are conducting our affairs "like they always have." And it's possible they have no intention to change their ways, since they think the present public outcry will die down after a while "like it always has."

CCEC has news. It is a new day in Chatham County. The public outcry is just getting started. We are going to persist until we see our vision become reality. We will prove that our Land Use Plan of 1995 was prophetic: We are people who are determined "to control our destiny."

*Mary Bastin is Chair of Chatham Citizens For Effective Communities. More information is available at the CCEC website at [www.chathamcitizens.org](http://www.chathamcitizens.org)*

## Carolina Meadows sponsors Driving Assessment Program



By Des Reilly

Carolina Meadows is offering a test to assess the driving skills of its residents. The test is called the Driving Assessment Program – DAP for short.

It is given by a professional occupational therapist from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and takes about 45 minutes and costs \$50 per participant. DAP is designed to assess and improve a resident's driving skills so as to lengthen the time one can safely drive and help one make a sound determination as to when to give up one's car keys. After each test the driver is sent a letter that gives test results and detailed recommendations for follow up if indicated.

The Meadows Assistance Program (MAP) is a major campus activity manned entirely by residents. As many as 50 residents volunteer to provide transportation assistance outside of regular office hours and on holidays and weekends to take neighbors to visit friends in hospital, go to medical or other appointments, pick up visitors from RDU Airport, and the like.

As a first step in evaluating DAP, eight volunteers from MAP were

screened by the UNC professional staff. The results seemed worthwhile and it was decided to extend the testing to all the MAP volunteers. Because MAP drivers and driver-escorts provide free service to all of the community it was decided that the cost of the DAP screening would be shared by Carolina Meadows, Inc. and the Residents Association.

Because of the success of the program to date, DAP screening will be made available to all Carolina Meadows who drive. It is also hoped by Carolina Meadows and the UNC Division of Occupational Science that the DAP will find many broader applications.

The test came about from the efforts of a task force chaired by Bobbie Gray, Director of Carolina Meadows Health Services, with representation from our Health Care staff, the CM Board of Directors, The University of North Carolina Division of Occupational Science and MAP.

*Des Reilly is a retired advertising manager, marketing professor and freelance writer. He and his wife Dot have been Chatham County residents since 1986.*

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# Prosperity came to Pittsboro on the train

Standing at the traffic circle in Pittsboro, waiting for a break in the constant flow of vehicles so I could get to the Chatham County Historical Association's museum in the court house, it was hard to imagine how the town appeared before 1925. That was when Hillsboro Street became the first town street to be paved. John Haughton London, writing in *Since Then, A Short Illustrated History of Pittsboro, North Carolina*, said "...all roads were clay and it was almost impossible to make it in the mud." As late as 1920, when the town borrowed \$1,000 from the Bank of Pittsboro to improve Salisbury Street, it meant grading, not hard surfacing.

The poor condition of roads in Chatham had Pittsboro functioning as an almost self-reliant country village for a good part of the nineteenth century. Any freight coming from Wilmington on the coast, traveled by boat up the Cape Fear River to Fayetteville, and then had to be carted 70 miles or so to Pittsboro, when the roads were passable.

In 1850 the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company was formed in the hope of bringing steamboats 100 miles upstream from Fayetteville. By 1856 some 19 dams and 22 locks had been built, but the seasonal floods, which had long played havoc with the water-powered mills in the Piedmont did the same with the company's locks and dams. In 1853 the Western Railroad was chartered and extended a line to Egypt (now Cumnock) to service the area's coal and iron mines. It was completed in 1862, with its terminal only about 12 miles from Pittsboro. Still, all merchandise had to be carted from there to Pittsboro over sometimes impassable roads.

The economic health of Pittsboro was given a major boost in 1885 with the formation of the Pittsboro Railroad Company to build a branch line connecting the town with the main line of the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad at Moncure. Township bonds furnished \$10,000 in start-up capital and local citizens invested another \$5,000. Prison labor was hired from the State Penitentiary for roadbed construction. Work started on November 16, 1885 and by 11 months later grading was almost complete and appreciative local citizens gave a dinner for the convicts who labored so hard on the roadbed. The first passenger train reached Pittsboro on December 20, 1886. The route was about 10-1/2 miles long. The official celebration of the railroad's completion was not held until the following May, perhaps because the winter weather's effect on the roads would have

made travel to the festivities from the surrounding countryside almost impossible.

What a celebration it was! A train of 10 cars came from Raleigh, through Moncure and down the new branch to Pittsboro. Crowds had gathered at the depot two hours before the train was scheduled to arrive. People were backed up into all the surrounding streets, their numbers estimated at between 2000 and 4000. The celebration was held at Kelvin Grove on West Salisbury Street, on a hill covered with ancient oak trees.

The porch of the residence was used as a stand for the speakers and honored guests. Three brass bands from Durham, Raleigh, and Siler City entertained the crowd, and drills were performed by the Durham Light Infantry and the Governor's Guard of Raleigh. There were many speeches: a welcome by Henry A. London, President of the Pittsboro Railroad, followed by a response from Major R. S. Tucker, a director of the Raleigh & Augusta Air Line Railroad. Other speakers included the President of the Directors of the North Carolina State Penitentiary

(whose laborers were used), and a Captain C. B. Denson, Headmaster of the Pittsboro Scientific Academy, who presented Henry London with a gold headed cane.

Following the ceremony a meal was served to 2,500 people and a grand ball was held in the railroad's warehouse. The huge crowds at this event were apparently orderly and well-behaved, prompting an out-of-town visitor to write to Henry A. London "...I am persuaded that Pittsboro deserves her reputation for refined hospitality. The State is far richer for having brought such clever, nice people closer to the balance of mankind."

Only four other events in Pittsboro's history attracted similar large crowds: The March 1890 hanging of James P. Davis (alias Shackelford) for the axe murder of John D. Horton, the August 1907 unveiling of the Confederate monument at the court house, in September 1922 when electricity came to town, and in December 1938 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited briefly.

The arrival of the railroad opened a period of prosperity and building in Pittsboro. A notable example is the arrival of Bennet Nooe, Jr., a Lexington manufacturer of shuttle blocks for the textile trade.

Hearing about the railroad, he traveled 80 miles by horse and buggy to inspect Pittsboro. He promptly noted the abundance of dogwood and persimmon trees as raw material for his shuttle blocks and bought land just north of the railroad terminal, where he established the Pittsboro Shuttle Mill. He soon expanded to a sawmill, planing mill, and brick manufacturing. Subsequently he became a wholesaler of manufactured lumber and an important builder of homes throughout the Pittsboro area. In the mid-twentieth century the very roads that encouraged the formation of the Pittsboro Railroad had become hard-surfaced and part of an expanding network, which presented serious competition to the trains. The flexibility of moving freight door to door by truck and passengers by Trailways bus were tough to match.

Finally, in the mid 1980's the branch line to Pittsboro, which had been taken over by the Seaboard Railroad, discontinued operations. The tracks which had once crossed East Street, ending near Salisbury Street, have been torn up. Pittsboro's citizens no longer hear train whistles or the clickity-clack of wheels passing over rail joints. Now the only reminders of the rail line which once gave an important economic boost to the town are some rusty rails lying in the grass near Salisbury Street.

*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.*

## Chatham's Historical Heritage

by Fred J. Vatter



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# Chiosso passionate about protecting the Haw

By Judy Hogan

How does Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director of the Haw River Assembly (HRA), advise us to take care of the Haw River and Jordan Lake? "Let the river be itself." What does she believe the HRA can do? "Be a voice for the river."

How does the river being itself enrich our lives? Elaine says that a healthy river provides not only drinking water and a place for recreation (swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing), but it gives us beautiful places to walk, sit, explore, to restore our spirits. What child does not love to play in a creek, hunt minnows and crayfish, examine rocks, and generally mess about? Who has not felt her problems grow smaller after gazing at the broad, solemn, serene expanse of Jordan Lake?

Growing up in Daly City, Calif., a suburb of San Francisco, Elaine watched as agricultural land, where artichokes and pigs had been raised, was bought by developers who then crowded many houses together on small lots right up to the edge of the cliffs along the Pacific. Not surprisingly, a few slid down the cliffs. Remember that song, "Little Boxes"? That was written about Elaine's hometown. She watched sadly as hill-sides and creeks were paved over. In high school an astute Civics teacher assigned Elaine's class the project of discovering the forces behind the scenes of what the developers were doing and why the commissioners were allowing it. "It was quite an eye opener," she says. "The developers had made huge contributions to their election campaigns."

Elaine came to Chatham in 1972. Since 1975 she has lived in Hadley Township near the Haw River. She joined the Haw River Assembly in 1982, served on its board 1985-87, was President in 1995-6, became its first Executive Director in 1998. She's proud of HRA's many accomplishments. The Haw River Festival (now in its 15th year), which brings fourth graders to various sites along the Haw to learn about the river and its life, has reached 27,000 children since 1990. Recently the State bought the land Duke University owned in Chatham to create a Haw River State Natural Area. A new Haw River State Park north of Greensboro has also just been approved, making an "anchor" at each end of the Haw. Besides the Festival, HRA's 500 volunteers take part in River Watch stream monitoring (50 teams) and the annual March clean up along the Haw. Other volunteers work on conservation and Stream Steward projects.

