

CROSSROADS

Volume 4, Issue 2

"Where all voices are heard"

March, 2002

EXAMINING CHATHAM'S CHANGING ENVIRONMENT



Is change in the air for Moncure?

BY JUDY HOGAN

What are we breathing in Moncure? Good question. I learned recently:

1) Two thousand tons of toxic chemicals were being released into the Moncure air by the following industries: Honeywell (formerly Allied Signal), Sierra Pine (formerly Weyerhaeuser), CP&L's Cape Fear electric (coal-fired) plant, Neste Resins, Willamette, and two Cherokee Sanford brick factories (one is Triangle Brick), according to a 1999 study done by UNC student Lindsay Kim.

2) In 1999 we were eighth among 76 counties in reported releases of toxic chemicals to the air. Hydrogen chloride was the leading pollutant, with more than 1,280 tons emitted by Cherokee Sanford, Sierra Pine, and CP&L's Cape Fear plant, which emitted the most pollutants in the county, about 1325 tons, and was 10th in the state for the release of suspected respiratory toxicants to the air (mainly hydrochloric acid).

Sierra Pine was the worst in air release of recognized carcinogens in the county, second worst in the state, with 370,000 pounds of recognized carcinogens into the

air, mostly formaldehyde.

This verifies the concern Moncure residents have had for years about their air quality. "Companies that reduced emissions have usually found that the new processes were profitable to them as well as benefiting the health of workers and residents," said Jim Warren of N.C. WARN. In 2000 CP&L put improved Swedish-made equipment into its Cape Fear plant that was to have reduced NOX emissions (nitrogen oxide, which leads directly to green house gases which put

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FOCUSING ON BRIAR CHAPEL — PRO AND CON

Manage the future – Development puts by design, not default watershed at risk

BY DON WHYTE

PRESIDENT, NEWLAND COMMUNITIES

The people of Chatham County have found themselves at a crossroads.

At play today is the County's proximity to the ever-growing Research Triangle Park and the bustling metropolitan Raleigh/Durham area combined with its offering of a well-educated labor pool and the young minds from its neighboring institutions of higher learning. Also weighing-in is Chatham County's superb quality of life and spectacular scenery, an attribute that attracted many of the people currently living in the county, as well as those on their way.

Currently, Chatham County is home to more than 42,000 people. Projections call for many more people to move to the county over the next 10 to 15 years. As a result of this increase, the cry is being heard for more open space to be preserved, more trails, parks and youth sport fields to be created, as well as more basic infrastructure to be provided including the widening of roads, the protection of water sources, and the establishment

of state-of-the-art schools.

By either design or default, Chatham County will be forced to respond to the pressures associated with its own popularity. And, now, not later, is the time to decide how best to set the course.

In the past, Chatham County has followed a program of piecemeal development, approving individual home sites or small residential enclaves that sprouted along the U.S. 15-501 corridor almost overnight and welcomed new residents — yet, unfortunately, they yielded little or no funds, fees or land for the County to create needed amenities. Now, the county is being asked to embrace a new approach to development — the compact community — designed to help manage responsibly local growth through the comprehensive planning and monitored phasing of homes each per year, over a prolonged period of time. Welcome to the vision for Briar

See THE FUTURE, Page 8

BY ELAINE CHIOSSO

HAW RIVER ASSEMBLY

Big development is big business in Chatham County, and nowhere is this

more true than in the Haw River watershed. The widening of Highway 64, U.S. 15-501 and the new Pittsboro bypass have opened up and made faster access to this cheaper rural land on the west side of the Triangle. Land disturbance from construction of highways and homes is sending streams of mud into our creeks and rivers every time it rains. Replacing forests and fields with pavement (and rooftops) means faster storm water runoff that scours the streams, and sends pollutants along with it. Headwaters of

still healthy and beautiful small creeks that feed the Haw River and Jordan Lake are becoming polluted and impaired.

After much hard work Chatham adopted a good land use plan, and zoning has long been in place in the

northeast part of the county that is developing fastest. Chatham also has one of the most protective watershed protection ordinances with its "river corridor" zones. Unfortunately the disturbing pattern lately is the demand by developers to change the zoning or ask for conditional use permits that will allow them to build much denser developments, new commercial areas or even industrial uses in land that was designated for lower impact by the county.

We failed to stop an earlier re-zoning of land "on the shores of Jordan Lake" that is now being built as the "Preserve" — a massive golf course and housing development. Neighborhood groups and environmentalists are battling new development requests for variances, re-zoning, permit exemptions, non-conforming use and more all over the watershed. The proposed mega-development of Briar Chapel in North Chatham would be built on the headwaters of both Wilkerson and Pokeberry creeks and asks the Chatham County Commissioners to weaken both zoning and watershed

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Chatham's changing environment

Will Briar Chapel be a boon or bust for taxpayers? page 8

What do the natives have to say about all these newcomers? page 8

Are compact communities good for the environment? page 9

Farmer puts sustainable agriculture into practice

BY TOYE ESKRIDGE

It is obvious that Rachel Burton believes in sustainable agriculture. She has worked on sustainable farms around the world, she has promoted sustainable practices since her college days, and she is in the process of building her own sustainable business. Sustainable agriculture is the philosophy Rachel Burton lives by. "I like to support a sustainable lifestyle," said the 27-year-old who became interested in sustainable agriculture from activist work during her student years at the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill. "I believe you don't just take from the earth, you give back. I like to do what I can, help out where I can. I do a lot of work for the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association in Pittsboro." A member of the first graduating class in 1998 of the sustainable agriculture program at Central Carolina Community College, Burton has plans to start a sustainable business on her two-and-a-half-acre home in Snow Camp. "I'm building the infrastructure for a small farm now," she said. "It will probably be a vegetable and flower operation, maybe

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Rachel Burton does some weeding in the sustainable agriculture program's greenhouse, which is located on the Land Lab of the Central Carolina Community College campus in Pittsboro.

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CHATHAM CROSSROADS

"Where all voices are heard"

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Chatham Crossroads is a volunteer-created community newspaper supporting informed and inclusive dialogue on issues of concern to Chatham County, NC residents. In addition to providing balanced, accurate and thorough spotlights on community issues, we strive to build bridges of understanding among Chatham's diverse residents, promote opportunities for people to come together, and celebrate our many cultural and natural treasures.

Crossroads is published ten times a year and is available for free at sites across the county. We are incorporated as a nonprofit in North Carolina and have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the IRS, which means all donations are tax deductible.

Crossroads is by and for Chatham residents and welcomes input and volunteer contributions of many kinds. Please contact us if you would like to lend your support or place an advertisement.

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briefs & announcements

DISPATCHES

Note from the editor

The date for the primary election, originally pegged for May 7, is now up in the air due to a court challenge to state legislative redistricting. But the filing period ended March 1, with a big field of candidates running for Chatham County Sheriff. That race seems to be driven in part by the missing 5,000 pounds of marijuana and the scandal associated with it. In our April issue, Chatham Crossroads is going to focus on the upcoming primary election, and on the issue of marijuana. We encourage you to submit your feature articles, opinions, letters and any kind of observations you might have about pot and the primary election.

Planning Board mulls Briar Chapel zoning changes

The Chatham County planning board met on March 5 to discuss zoning changes requested by Newland Communities to allow them to begin construction of Briar Chapel. About 100 residents attended the meeting, at which no decisions were reached.

The Chatham County planning board was not compelled to make a decision because Newland Communities had released the board from its three-meeting limit on making recommendations on the proposed development. By county ordinance, the planning board has a three-meeting limit to make recommendations on a given development.

Newland Communities seeks a conditional-use permit to build 2,500 homes, 637,000 square feet of commercial and office space, a 26-acre school site and 700 acres of open space on about 1,490 acres. Briar Chapel lies mostly on the northwestern side of U.S. 15-501 with access provided by Taylor Road, Hubert Herndon Road, Andrews Store Road and Mann's Chapel Road.

Asphalt plant dispute continues to cause stink

Joshua Kricker debated an asphalt plant's production with attorneys for S.T. Wooten Corp., which seeks to change its facility, at a February Board of Adjustment meeting. The debate lasted for four hours, but there was no apparent winner. The Board of Adjustments recessed until March 18, when it will make its ruling.