Even with all the good news, Elaine is very worried about development, especially here in Chatham. Development is the greatest threat to a large watershed like the Haw's, which has 500,000 people living on the land it drains. The Haw, already impaired, can be further damaged through the massive amount of earth moving that occurs during such large-

scale construction "with nobody watching." Neither the county nor the state has the staff to enforce the Clean Water Act rules and make sure that there is no sediment erosion. The soil and pollutants that run off into streams after a rain are harmful to the whole ecological system that sustains a river and ourselves.

In Chatham we have large, new residential developments, and more are proposed, such as the Homestead at Jordan Lake, which use lagoons and sprayfields to handle wastewater. She says this is a very questionable practice for land with streams that run into a drinking water supply reservoir like Jordan Lake, especially since the lake is already impaired by too much algae growth as a result of pollution.

Elaine believes that the land Newland bought for the Briar Chapel development is unsuitable for the density of homes planned. It's a stream-rich area that includes the headwaters of Pokeberry and Wilkerson Creeks. All the streams must be adequately buffered, including the ephemeral streams, which come alive only during heavy rains. Storm water and the pollutants it carries from such a highly developed site would damage these creeks and the Haw River and Jordan Lake into which they flow.

What keeps Elaine going? She says she just can't stand by and see injustice being done to people or to their river. The passion of other people — from all walks of life — to take care of the Haw keep up her morale. She loves being in contact with the many wonderful minds of Chatham residents. Watching the eagles and ospreys at Jordan Lake build their nests each spring, the herons fishing in the river, the beautiful wildflowers along the creeks, and hearing the sound of water flowing over rocks on its journey to the sea are what keep



Elaine Chiosso finds inspiration on the shores of the Haw.

© PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

her renewed.

Elaine's advice to others? "Raise your voices. Be witnesses. Keep the pressure on those making decisions. Every voice counts." And, of course, you can join the HRA for \$15, \$25 for families, and be a volunteer. Website: [www.hawriver.org](http://www.hawriver.org). Email:

[hra@emji.net](mailto:hra@emji.net) PO Box 187, Bynum, NC, 27228. 919.542.5790

Judy Hogan is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line, a writer, poet, and teacher of writers. She loves to sit beside the Haw or one of its creeks and write poems.



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## Coeur-osophie

Wed. Jan 7, 2004. Evening comes early this time of year, especially on a cloudy day like this one. As I look up from my writing, realizing it's time for our twilight walk, I see a red glow in the west. I backup, bundle up and head out, dog in the lead. I stop just outside to look again. The red is a splotch at the bottom of the sky, deeper than I've ever seen before in a sunset, spreading, deeper and darker, like a pool of blood beneath an accident victim.



*Rocky River Tales*  
by Maggie Wilson

Yes, exactly, like the blood of an accident victim. Though I stay out of the current events loop as much as I can, news still gets to me — sooner or later. I didn't hear about the earthquake in Iran until a week or so after it happened — first that 25,000 people had died, then 35,000.

I thought of the San Francisco quake in the '80s, so devastating to that city where casualties numbered in the hundreds, trying to get my mind around 35,000 people living closely together and dying together, suddenly. I couldn't. I can't. Get my mind around this. My heart tries to understand, too, and can't.

What can it mean — to us, to the world — that 35,000 souls abruptly left their bodies and the world in a mass exodus? We know we feel effects from volcanoes from the other side of the world, their ashes staining our sunsets for weeks. Surely, the deaths of that many people would create a stain on the fabric of our universe.

A whole town. A whole community. Whole families, gone, wiped out, lines ended — forever, instantly, or nearly so.

Thirty-five thousand individuals with hopes and dreams, personalities, smiles, frowns, lovers, children, moms and dads, sisters, brothers. Put faces on 35,000 people and think of them suddenly gone. That's about two-thirds of the population of Chatham County.

Have I even known 35,000 people in my life? That would be about 670 a year, almost two a day, from the day I was born.

No, my mind can't grasp it, and my heart hurts to ponder it, grieves — and not just the people, but all the beings that died that day, all the creatures who share the space with humans — dogs, cats, rats, mice, birds, snakes, lizards, toads, turtles, bugs, spiders. Gone. All gone.

So.

Development.

No, our development is not like that was, surely, but are there similarities? I look at new houses packed side by side in tiny treeless yards and my heart cries. No windows on the sides of those houses because it's cheaper that way and besides the neighbors are so close.

No porches because we all have air conditioning and no one goes out at night because it's not safe. People scurry from house to car to office to school to store, even drive somewhere else to exercise. No contact with the earth, with Nature.

That's not living to me.

Death by development.

No, we can't all live in the middle of ten acres of woods, but there are better ways to build than mowing down all the trees, paving the lots and snapping together pre-fab plastic boxes like the ones on my brother's model train layout. And yes, I know, they're not all bad, and the thousands of people who

live in them have faces, hopes and dreams, smiles, frowns, moms and dads. But any time we mass produce things, we take away the specialness, the connection to earth, to soul. We hurt ourselves, we hurt the earth's soul, we leave out something, some things, vital things, and we die a little bit.

What is a better way?

Well, we've had a go at letting logic rule and from where I stand, it looks like that's not working out so well. I believe that now, before we do anything, we need to sit down and have a discussion with our hearts. Bring all our parts to the table: mind, body, soul and spirit, and let everyone have their say. Honor the past, the present and the future—at least seven generations' worth.

I made up a word for this way: coeur-osophie. Coeur = heart, sophie = wisdom: wisdom of the heart. It's not easy, I know often coming from different directions to do, or we may soon die more than a little bit.

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

## The Pie Lady's Sign

By Khalil Abdullah

I visited Maine in 1967 during the summer before graduating high school. I shared the adventure with a group of hardy young landlubbers, all participants in Outward Bound, that boot camp for would-be sailors on Hurricane Island. I loved it, though being on a 12-man whale boat off the Atlantic coast at night — even in the summer — was about the coldest I've ever been. Nevertheless, I convinced two of my teenaged daughters that, since we had driven through the South to Texas the summer before, we should kick it north up Interstate 95 and spend the pre-Labor Day weekend in relative solitude on the gorgeous coastline around Bar Harbor, Maine.

The journey was memorable. We scraped together enough dollars to rent some rooms on the far outskirts of town and to ship out on a whale-watching tour. We took hikes and daredevil risks on the cliff faces near Cadillac Mountain, the first point the sun's morning rays touch the continental United States.

My wife loved the way the trees grew all the way to the edge of the water, their roots sometimes visibly splaying and gripping soil and granite alike. The stark imagery was reminiscent of her childhood summers along the coasts of Lake Michigan, the kindler, gentler version of an ocean for Midwesterners. Following a small busload of tourists discovering Maine, we encountered a glistening mountain lake left behind by a careless glacier of a bygone era.

We delighted in the abundance of blueberries and impromptu roadside lobster diners. In some states, you pull off the road for the local hotdog stand. In Maine, you do lobsters. They were once so plentiful they were fed to prison inmates daily. Over-harvesting depleted the population, but that summer the crustacean was on the rebound and the price was right.

Under graying skies, we saw cranes and egrets in the estuaries and, driving back to the motel, spotted the wooden cut-out of a woman with a bonnet and apron. It was a brightly painted sign that advertised freshly baked pies. The sign read: "The Pie Lady."

"I want to go see 'The Pie Lady,'" my older daughter said. No surprise there. She had worked in a French bakery while attending high school, bringing home the day-old bounty from a shop that prided itself on just-out-of-the-oven fare.

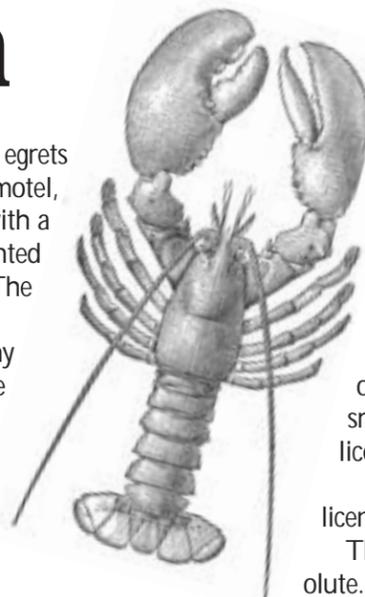
"Let's wait until the morning we leave," I said.

Soon enough, we were spending our last night in Maine. My youngest daughter was going to miss the marine life; my wife was already nostalgic about departing the seacoast. We were up early the next day, planning to be home by evening, sleeping in our own beds. But that last morning, the child who is most difficult to rouse from overnight hibernation was the first one dressed and packed. "Dad, you promised to take me to see 'The Pie Lady.'"

At 7:30 a.m. the sound of our tires pulling onto the crunching gravel surrounding "The Pie Lady" sign was auditory mayhem. We tiptoed out and hesitated. The front porch of the house was set back about 20 yards from the road. "Do you really think anyone's awake in there this early?" I whispered. We half-turned, ready to clamber back into the vehicle.

"Why don't you folks come in?" a clear lilting voice asked. Hadn't we disturbed the household? To the contrary, it was she, "The Pie Lady!" She was waving us in!

Her accent suggested Northern European descent, and even her hearty smile and robust manner couldn't conceal her years. The Pie Lady had to be in her mid-



seventies. In her modest home, the kitchen was throwing off factory production-level heat. Her dining room table was covered with an assortment of blueberry and apple pies, cookies, and pastries. A price list was laid out next to them. On the wall, in a small, neat frame, was a business license.

"Do you really have to have a license to sell pies?" I asked.

The Pie Lady was cheerful yet resolute. "My children lived in Texas. They worked for Enron. I am so angry," she said, "that my children have lost their savings. They were locked into their company's stock plan. Some of that money was to take care of me and my husband in retirement. I'm in business, and the state says I must have a license. I don't have a problem with that. It's just that I've enjoyed baking and selling pies for some years, but now I feel I have to."

We purchased half a dozen pastries, and not out of any sense of obligation. We knew from the aroma alone that we had found "the bomb" pies, though my children told me even then that "the bomb" was a passé descriptor. One of those pies might make it all the way back home, but probably not.

My daughter got to meet the person behind "The Pie Lady" sign and to sample the work of a competitor in the northeastern-most part of our country. We all got a mental snapshot of a different sign, a sign of the times for many Americans: "I've enjoyed — [insert occupation here] — for some years, but now I feel I have to."

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

## Briefs

Every Wednesday at 10:30am — **Pre-School Storytime** at McIntyre's Fine Books & Bookends. (919) 542-3030.

Music at the Market – Fri., March 5, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Harmony Keeney and Mark Wells**, a duo of jazz vocalist and keyboardist, entertain with the songs of Gershwin, Rogers & Hart, Cole Porter and many others. (919) 542-5505.



McIntyre's – Sat., March 6, 11 a.m. **The Independent Bookstores of North Carolina** invite you to a program to benefit The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of North Carolina, in memory of Joshua Field Seay. Please come to a reading by Virginia Holman of her memoir, *Rescuing Patty Hearst*. This event will be hosted by novelist, Kaye Gibbons and is sponsored by McIntyre's Fine Books, Branch's Chapel Hill Bookshop, Country Bookshop of Southern Pines, Quail Ridge Books & Music of Raleigh and Durham's Regulator Bookshop.

McIntyre's – Sun., March 7 2 p.m. **Jeanne McDonald** will read from her novel, *Water Dreams*. (919) 542-3030.

Music at the Market — Fri., March 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Saludos Compay** will bring their jazz-laced Latin rhythms to the Market Café once again by very popular demand. The infectious Latin beat brings everyone to their feet. Singer/songwriter Pablo Valencia will sing original songs as well as time-honored favorites from all over Cuba, and Central and South America. Intricately woven rhythms will be supplied by percussionist Chuck Nolan. Keyboardist Erich Lieth will add inventive improvisations. (919) 542-5505.



McIntyre's – Sat., March 13, 11 a.m. Mystery author **Charles Benoit** who will be reading from his debut novel, *Relative Danger*.

McIntyre's – Sun., March 14, 2 p.m. Author **M. Johnson Hopkins** will read from *I, Amanda*. 919-542-3030.

**Ferrington Grocery Co. Wine Tastings** – Wed., March 17, 5:30 p.m. Coffee Cupping with Dan. Reservations are \$15 per person and can be made by calling 919-545-5717. Limited space is available.

Music at the Market – Fri., March 19, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Join **Bob Vasile** for Traditional Celtic music from the British Isles. (919) 542-5505.

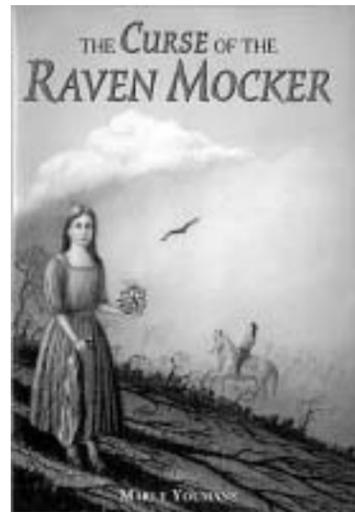
McIntyre's – Sat., March 20, 11 a.m. **Judith Healey** will discuss her historical novel, *The Canterbury Papers*. (919) 542-3030.

McIntyre's – Sun., March 21, 1 p.m. McIntyre's and The Potting Shed are pleased to present a slide presentation and lecture by master gardener **Barbara Sullivan**, author of *Garden Perennials for the Coastal South* (UNC Press). Ken Moore, former Assistant Director for the N.C. Botanical Gardens, has said that it's a perfect book for this region. Recently the Triangle area garden zone was reclassified as Zone 8. Please join us in the barn for this special event. (919) 542-3030.

**Cooking School at The Ferrington House** – Sun., March 21. Savor the Flavors of Spring with a Cooking Class lead by Ferrington House Chef de Cuisine Graham Fox. Students will work directly with Chef Fox to create a sumptuous five-course spring menu that will include Asparagus with Parmesan and Hollandaise; Seared Scallops with Cauliflower Puree, English Peas and Mint Oil; Pomme Anna; Braised Lamb Shank; and Rhubarb and Egg

Custard Tart. 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 cooking retreats at Ferrington includes overnight accommodation, afternoon English tea, wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, dinner at The Ferrington House Restaurant, full gourmet breakfast, all handouts, and cooking instruction with the Ferrington House chefs. The rates for the cooking package, depending on the choice of accommodations, range from \$415 – \$625 plus tax. Call 919-542-2121 or e-mail [fhouse@ferrington.com](mailto:fhouse@ferrington.com) for further information and reservations.



McIntyre's – Sun., March 21, 2 p.m. **Marly Youmans** will read from her new young adult novel *The Curse of the Raven Mocker*. 919-542-3030.

Music at the Market – Fri., March 26, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Dave Youngman**, who will perform Jazz and blues standards. (919) 542-5505.

McIntyre's — Sat., March 27, 11 a.m. Local author **Joanna Scott** will join us to read from her new novel, *Cassandra Lost*. (919) 542-3030.

McIntyre's – Sun., March 28, 2 p.m. Acclaimed mystery author **Cara Black** will read from her new book *Murder in the Bastille*. 919-542-3030.

**Wine Tasting at the Ferrington Grocery Co** – Wed., March 31, 5:30 p.m. Italian Wine Tasting featuring six different wines and a selection of hors d'oeuvres. Reservations are \$15 per person and can be made by calling 919-545-5717. Limited space is available.

McIntyre's – Thurs., April, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Open Mike Night. (919) 542-3030.

Music at the Market – Fri., April 2, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Harmony Keeney and Mark Wells**, a duo of jazz vocalist and keyboardist, entertain with the songs of Gershwin, Rogers & Hart, Cole Porter and many others. (919) 542-5505.

**Fifth Annual Art in the Garden Show** – Sat., April 3 to Sat., April 24. The Art Show will run from April 3rd through April 25th in the Ferrington Gardens and will feature exterior art for the garden. 919-542-4000.

**Growing Crazy in Chatham County Garden Symposium** – Sat., April 3, 9 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. The Chatham County Growers Association, Cooperative Extension, and Ferrington Gardens are hosting a day of horticultural lectures, plant sales, and a silent auction with exciting new plants at the Ferrington Village Barn. Speakers include Michael Dirr, Bob Lyons, Todd Lasseigne, Lee Calhoun, and Jim Massey. The event is free and open to the public. (919) 542-1239.

McIntyre's – Sun., April 4, 2 p.m. Author **Lynn York** will read from her first novel, *The Piano Teacher*

McIntyre's – Sat., April 10, 11 a.m. Author **Caroline Kettlewell** will talk about her book *Electric Dreams: How a Group of Forgotten High School Kids Built the Car of the Future*. *Electric Dreams* is a true story of how a group of underprivileged kids, in NASCAR country North Carolina, won the first contest ever to build an electric car. (919) 542-3030.

McIntyre's – Thurs., April 15, 7 p.m. Author **Kaye Gibbons** will be reading and signing her new book *Divining Women*. 919-542-3030.

Music at the Market – Fri., April 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **Susan Reeves and Dana Chell**: Dynamic, classy, and bluesy. Susan Reeves brings a Blue Jazz flavor to standards and lesser-known gems with the intimate sound of guitarist Dana Chell. (919) 542-1145.

McIntyre's – Sat., April 24, 11 a.m. Local author **John Dalton** will read from his debut novel *Heaven Lake*. 919-542-3030.

McIntyre's – Sun., April 25, 2 p.m. North Carolina author **Penelope Niven** will be read from her new book *Swimming Lessons*.



Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand

by Marjorie Hudson

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## The Food of My Family; the Grace of Community

By Gary Phillips

For Gita and Ed

In January

Pull up miraculous turnips  
from your father's garden  
And clean them under the  
cold faucet by the barn.  
Eat one then, like an apple,  
before you come inside.  
Notice

The thick white-and-purple  
outer skin at the bulb  
head,

A sensuous mantle of tough  
flesh above the ground,

Hardening to sun and frost for the sake of its bittersweet  
Continuance. This would be a good time to pray, at that moment.  
Now take red onions from their redolent storage in the barn  
And last fall's remains of good hard apples, and all the old cheeses  
You have saved:

Come into the house, confidently,

To a warm aromatic kitchen and the reach of regard.

The turnips you slice fat and boil quickly, then  
Spread like leaves on the bottom of a large casserole.