Mr. Kricker, who lives at 224 Buteo Ridge, less than two miles from the plant, argued in his appeal that planning director Keith Megginson was mistaken in his interpretation of zoning ordinances. Mr. Kricker wants to stop Wooten from replacing a batch-mix asphalt facility with a drum-mix one.

The five-member Board of Commissioners also functions as the Board of Adjustments in Chatham County.

Proposed retail developments cause concern

The Pittsboro Planning Board will review a proposal by developer Ricky Spoon to build two malls at the intersection of U.S. 15-501 and U.S. 64 bypass north of downtown Pittsboro. Spoon envisions the malls, one on a 44-acre parcel, the other on a 33-acre parcel, including a hotel, three major retailers and several smaller ones.

Some neighbors oppose the plan because it will change the rural character of the land. And some Pittsboro merchants are concerned that the development will take business away from downtown Pittsboro.

Before the development can begin, the land must be rezoned from residential-agricultural to highway commercial.

BRIEFS

Haw River clean-up slated

On Sat. March 16, at 10 sites along the

Board of Education Chairman Honored

Chatham County Board of Education Chairman Jack Wilkie was recognized at the February 18 Chatham County Commissioners meeting in Pittsboro. The Commissioners passed a resolution recognizing Wilkie as President of the N.C. School Boards Association.



JACK WILKIE

During the meeting Congressman Bob Etheridge spoke about his long association with Wilkie during his tenure as state school superintendent and as a legislator. Dr. Ed Dunlap, Executive Director of the NCSBA, was present and addressed those in attendance. Also in attendance were Representative Verla

Insko, Senator Ellie Kinnaird, and Representative Arlie Culp.

After the Commissioners' resolution was read, Dr. Larry Mabe, Superintendent of Chatham County Schools, presented Wilkie with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine on behalf of Gov. Mike Easley and Sen.

Howard Lee. The Order is presented to North Carolinians who have a proven record of service to the state.

Wilkie became a member of the Chatham County Board of Education in 1969 and became chairman in December of 1971. He continues to hold this post.

Prune your way into spring

A pruning workshop will be offered at the Gathering Place in Fearington Village at 1 p.m., Thurs. March 21. The program is co-sponsored by the Fearington Garden Club and the Chatham County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and is open to the public. There will be no charge.

The program will consist of a brief overview of pruning purposes, tools, and techniques by Agricultural Extension Agent Al Cooke. Then after a short walk to Camden Park in Fearington, Cooke will demonstrate pruning techniques. Participants will have opportunity to practice their skills for critique. Cooke emphasizes that this is a hands-on opportunity. Participants should bring hand pruners and gloves and plan to work.

Mentor training offered

Chatham County Together! Mentor Training is scheduled for Mon. March 25 and Wed. March 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Best Food Cafeteria in Siler City. Both nights are required and dinner is included.

Call 542-5155 for more information or to reserve a spot.

CCCC to offer degree in sculpture

Central Carolina Community College will be offering a new Associates Degree Program in Sculpture starting this fall, 2002. The program will be located in Siler City, where the school is in the process of renovating space downtown for the teaching studio. They have plans to acquire many new pieces of equipment for the program, including a gas kiln, clay mixer, pug mill, and electric kilns. The program will be two years long, with one summer term. Students will be enrolled as full time students, and most of the classes will be held during the day.

For more information, please contact the school at 919-542-6495, or email Dan Rhode at drhode@cccc.edu

Art and music fun on tap for youngsters

A Spring Break Camp is slated at Clapping Hands Farm April 1-5. Camp will feature an Art Extravaganza with a different guest artist each day for children ages 5-13. They are welcome for a day or two or three, or for the whole week. Daily schedule is: Monday- Percussion with Beverly Botsford; Tuesday - Native American Storytelling, Culture and Crafts with Daphne Strickland; Wednesday- Shadow Puppets with Jan Burger; Thursday- Nature Illustration with Emma Skurnick; Friday- Felted projects with Candace King.