Onions are next, many, sautéed in a rich butter and  
Then turned into the baking pan, hot.

Take the raw apples, peeled and sliced: eat some slowly, then

Fill the casserole almost to the top,

And cover with the scraps of cheese.

All these now bless and then put into an oven

At some temperature you like until

The cheese begins to talk.

If it is Martin Luther King weekend, as every weekend is, you

Might find a patchwork table of people to celebrate with,

Offering a taste of earth and sky for gifting.



Gary Phillips is an entrepreneur, pastor and former chair of the Chatham County Commissioners.

## There's a storm out in the ocean, and it's headed this way

By the Rev.  
Bertha Thomas



I was born and reared in south-eastern Chatham County, in Moncure, located in the fork made by the Deep and Haw Rivers and on the main line of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad. The town was named for a civil engineer. Moncure was established in 1871 when the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad obtained land for a depot switching yard. The older towns, Haywood and Lockville, were on the southeast and northwest of Moncure, respectively.

By the early 1900s the Cape Fear generating plant of Carolina Power and Light had located on the Cape Fear, just below where the Haw and the Deep come together to form its headwaters. By the 1960s many other chemical, brick, and wood product industries had located in Moncure along the rivers.

I was born here 81-1/2 years ago, the daughter of a slave's daughter, on the Taylor place located on what is now the Moncure-Pittsboro Road. It was a very large plantation, a fruitful land. As a young girl I lived in the original Taylor house of my grandmother's slave master. I was a child companion for one of the junior slave masters' wives. She was afraid to stay by herself. I slept on a mattress on the floor of her bedroom. The Taylor's had a cook, housekeeper, butler, and handyman to do their work. I had an aunt named Carrie, who had been raised in the Taylor home, who came to do personal care for Mrs. Taylor. A friend of Mrs. Taylor, who lived in Moncure, where Jones Street is now, Mrs. Pearl Hackney, had a daughter whose clothes she remade for me, coats with hats to match, dresses — whatever I needed.

On the Taylor place grew apples, peaches, plums, grapes, berries, nuts — you name it; we had it. There

were plenty of cakes, pies, milk, fruit, nuts, ham. I am proud of my beginnings, and I cherish these memories. It reminds me of Bible stories in which God chose certain people to be cared for in a special way, as Moses was, after he'd been placed on the water in a small basket made to float so as to be taken by the King's daughter and protected until he had become the person God had created him to be.

**I have been blessed to  
live in many places ...  
but I always come back  
to Moncure. The storm  
that is headed our way,  
as developers crowd into  
our county, could change  
Moncure into another  
place.**

I have been blessed to live in many places: Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Texas, California, South Carolina, Oklahoma, but I always come back to Moncure. The storm that is headed our way, as developers crowd into our county, could change Moncure into another place. Will you who were born here, matured here, will you cherish your heritage and race? Are you prepared to ride out the storm and still hold onto your own values? No one knows the depth or strength of the storm, but we must prepare for change. We did it before, and we can do it again and survive. Let us look beyond despair and cherish our love and the heritage left us by the soldiers who have gone before. Remember, the slave town of Moncure is rich within herself.

*The Rev. Bertha Thomas is Assistant Pastor at the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Moncure. For many years she worked with the elderly in Chatham as the Council on Aging's Friendly Visitor.*

## BRIEFS

continued from page 2.

prepared by the State Board of Elections, that helps you cast an informed vote in statewide judicial elections (NC Supreme Court and Court of Appeals), and gives those judicial candidates a new way to finance their campaigns, so they don't rely on the lawyers and litigants who appear in their courts!

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## Seeking stories, photos of Clyde Jones

Got a story about Bynum artist Clyde Jones that you cherish? How about a photograph? Here is your

chance to share it with the world. Karen Shelton, a long time Bynum resident, is working with artist Clyde Jones, also of Bynum, to produce a book about his life. Clyde is much loved for his wood critters, his paintings and his wonderful way with teaching children about art. A portion of the book will be comprised of photographs and anecdotes shared by friends of Clyde. If you have a story about Clyde or a photograph of him that you would like to be considered for the book, please call Karen Shelton at her Carrboro art gallery Sizl at 960-0098 or email her at [sizlgallery@earthlink.net](mailto:sizlgallery@earthlink.net). The deadline for contributions is May 31.

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

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## Talk to your kids about money before they hear it from someone else

By Maureen Dolan Rosen

Admit it. You're a grown person, happy with all or most aspects of your life, successful, well-adjusted. You consider yourself to be possessed of good, effective communication skills, and you know how to talk comfortably to just about anybody about anything. But you can't talk to your kids about money. Talking to our kids about money is about as appealing to some parents as having a root canal on a wisdom tooth. But the more we convey concepts of fiscal responsibility to our kids, and the more we instill good financial habits early in their lives, the more likely they'll be to turn into financially responsible adults.

And lest you think it's just your kids, or someone else's kids who are clueless about money, check out these statistics:

■ Between 1990 and 1999, there was a 51 percent increase in annual bankruptcy filings by adults aged 25 years and younger (National Endowment for

### Neighbor to Neighbor

Financial Education; [www.nefe.org](http://www.nefe.org)).

■ The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy conducted a survey in 2002 of high school seniors, to assess their financial knowledge. The average score was 50.2 percent: a failing grade. ([www.jumpstartcoalition.org](http://www.jumpstartcoalition.org))

■ And between 1990 and 2000, the rate of personal bankruptcy in the US rose by 6 percent, with more current figures showing recent increases as well.

Parents must take the time to convey some basic elements of financial management at home: our kids are not simply going to intuit these principles on their own. Here are a few tips on teaching your kids about money:

1. Don't be scared to talk about money with kids.
2. Be honest about your own money mistakes, and figure out a way to let your kids learn from what you did (or didn't) do.

3. Get your kids on some sort of regular, written habit of money management.
4. Be a good role model.
5. Encourage your kids to save at least a portion of any money they get.
6. Don't dictate: present options.
7. Allow your kids to make their own mistakes.
8. Discuss, discuss, discuss.
9. Don't give your kids credit cards.
10. Be honest, be accurate, be kind.

Helping your kids develop a basic understanding of their finances is the best gift you can give them, and one that will help them throughout their whole lives.

*Maureen Rosen is the publisher of KIDSCASH, and conducts free workshops on kids and money in the Triangle. KIDSCASH is available at UNC Bullshhead Bookstore and Salutations in Meadowmont. Maureen can be reached through her website [www.kidscashmanagement.com](http://www.kidscashmanagement.com).*

## Chinese medical pediatrics — It's not about needles

By Malik Lawrence

For thousands of years the Chinese people have kept written records from generation to generation. Through subtle observation, the Chinese culture developed a science that is based on nature, the human being as a microcosm, and our place within the cosmos. This is most evident today in Chinese Medicine, as the contemporary practice of this science is very much the same now, as it has been for hundreds of years. As their clinical and theoretical understandings evolved and developed, so too did the written records and experiences of the ancient doctors, and, by approximately 200 CE, this literary tradition became more formalized. Two of the most famous medical texts of this period contain chapters on Pediatrics. Then, beginning around 1100 CE, medical texts devoted solely to the practice of Pediatrics began to appear. This makes Pediatrics one of the oldest specialties in one of the oldest medical systems in the world.

From the very beginning, the ancient doctors realized that the anatomy and physiology of children is unique, that children are not merely small adults. So, through generations of research and clinical practice, methods of diagnosis and treatment were developed to address this uniqueness. The primary methods of treatment in Chinese Medical Pediatrics are Tui Na, a specialized system of massage, and Herbal Medicine. Chinese Medical Pediatrics recognizes that, unlike adults, the meridian system is not fully developed in young children; therefore Acupuncture needles are rarely used in treatment.

Chinese Pediatric Tui Na is a very gentle, and at the same time, very specific treatment. The treatment is applied to areas on the hands, arms and torso. These areas have reflexive actions on the child's internal organs and bodily systems. Techniques are used to tonify and build up energy in the body, as in boosting the immune system; or to reduce and eliminate toxins, as in the treatment of acute symptoms. Because children's systems are so sensitive and delicate, they can respond almost immediately to the treatment. This treatment can

### An ancient system of holistic child care



be used on children of any age, with infants and children under 6 years responding particularly well. Pediatric Tui Na can help improve appetite, develop immunity, build health, and is especially effective in treating acute digestive and respiratory disorders.

Chinese Herbal Medicine is a very complex science, comprising hundreds of formulas that are created from the combining of various plant, mineral, and occasionally animal substances. The combinations that are used are based on the individual actions and synergistic relationships of the substances used. These formulas vary greatly in their uses and applications, and can be individually adjusted, depending on the presenting symptoms of the child being treated. Through centuries of clinical observation, many formulations have been created for treating specific childhood illnesses. These herbal medicines are taken as teas or as small pills by children who are able to swallow easily. For the very young, who are unable to ingest tea or swallow pills, the herbal treatments are

applied topically to the body, their healing qualities being absorbed through the skin.

Because it is safe, effective, and basically free of negative side effects, Traditional Chinese Medical Pediatrics is widely practiced in China and Japan. In China, not only the Traditional Chinese Medical clinics, but many of the clinics that provide western medical care also provide Traditional Chinese Pediatrics. It is believed that by using these traditional methods to treat early childhood conditions, such as the gripes, upper respiratory infections, gastrointestinal problems, etc., immunity can be enhanced, and many illnesses can be avoided later in life. Traditional Chinese Medical Pediatrics is also used in the treatment of chronic conditions such as allergies, asthma, and juvenile arthritis.

Even though Chinese Medical Pediatrics is an effective system in its own right, it is not a substitute for when conventional medical care is required. In China, happy and healthy children are considered the wealth of the nation. I feel that it is through wise and effective integration in medical care that we can promote this health and happiness in our children.

*Malik Lawrence is a licensed acupuncturist and massage therapist. He*

*received his certification in acupuncture, from Nan Jing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Nan Jing China. He can be contacted at 528-1511.*

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# Advice to fledging artists from those who have left the nest

By Deborah R. Meyer

I used to hate to ask anyone for help. But somewhere along the way I learned that not only does asking for advice and receiving it make the journey less frustrating, it also can make it more interesting and fun. Asking for advice, for feedback widens our circle of acquaintances, it enriches our world. I used to not ask because I thought it made me look weak, now I realize it just makes me human. I adore hearing what springs from people's intricate brains. Mary Simpson, Interim Director of ChathamArts, sent out the following question for me to Chatham County artists — "What advice would you give to a fledgling artist?" I also asked Mary to respond, which she did gladly. Her response along with the responses of the five artists who replied is included here. They inspired me. I think they will set a few fires under readers. Enjoy.

Mary Simpson, ChathamArts. "As Director of ChathamArts, I



January snow frosts the one-lane truss bridge over the Rocky River.

PHOTO BY MAGGIE WILSON

advise artists just starting in their careers to concentrate on creating art that they enjoy themselves, and develop their own personal style. I stress that they shouldn't worry too

much about what might seem commercial. There is a broad audience for a wide variety of art in our communities. If you produce art that pleases you, your enthusiasm will show through, and there will be people in the community who will appreciate it. I also recommend that new artists get involved in our vibrant arts community. We have many seasoned artists here that will be happy to share their ideas and contacts with new artists. ChathamArts is especially framed to facilitate communications among local artists. We have a nice new gallery in Pittsboro, and welcome new artists to exhibit and market their work here. ChathamArts is where arts and community meet!"

Maggie Wilson, who owns Wilson, Ink. Graphic Design and writes for Chatham County Line, shares a piece of information that was given to her once by fellow Chatham artist Shannon Bueker, which she said she has had to constantly remind herself of it. "Shannon Bueker quoted a book called *Art & Fear: Observations of the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland, saying that artists spend 50 percent of their time doing the business part of making (and selling) art. This was awful to hear and painful to acknowledge. I was telling my husband recently that sometimes it seems like more than half and he said those authors were just being kind."

Dawn Stetzel is a sculptor who works primarily with clay and steel. "One of the most helpful things for me when I started sculpting and when I moved into a new area was to join every mailing list possible. I called the arts councils in the surrounding counties and the local galleries. These are great resources for artists regarding exhibition opportunities, artists groups and places to take classes. Absorb information in *Sculpture Magazine* and attend workshops and artist gatherings.

Other artists are the best support for technical questions and where to buy the best marine epoxy or copper sheets for your sculpture. They also know the best scrap yards for metal and the best dumpsters or thrift shops to gather raw materials for your work."

Erick Davis shared the following advice to fledging artists adding that it is advice to himself as well. "Get a job, save up money for your bills, then take time off to create art and book shows. Work harder at creating your art than you did for working for someone else and you can't fail. If you can get up early to work for someone else you can do it for yourself. If you don't have the right kind of energy to paint, look for places to have shows, work on a portfolio, do eight hours of work for your art. Don't be lazy! Make Several bodies of work that can go together as a show. Get the word out. Have an opening party. Then go back to work for someone else and gradually reduce the amount of time you need to work there. When you start to have some success, keep the job as a reminder of what you will be doing if you get lazy. Self discipline, creativity, faith in yourself and courage are all you really need. Do it now!"

Forrest Greenslade is a fairly new artist. After spending his entire working life as a scientist and executive, he starting sculpting garden tchotchkes. His "Forrest Dwellers" are at [www.forrestgreenslade.com](http://www.forrestgreenslade.com). "My advice to other new artists is to get to know and seek the guidance of established local artists. ChathamArts and the NC Creative Arts Incubator are good places to start. The arts community, especially around here, is very welcoming. Experienced artists have helped me greatly in developing my own personal style, and in encouraging me to participate in art shows. Becoming involved in our community of artists has been one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of my life."

Frances Bregman Schultzberg is a goldsmith, educator, and director who can be found at the Jool School at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro. "The most consistent statement I hear from both well established artists and beginners is to keep at it with study, study, study. This serves many purposes. It keeps you current. It greases the wheels of productivity. It's inspirational. It jump-starts you in the blaaah times. It reminds you to be humble, as there is always something new to learn. And, it keeps you in touch with others of like interests. Find yourselves a home where you can study, share and be productive!"

Fuel for the soul. Onward and upward.

Deborah R. Meyer can be contacted at 942-3252 or at [tirzah5@earthlink.net](mailto:tirzah5@earthlink.net).

## CHATHAM COUNTY LINE RACK LOCATIONS

BYNUM: Bynum General Store ■ CARRBORO: El Centro Latino, Cliff's Meat Market, Open Eye Café, Weaver Street Market, Tyler's Brew Pub, Bon's Barbecue (Carrboro Plaza), Willow Creek Plaza ■ CHAPEL HILL: Chapel Hill Public Library, Whole Foods (formerly Wellspring), Chapel Hill Senior Center, Brady 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 ■ 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, Senior Center ■ SILER CITY: Food Lion (U.S. 64 Siler Crossing), Wren Library, Helping Hands Center, El Vinculo Latino/Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Central Carolina Community College, Best Mart, Piggly Wiggly ■ SILK HOPE: Silk Hope Service ■ GOLDSTON: Bright Mart

# Get to the root of the matter

By Ginny Gregory



Roots. It all starts with roots. Sounds like the beginning of the lecture for Plants 101...well, in a way it is. I grew up with a father who was obsessed with a foundation story. He would clear his throat and point a partially open hand at me while saying, "Ginny, Do you know what makes a good house?" This was a trick question...he did not want an answer, he just wanted to tell one of his many stories which I had heard a million times by age 10. So I would just look at the table, which was my way of vanishing, and he would continue. "Well, I'll tell you then...it's the foundation. You have nothing without the foundation." Did I mention that this talk usually followed my report card viewing? Well, I'd nod and he would go on about how important it was to get my educational foundation etc. I can hear and feel it now and this morning for the very first time it meant something to me. I finally heard it on my terms. Now my father is nine years on the other side of the dirt, as he would say, and I am now 53, but at least I got it before I joined him under the dirt.

As I came puffing into the mudroom this morning, after my early morning walk, there they were... these beautiful clean, pure white roots gleaming through a tall glass vase...perched on top of an inverted clay pot on the mudroom counter. The early morning sun was shining through them calling my eyes to enjoy them.

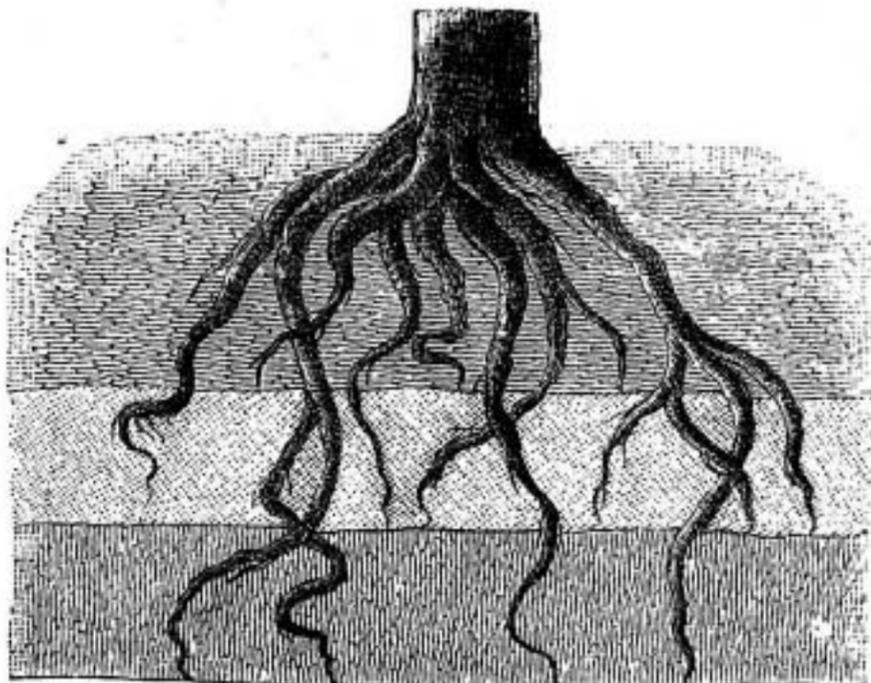
Several weeks prior, I had been at

the coast taking my morning walk on a very blustery day furiously collecting half conch conk shells. I adore shells ... they have so much history. Each one has a different story ... all of them once homes for some creature. I collect them and marvel at their uniqueness. They line the inside frame of my screen porch and I enjoy them every moment I am on the porch. They are in bowls throughout my house...in the bathrooms, on tables, on the window ledges and these ...found their way into my tall, glass vase.