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Haw River in Alamance and Chatham counties, including bridges at U.S. 15-501, U.S. 64, Chicken Bridge and Jordan Lake, volunteers will be picking up trash.

This is the 12th year that volunteers will be cleaning up trash on foot and canoes from the riverbanks and islands, and around bridges on the Haw River — before the trash becomes a danger to wildlife and water quality.

These efforts have resulted in tons of unsightly and polluting trash being 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 brain, and a three-foot rubber chicken! Volunteers are people of all ages and backgrounds, including students, scouts, church groups, neighborhoods and more. Sponsors of the volunteers (friends and local businesses) 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 and the Haw River Watch volunteer water-monitoring program. For more information, call 542-5790.

'Chatham Chatauqua' to offer enlightening talk

A series of weekly open gatherings are starting in March that will focus on the social, the political and the spiritual. Most will be facilitated by Gary Phillips. They will be held Sundays at 5 p.m. at the Pittsboro General Store Café.

On March 10, the topic is "Why Do We Gather?" and discussion will center on building community, finding place, celebrating. Making a welcome table big enough for all. Speaking to the divine. Honoring wisdom. Imagine justice and mercy. All are welcome, and we'll talk about what we want to do.

March 17 will feature a viewing of "An Unlikely Friendship", Diane Bloom's film which explores an extraordinary friendship which developed between Ann Atwater, an outspoken black civil rights organizer, and C. P. Ellis, the Exalted Cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan in Durham County in the early 1970s. Three hundred people gave it a standing ovation at UNC. The filmmaker will be here. Discussion will follow.

March 24 is the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Annual Art Auction. There will be no salon. We encourage everybody to go to the Fearington Barn for the auction, which begins at 3 p.m., and features good food and drink, entertainment and fantastic objects for sale.

Engaging the Divine is the topic for March 31. On 5th Sundays we will organize a simple service: meditation, maybe a song, a prayer, a circle. Blessings. Come as you are.

Refreshments will be served. Call 542-8149 for information, ideas, or to help.

Welcome to Nu Horizons Farm Country Market

BY LEIGH LORAINÉ

Nu Horizons Farm is a place where you and your family can find meats, eggs and produce raised right on our farm. Additionally, we make homemade pasta, sauces, breads and pastries from the finest ingredients. Just the way you would make it for your family if you had the time. We are a family owned and operated farm that has been producing safe clean meats and produce for our customers for the past three years.

All our meats and eggs are free of antibiotics, growth hormones, steroids, and animal by-products. All the animals are raised in a free-range environment on pasture that has been free of any application of chemical fertiliz-

Neighbor to Neighbor

ers. Our meat birds and laying hens are allowed to free-range to eat green grass and bugs, as well as, receive a healthy dose of sunshine. We believe that it is the fact that our chickens are allowed to roam freely that gives our products their superior flavor. Our pigs are pastured and are allowed to root for plants and bugs. They also have a wallow that allows them to keep cool in the warm weather. Our beef cows are either Black Angus or Black Angus crosses. Additionally, we have three market gardens in which we raise

produce free of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.

On the farm is the Country Market where we sell our meats and produce. We also make homemade breads like cinnamon, white and whole wheat. The flour for our whole wheat bread is freshly ground at the store from organic wheat so that it contains all the wheat bran and wheat germ. We also make homemade semolina, whole wheat and spinach pasta, as well as, marinara, Alfredo and in season pesto sauces.

For those with a sweet tooth we make fresh apple pie that we freeze for you to take home and bake. We also make cinnamon rolls, oatmeal raisin cookies and chocolate chip cookies. We also make an assortment of jams, jellies and applesauce.

Dancing Doe Dairy provides us with some wonderful goat cheese. Donna makes a mild Cheddar style goat cheese, as well as Caraway Gouda.

We also carry some unique gift items made by our Amish friends in Ohio. We have some Amish quilts, mother daughter matching aprons and baby bibs to mention a few. One of our most popular items is our Amish made leather fly swatter.

We also go to several farmers' markets in the area such as Carrboro, Pittsboro and Ferrington. The Country Market is available after hours for up to 20 people for dinner. Our hours of operation are Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Our phone number is 919-542-4007 and our web site is www.nuhorizonsfarm.com

13th Annual Haw River Festival coming

The festival will run May 7 -11 and feature environmental and river education, cultural history, giant puppets, storytelling and music.

From Tues. May 7 through Fri. May 10, schoolchildren from Chatham, Orange and Durham counties will descend on the little village on Bynum on Chatham County to celebrate and learn about the Haw River. The Haw

To learn more about the Haw River Festival, call 542-5790 or e-mail or hra@emji.net

River Festival is a traveling, solar-powered, environmental education program for children and communities in the Haw River watershed. Educators, performers and river lovers, both young and old, work together to help more than

1500 fourth graders from public schools throughout the Haw River Watershed discover the wonders of the river. The Festival will start out with two weeks upriver in Guilford and Alamance Counties, with children from the schools there. Over 400 community volunteers unite to educate youths about the natural and cultural history of the Haw River watershed.

In small groups led by knowledgeable volunteers, the students visit a variety of hands-on stations along the riverbanks. The program features



From May 7 to 11 the 13th annual Haw River Festival takes place in Bynum. More than 400 community volunteers will help during the weeklong event.

CHATHAM CROSSROADS FILE PHOTO

activities to demonstrate environmental concepts, stream monitoring, cultural history, crafts, river walks, wildlife, music and storytelling.

The week will conclude with the Haw River Festival Finale, a public river festival, down by the old Bynum Bridge on Sat. May 11.

From 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., everyone is invited to enjoy this celebration of the Haw River with live music on stage, a performance of the giant puppets,

hands-on environmental activities, kayak demonstrations, a silent art auction of works by local artists, including Clyde Jones, great food and much more.

And it's FREE!!

The Haw River Festival is a project of the Haw River Assembly, working to protect the Haw River since 1982. For more information call 542-5790 or e-mail or hra@emji.net

You don't know what you have been missing

BY DEBORAH R. MEYER

The Chatham County Animal Shelter is filled with great dogs and puppies, cats and kittens who need homes. The shelter staff bends over backwards to find homes for the animals that come their way, whether dropped off, abandoned or collected off the streets of Chatham County. For several months now, due to some changes in Lee County, the Chatham shelter is also contracted to take in Lee County animals and the shelter is even more crowded than usual.

All of the animals need good homes but particularly dogs. "We only have so many runs," said Tina Meeks, shelter manager. Kitten season is approaching and already cats are showing up at the shelter pregnant. So, fill the space in your home that seems a little empty with a whole lot of love. Stop by the shelter at 725 County Landfill Road, which is off 64 West. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (for adoptions only). Fees for adoptions include having the animal spayed or neutered and are \$75 for dogs and \$65 for cats.

Call 542-7203 for more information.

Deborah R. Meyer is an animal lover and former editor of Chatham Crossroads.

Chatham Animal Rescue and Education



Meet Bliss

Breed: Smooth Coat Collie Mix
Sex: Female
Weight: 51 lbs. adult weight
Born: Feb 2000
Color: Brown/black highlights/white on chest

Bliss is just what her name says...sheer bliss. She possesses charm, grace and beauty all in one 50-pound package. Whether Bliss is a smooth collie or a shepherd collie cross she possesses the best qualities of both breeds. Bliss is housetrained, non-destructive and has basic obedience training. What a recall! Bliss has natural herding ability as well as great agility. Bliss will require a person dedicated to finding a job for her and the ability to have her with them most of the time (person who works at home or could take Bliss with them to work). Bliss overflows with loyalty and desire to please and will learn anything you want to teach her quickly. Bliss is ready for a job and her forever home. If there was ever a dog who had a lot to give ... it is Bliss! Current on vaccinations, spayed. Gets along with other dogs and cats.

To Adopt Bliss, call C.A.R.E. at 542-5757 or visit us on the web at www.chathamanimalrescue.org

Foster Corner



Celebrate spring in your garden and ours -- join us for a Garden Walk, Saturdays at 10 am.