We never see the roots that are the strong anchor for our plants. Through windstorms and sleet...through monsoons in the late fall or early spring, through the sweltering drought...they hold the plant tight. Roots are one of the important ways that a plant takes up the nutrients that are in the ground...the plants life source.

So this morning, when I say these roots first and the paper whites' bloom second, it threw me back 43 years to the kitchen I grew up in and I heard the "foundation talk" from my father. This morning, as I stood admiring the magnificent beauty of those strong white roots weaving their way around and through the half conchs conks that partially fill this tall glass vase, I felt renewed. I smelled the aroma of spring happening from the inside out of the flowers ...saw the tight green buds waiting to slowly unfold... the softly pointed foliage of the narcissus bulb reaching up trying to touch the sky and somehow I knew today that spring was not far away.

Roots. I cannot seem to get away from them...I can feel myself finally being planted. In my adult life, I have



mostly lived in a county. I have always had the need for clean air, the serenade of the birds, a clear view of new buds arriving and first leaves falling and the ability to walk in the woods finding wild ginger, pipsisawa, solomon seal, ferns, different mosses and the myriad of wildflowers whose names are less familiar to me. One can ponder in the wild, can feel the preciousness of the moment, because like shells, land has history.

There are ridges in the woods where I live. There was a farm where my woods stand now. The ridges are from years of this land being tilled, planted and harvested. Wonder what was planted? There is a small amount of stonewall hidden in my woods. What was here before me? A lifetime of history.

This year, I enter spring feeling my roots strongly planted into Chatham County soil. I am a southerner who has traveled long and hard to get

home. I have loved and been loved by this Chatham County red clay. It takes a long time for plants' roots to work their way into the clay soil, but once it happens...the foundation has been built and the cultivating can begin. This spring I will plan carefully because each inch of my garden and my woods is under my watch. As my father used to say, "Land is your best investment because they ain't making anymore of it."

Plan your containers, your gardens, your fields to be harvested ... your developments with thought of the next season, the next year, the next generation. Plant your roots with care.

Happy planting.

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

## Seaching for Spring in Silk Hope

By Leif Diamant

A few weeks into January, I went looking for harbingers of Spring. Maples, especially those on the south side of woods, were reddening with clusters of small paired flowers... looking beautiful deep red against smooth grey bark and blue sky. Male catkins elongated and dangled above vivid small red female buds on creekside tag alders. Years ago, when my young daughters joined me on Nature walks, they always got a kick out of the sexual anatomy lesson from these shrubby trees whose flowers are often at eye level.

The day before, I had flipped over a chunk of pine log and found a semi-hibernating skink lizard. A few days earlier while turning vegetable beds, I dislodged a large brown sleeping toad; I reburied it, still in hibernation stupor. The garden's soil was carpeted with weeds that included small blue Veronica Speedwell flowers and tiny eight-petalled white chickweed flowers. I reburied the toad grateful not to have damaged it with shovel. Spring seemed near.

I headed to my friend Gary Phillip's

**...Who loves a tree, he loves the life that springs in star and clod  
He loves the love that gilds the cloud, and greens the April sod;  
He loves the Wide Beneficence: his soul takes hold on God.**

— from *Arbor and Bird Day Manual for North Carolina, 1915*

new home that is a short walk through woods and over a small creek. My awareness has risen to a new fervor as we each share what we've experienced and then often go walking to look for whatever Nature has to offer. We had an excited exchange about mushrooms this fall: each armed with botany books, we argued over the phone about gills, nomenclature, timing. Nature has been a lifetime learning that requires my attention, openness, humility, willing-

ness to learn, and appreciation.

In the wild rose thicket, tiny rose leaves begin to unfurl, soft green with a purplish tinge. There are still shriveled rose hips in the brambly chaos of the many canes that provide a protected home to groups of sparrows, juncos, occasional wrens, field rats, and rabbits.. From Gary's window, we watched two male bluebirds fighting while a female stuffed the nest box. A few days later, it snowed and has mostly stayed

cold since. Snow (or ice as it became shortly thereafter) provides an especially unique transformation of the landscape. The lay of the land is strikingly revealed and tree trunks contrast dramatically with the white background, showing their muscular beauty more clearly than at any other time. My child's heart delights in wonder.

I have been anticipating the February full moon, which is often the start of observable animal mating rituals. I've been awestruck by the power of life while watching and hearing Great Horned owls mate in a giant knobby bare hickory tree under a cold moonlit night. And when it rains under that full

**SILK HOPE** continued on page 16.

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## WORK TOGETHER

continued from page 1.

But what about the other side, the developers and those who share that outlook? I'm disappointed to report that I was unsuccessful at getting anyone from that perspective to write anything for this issue. Although I called and even pleaded, they resisted my entreaties.

As they clearly chose not to go on the record, I won't name them nor quote them directly. But what they as a group showed me was a sense of outrage for having been personally attacked for doing nothing other than engaging in business, legally and honorably. Their criticism of the Compact Community Ordinance, as drafted by the citizens, has less to do with specific provisions as with the document as a whole and its wording. Developers don't know what the words mean, and consequently what is expected of them. Planning ordinances serve as blue prints for how developers build their developments. Developers need an ordinance with which they can work.

The bad news about the rancor and the hard feelings is that they make it harder to work together on important issues of great common interest to all Chatham residents, current and future.

Protecting the watershed is critical for the quality of life in Chatham County, particularly Jordan Lake and the Haw River, but also the Rock and the Deep rivers. Adding urgency are e-coli in Pittsboro's water, which comes from the Haw, and high levels of algae in Jordan Lake, source of water for much of northeast Chatham, and likely source for new developments and, with pipelines in the plans, for the western part of the County as well.

The other issue is the importance of acquiring land for parks and preservation. All of Chatham's abundant open space, farms and forests, will face development pressures down the road. It is in everyone's interest to protect the natural beauty of the land as well as Chatham's rural character.

The land is never going to cost less than it does right now.

Like it or not, development is coming to Chatham County. Chatham is a desirable place to live; the area around it prosperous and abounding in opportunity. And it will soon have four-lane highways in all four Cardinal directions, accessible to both the Triangle and the Triad. People are going to move to Chatham. They need dwellings in which to reside. Builders will build them.

Chatham should protect its water and preserve its land by resolving to acquire land along the rivers and near Jordan Lake for preservation. The operative model could be the successful ongoing efforts to preserve the Eno River in Durham and Orange Counties, spearheaded by the Eno River Association. Clean water and abundant open space are certainly in developers' interests; they affect the value of their properties.

A public-private partnership is the best way to make this happen. Hurt feelings are going to get in the way.

*Julian Sereno is editor and publisher of Chatham County Line.*



## Environmentalism — what went wrong?

By Don Lein

"For leading million dollar campaigns against energy, pesticides, biotechnology, trade and economic development that could improve or save millions of lives," Niger Innis, national spokesman for Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), intoned as he presented the first of three "Green Power - Black Death" awards to Greenpeace. He added, "Eco-activists know their Earth-first policies devastate families and communities.... and kill millions every year. And yet, they continue to impose more and more layers of misguided laws, rules and treaties on people."

What transmogrified a very laudable movement which my forbears embraced into an activism that knowingly enacts programs that result in death, destruction and mis-allocation of billions of dollars each year? Let's take a brief euphemistic look at some of the environmental issues we're facing today.

Global Warming. With 80 percent of the carbon dioxide from human activities having been added to the atmosphere since 1940 and the Arctic now being cooler than it was then, and the West Antarctic ice sheet continually growing thicker, it should come as no surprise that the U.S. Senate under the Clinton administration rejected the Kyoto Treaty 95-0. Activists are trying to go through the back door and get elements of the Kyoto Treaty passed in various state legislatures. Russia has recently stated that it will reject the treaty on scientific as well as economic grounds. In fairness, there is a cadre of scientists who stoutly defend the apoca-

lyptic global warming scenario. It is also fair to say that many of these scientists benefit directly from the billions being spent to study this "problem."

Insecticides, chemicals, etc. Silent Spring helped focus attention on the adverse effects of DDT on animal life. This resulted in many countries (U. S. in 1972) banning it and placing severe trade restrictions on countries that continued to use it. Thus, we consciously discontinued using a substance in which soldiers bathed in World War II, was used to disinfect Jews rescued from death camps, and was effective in killing carriers of malaria, dengue and typhus. It's no small wonder that after a generation of this eco-imperialism and death that Innis and CORE spoke up. This scenario is typical — frighten everyone with apocalyptic visions, overreact with draconian measures and ignore the adverse effects on both man and the earth — this formula has been used for paraquat, other chemicals, biotechnology, etc. Paradoxically, insecticides could kill the carriers of the West Nile virus, which is decimating many of our feathered friends that Carson was trying to protect.

Internal Combustion Engine/Fossil Fuels. The search for the pollution free vehicle is over!! According to California testing, this year the standard engine in the Honda Accord and Nissan Sentra built for the California market is essentially pollution free, when using low sulfur gas available in California. Thus, those many billions, nay trillions, being spent on the pursuit of this will-o-the-wisp can now be used to cure cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's or to

other worthwhile societal benefits.

Endangered Species Act. This act with real "teeth" was enacted thirty years ago and has been an abject failure in terms of its avowed purpose and has led to huge misallocations of resources. Of the 1853 species listed as endangered during the tenure of the act only 15 have recovered. Some of the effects of the act have been "premature habitat destruction" which resulted in the diminution of nesting sites for the red cockaded woodpecker. The 10th Circuit decreed that the Rio Grande silvery minnow has a higher priority to the waters of the Rio Grande than do the farmers, ranchers, and municipalities. San Bernardino County has had to divert \$4.5 million from its medical budget to protect the habitat of the Delhi Sands Fly. These are just a couple of examples of where a laudable intent has turned into a tragic parody.

Forever Wild. Despite the vision of a pristine wilderness, it evokes a two-headed problem in real life. It invariably involves government ownership and management and severe restrictions on use for the property. Considering that government owns 40 percent of the land in the U. S. already, we should be cautious about them as stewards and neighbors. If your neighbor is a non-governmental entity and they are negligent, you can seek redress through the courts. If the government is negligent in the stewardship of the land, as in California where it allowed highly flammable brush to build up and bark beetles to kill millions of trees, or as it was in New

ENVIRONMENT continued on page 16.

## Publishers' agendas block the truth

Hundreds of very good American news publications began as official skills for political parties. Names like The Daily Democrat or The Manchester Republican identified their causes. Most publications grew up to become reliable news sources with no special agenda for politics or other causes. Some, with more innocent names such as Time and Life, did enormous damage that took half a century to repair.

It was all about China and Christianity.

During the early 1930's China was torn by fighting between several political factions trying to rule the most populous country in the world. Among the adversaries were Chiang Kai-Shek and Mao Tse Tung. For Time-Life publisher Henry Luce, taking sides was a no-brainer because Chiang was married to Mai-Ling Soong, the Christian beauty with direct ties to Durham.

When Japan invaded China in 1937, Luce's magazines began the vivid stories of China's torment, of China's hunger, of China's bravery, of China's agony. The constant theme was that China's brave leaders were Christians. A single picture of a Chinese infant crying amidst bombed out rubble of Shanghai moved the hearts of the Christian free world.

It was what Luce did not report that changed world history. For example, Chiang was not a Christian, he was a criminal. He did not even try to repel the Japanese because he was saving his weapons to fight Mao and his communists. When his finance minister, T. V. Soong, arranged a \$50,000 loan in gold, from America, the money went into Chiang's private bank account while Chinese peasants starved to death.

Roosevelt also sent General Joe Stillwell to help re-organize Chiang's army. Stillwell was ignored. Despite several more \$50,000 loans from America, China never mounted a single offensive against the Japanese invaders. When America staged the incredible Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, in early 1942, we could not trust Chiang with the news because he was totally unreliable. That fact was not reported either.

Few Americans remember the first B-29 raids on Japan came from bases in China. China could not defend the air bases from Japanese troops and the B-

29's had to move out. And that was not reported.

When Mai-Ling came to America to beg Congress for more financial aid, she was a guest in the White House. The guest, much to the dismay of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, demanded and got, clean silk sheets every night. Congress came up with the money because the image of the crying Shanghai baby and the brave Chinese leaders were compelling...

Chiang was even invited to attend one of the international Big Four conferences with Roosevelt and Churchill.

Most of China's financial boondoggles were not discovered until after the war but Chiang's mistreatment of the Chinese people was visible every day. His soldiers were not fed and had to steal from the peasants to survive. Mao said any soldier stealing a single grain of rice would be executed on the spot. Naturally the peasants hated Chiang.

The Allies had a plan to train Chinese troops in India. Many of the recruits froze to death in transport planes flying them over The Hump. Time and Life reported nothing about what everyone could see.

When Japan surrendered, China returned to 1937 rules as Chiang and the Communists resumed their fight for control of China. The American public still considered Chiang and his lovely Christian wife allies and watched in dismay as Communists troops walked over Chiang's defenders.

We were stuck with the criminals because Henry Luce was more concerned about Christian leaders in China than the truth about China. It was another disaster brought on by good intentions and a publisher with is own agenda.

In truth, we have grown very little since the early newspapers plugged the great benefits of the Whig Party. Americans still have to think for themselves and not rely on hired guns for a cable television program or biased newspapers that proclaim their innocence twice a month.

*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

## Sprawl comes at too high a price

By Gary Simpson

It's no secret that proponents of high density, high volume, high cost residential development (a.k.a. "sprawl") find that securing permission to build their behemoths in Chatham County is like shooting fish in a barrel. Actually, it matters not to sprawl proponents whether the fish are in a barrel, or happen to reside in Jordan Lake. Any place and any thing is fair game when high rollers toss their dice across the map of Chatham County. Unlike other games of chance, however, history shows that the developers can't lose in Chatham. The Preserve, Buck Mountain, Chatham Downs and Briar Chapel — round two, exemplify this perfect record, with The Homestead as the new player in the Chatham Casino.

That's why their cry of, "Let's Roll," is being chanted like a starved hoard of Overeaters Anonymous attacking a Krispy Kreme bakery. And it doesn't seem to matter to those demanding the donuts or to those running the store that the bakery is ill equipped to handle someone on a no carb diet, much less the carbaholics that are beating down the door. To put it another way, it's like a series of hurricanes are stacked up off the coast roaring into Chatham County, while the captains of county government are raising the sails and granting permission to developers to come aboard for a leisurely jaunt, while the hurricane warnings issued by concerned citizens and planning consultants fall upon deaf ears and blind eyes.

What is it that allows the second fastest growing county in the state and the third richest to sell the proverbial farm in such a wanton manner? Might the answer be found in the same motivation that sent a nation of fortune seekers rushing off to California in search of that precious yellow metal? Landowners and developers certainly see the potential for a gold mine, and are ready and able to convince citizens and their officials that they, too, can share in the loot. It's a "bigger is better," and a "win-win" message proclaimed by evangelists of sprawl. But as tempting as it is to believe their message (or want to believe it) they are more like false prophets of profit than messengers of good news for all. In truth, it is great news for developers and their friends, good news for a few who sell the land, and bad news for all the rest of us.

Over and over again in studies across the land, the residential sector (as opposed to farm, forest, industry and commerce sectors) proves to be a drain on the county budget, not a gain. For example a recent study in neighboring Wake County showed that "for every dollar in property tax and other revenues generated by residential land uses, the county spends

\$1.54 to provide services supporting those land uses." (From The Cost Of Community Services In Wake County: A report to Wake County and the Triangle J Council of Governments prepared by Mitch Renkow: Dept. of Ag & Resource Economics, N.C. State University, June 2001.) While this may not be the case in every situation, it is the rule of thumb. Check it out on [www.farm-landinfo.org](http://www.farm-landinfo.org). Poorly planned high-density development (sprawl) is never a boon.

For Chatham County to truly prosper (in the broadest sense of the term), citizens and their leaders should stop chasing after the carrot of promised financial gain dangling from the strings attached to the end of the residential developers' sticks. We need to realize that the development sectors that bring positive economic impact are clean industry/commerce and farm and forest lands. Rarely is residential development a gain to community coffers; invariably it is a drain. And even if and when economic impact figures for such a development look positive, the little to be gained over the long run isn't worth the losses that can befall the county/community overall. Residential developments that perpetuate sprawl are not, in general, county/community friendly.

Chatham County government and that of municipalities within the county would be better served by enacting strong ordinances built upon principles that follow "Smart Growth" (a.k.a. sustainable or quality growth). Such principles guided the Compact Community Ordinance developed over the last couple of years, and the 1995 county Vision and Land Use Development Plan. Our county and communities will also be better served by having in place working models of economic development through industry, commerce, farming and forestry, as well as the needed infrastructure to support the demands of a burgeoning population. To continue to put the cart before the horse is to degrade the quality of life and defile the rural/pastoral character that our citizens so cherish.

When rip-roaring residential growth has the pole position and is given the checkered flag to put the pedal to the metal, it 's an accident waiting to happen. Let's move slowly and steadily with a regard for everyone's safety and well-being. Let's get a Compact Community Ordinance people can live with. Let's monitor and enforce it. Let's advocate for all high-density developments to adhere to this model.

Let's move to Smart Growth from Dumb Luck in Chatham County.

*Gary Simpson serves on the Board of Directors for Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities.*

## Make your VOICE HEARD!

Write to Editor, Chatham County Line

P.O. Box 1357, Carrboro, NC 27510

or e-mail

[chathamcoline@mindspring.com](mailto:chathamcoline@mindspring.com)

## Noticias breves

### Planetario Morehead presenta un programa totalmente en español

Cielo Carolina es el premier programa totalmente en español de el Morehead Planetarium and Science Center a la Universidad de Carolina del Norte. El programa es en vivo en el teatro de domo. El presentador los llevara an recorrido de las estrellas y planetas en el cielo.

Cielo Carolina comienza a 5:30 p.m. el ultimo sabado de cada mes – el 27 de marzo, el 24 de abril, el 29 de mayo, el 26 de junio, el 31 de julio, el 28 de agosto. Conocer las estrellas es una actividad para toda las familia. Para mas informacion llame 919.962.3304.

### Asociacion de Trabajadores Latinos ofrese ayuda

Asociacion de Trabajadores Latinos de Carolina del Norte tiene informacion muy importante por trabajadores latinos.

Informacion que necesita saber sobre su trabajo incluye direcciones, numeros de telefono, nombres, salario y accidentes.

Para mas informacion, llamar al telefono 919.286.9249 o 1.800.646.2674.

## SILK HOPE

continued from page 13.

moon, black spotted salamanders fill spring holes and big puddles for their once a year appearance. They are compelled to mate by the same forces that pulse through our blood and psyches.

Although I enjoy sharing Nature with friends and often learn and observe new things, the most profound experiences usually occur by myself as I get quieter and still. Sometimes, as I truly become at one with Nature, a variety of wild animals become unaware of my existence. Many have allowed me close, looking right at them, sometimes talking and singing. This has happened with deer, squirrels, dragonflies, many types of birds and others. Big snakes, like black rat and kings, sometimes will also let me handle them with no alarm, comfortably.

The February full moon and drenching rain came but also very cool weather. I saw no salamander nor heard calls of any Spring Peepers. These small frogs often mark the end of the silence of winters' night. The primordial call becomes a voluminous nighttime chorus of hundreds or maybe thousands of interwoven peeeeps. They permeate my head as I sleep and greet my ears if I awake during the night. Most years, their mating calls have already begun by this time. At least some enthusiastic males will have briefly proffered their plaintive note when brief respite from cold winter weather occurs. I'm listening every night for them now, knowing soon that the hopeful sounds of spring will reappear.

Before dawn this morning, I walked down to the creek. The large moon and Venus were bright, side by side. in the dark azure western sky. I hoped that I would be fortunate enough to see the big Barred owl that lives in the forested bottomland. It had appeared, barely visible and silent, like a ghost, at dusk the other night. Owls sometimes stay awake into the morning perhaps after a time of incimate weather has hindered their hunting. I walked by those rose brambles and saw that the leaves had not only survived the cold without harm, but many more small leaves had opened.

It seems the less water in the leaf, the more tolerant of below freezing temperatures.

In a particularly puddly area, I've planted corkscrew and pussy willows because they thrive in that environment and are part of our sustainable agriculture plan. The pussy willow buds have swollen more and several show soft silky catkins. Clipping a few attractive branches, I wonder if I'll fulfill my ambition to take clipped and grapevine-tied pussy willows to market before Valentines Day.

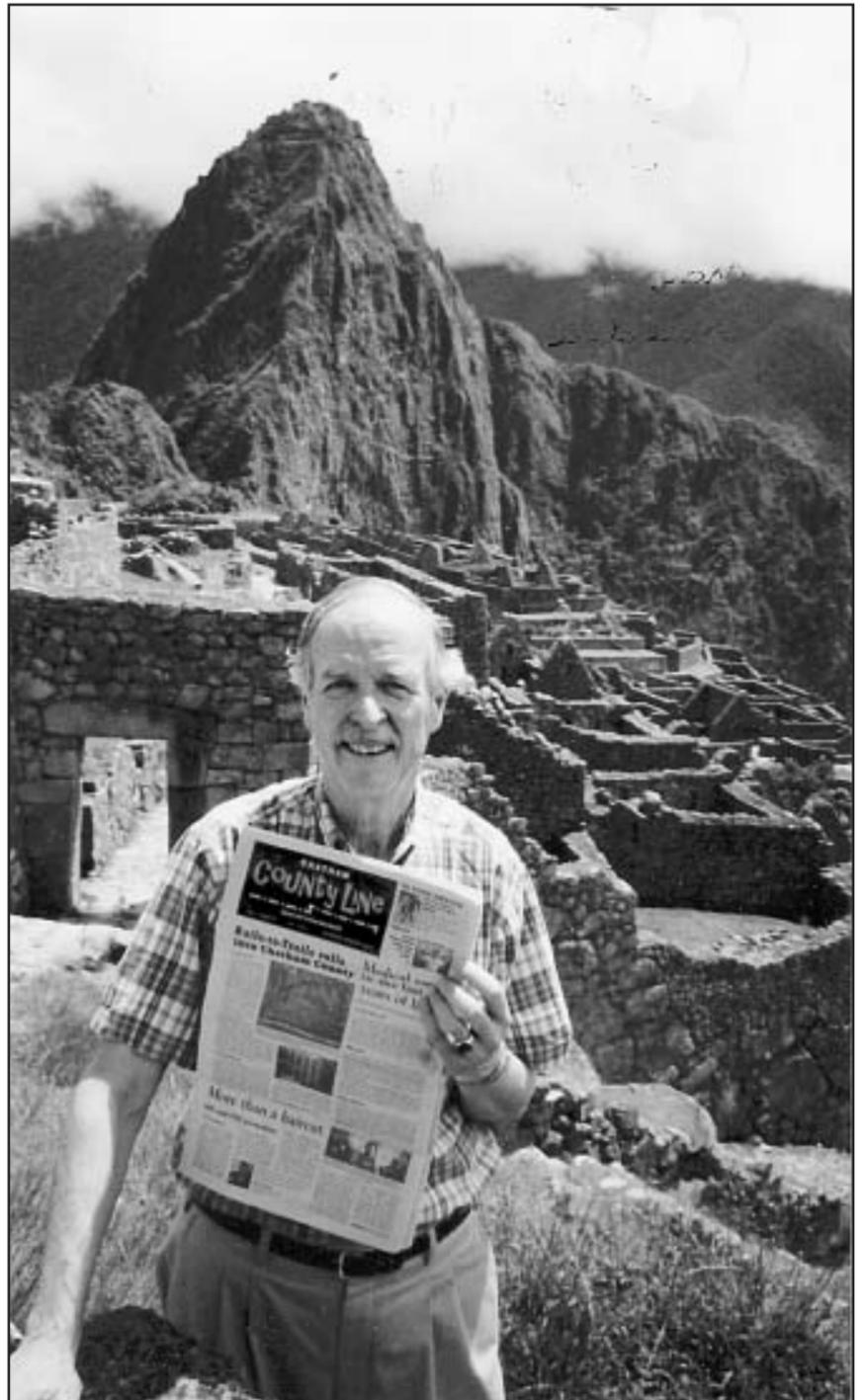
Today, though, our large firewood pile has shrunk to a week or two's warmth. We keep two woodstoves burning and almost always have to cut more wood during the winter, no matter how optimistic that I am about having a big enough supply. A large red oak was blown into another tree years ago and finally fell to the ground a few weeks ago. This aptly named 'widow maker' (because of its precarious dangerous leaning) now was actually resting just above the soil, horizontally, dry and ready to cut. Gena and I worked on that tree for several hours, cutting, hauling, unloading, splitting, stacking. My muscles ache as I type, the wood stove roars, and winter looks grey and cold out the window.



On Saturday, Valentine's Day, the afternoon temperature was in the 40s. The ground was soaked, spongy, permeated. My heart and mood joyously leapt as my ears finally heard the trill of a few peepers staking their claim to different pools and puddles. I saw the Barred owl as it flew from the ground up a nearby tree, large wings silent. At night, I heard a series of "hoos" as it called out for a mate. Today, Chatham County waits for the next winter storm, and, all the while, Spring, perhaps tentatively, pushes forth... unstoppable and magnificent.

*Leif Diamant is a part-time farmer, naturalist, and ethnobotanist in Silk Hope where he lives with his family. He has a counseling, psychotherapy, and hypnosis practice (Wild Earth Consulting- 542-5420) at his office in the woods.*

## CHATHAM COUNTY LINE EN PERU



Circulacion mas larga – Bob Hoogstoel de Fearrington Village muestra una copia de Chatham County Line en Machu Picchu, la ciudad escondida de los Incas en Peru.

Wider Circulation — Bob Hoogstoel of Fearrington Village holds up a copy of Chatham County Line in front of the hidden Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru.

## ENVIRONMENT

continued from page 14.

Mexico when the Forest Service burned hundreds of buildings and thousands of acres near Los Alamos, you may or may not even be allowed to sue. Again, there are typically severe restrictions on use of these properties, with many not allowing roads or vehicles. This is both dangerous and discriminatory. It is dangerous because it makes it more difficult for the safety of the land and its users. It's discriminatory because only the most hardy and fit can enjoy the scenic and environmental wonders of the property. The very young, the elderly and the disabled are shut out. By the way, forever is a long time. It takes a lot of hubris to believe we know enough to be able to dictate to our grandchildren and their grandchildren how to use any parcel of land.

COMPROMISE. Can you imagine environmentalists and oil drillers coexisting on the same property? It's been going on for 50 years on the

Rainey Preserve in Louisiana on property owned by the Audubon Society. The drilling does not harm the environment and Audubon benefits financially. One wag has suggested that the quickest way to have oil drilling in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge is to give the property to the Sierra Club, Earth First or Greenpeace.

Clearly, a movement with very laudable goals has lost its way. We cannot tolerate any longer needless loss of life, particularly when it is based on questionable science. The Audubon paradigm should and can be emulated — there is a compromise available if both sides will be rational. As a nation we should not be practicing eco-imperialism and we certainly need to be more intelligent as to how we allocate our scarce resources. Let's heed the plea of Innis and not only let his people live, but prosper.

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