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An hour with artist Ruffin Hobbs

By KAREN LADD

Classical music wafts through the plastic sheeting walls of Ruffin Hobbs' studio space. Hobbs is working on a steel sculpture, his tall, robust figure bent in calm concentration. Noticing that he has a visitor, he takes a break from his work, removes his safety goggles, and greets me. We walk around the studio, and then into the house.

Ruffin Hobbs lives and works in the historic McBane gristmill, located on Cane Creek in Alamance County. The mill, built in 1850, was a social and economic center for the surrounding community. Not only was grain milled there, but other businesses flourished there as well. A resident furniture maker's original templates decorate a wall of the building that Hobbs has transformed into a home for himself and his future bride.

That this setting is where Hobbs chooses to live and work should be no surprise to those who know of his background. Born into a Quaker family, Hobbs is the third generation of Hobbs men who have been drawn to the magic and force of mills.

HOBBS: I started as a blacksmith. My family built a blacksmith shop when I was a kid. My father was interested in mills and everything that went with them. He made this table, that clock... I grew up in a family like that.

My grandfather bought Baldwin's Mill in Chatham Co. (where Ruffin's sister, artist Louise Hobbs lives and works) in 1940. He was a professor at Chapel Hill. My father was 17 when that happened. And my dad got the bug for mills. He got a job teaching philosophy at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, which is where I grew up. And he found a mill out there, a big brick shell of a building. This was in the early 50's. People thought he was crazy. Our family lived there, and operated the mill. We supplemented his small income by selling flour and bread. My mother made bread and sold it to grocery stores. So, that's how I grew up! We had big work projects, like building a huge wall! It was pretty cool; we did it together. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

My father became president of Guilford College in 1965, and we moved to Greensboro. We started coming back down to my grandfather's mill, and built a blacksmith shop down here, and other buildings. So this family involvement has kept it going for a pretty long time. My father's passions got carried on to us. And I love mills. I fixed the dam this summer. It had been leaking. We dug out all this debris behind the dam, and then built forms up. It was a huge job! Anything could have happened, and we pulled it off! My plan is to get these millstones operating, and put a waterwheel in.

CROSSROADS: Will you make bread?

HOBBS: I'll make flour ... and sure, I guess I'll make bread with it, but not as a business! It's just the restoration that I love. I grew up that way. And fortunately, I've got this place. This place used to be a happenin' place. It goes back to the 1800's. When old timers come down here, they say that the yard was full of wagons. There was a blacksmith shop here, a furniture maker, and a sawmill. There was a store here. It was sort of a center of work and industry. It was also a social center; probably a man's kind of place. They'd bring their corn here. The miller would just take a tithe of the corn.

I'm real happy fixing this place up and restoring it; it was in pretty bad shape when I got it.

All of us (he has five siblings) have turned out to be artists, or architects or



Ruffin Hobbs

builders. At my high school boarding school, there was a blacksmith forge, and I said, "I'm going to try to use that!" Then I would come home in the summers, and I'd have this other forge to work in! My brother and I started making things. I made lights and candleholders and stuff ... and ... I just kept doing it. (Hobbs went on to study art at Guilford College in Greensboro, and did independent studies in Italy, Greece and Turkey, as well as apprenticing in Williamsburg, Va.)

Hobbs' work has dynamic force and tension that reminds me of the mobiles of Calder, the cutout dancers of Matisse, the figures of Picasso.

HOBBS: I was pretty influenced by the early moderns. I was really turned on by the Futurists. I'm still processing that. It keeps coming out in different ways

CROSSROADS: Why do you like working in metal?

HOBBS: It's



The dragon that graces the entrance to Hobbs' studio is a free-hanging piece he created.

sculptural. I can create planes and open spaces really easily. A sort of floating, and a kind of dynamic relationship. That's the way I see. I've done some stone carving, but I really do like the openness.

Hobbs tells me about a project that he completed last year for Princeton University, a set of 16-foot tigers fabricated from stainless steel, which grace the football stadium. The way that the project came about was one of serendipity.

He was on a ferry on the way to Nantucket, to play the bagpipes at a wedding, when he got into a conversation with an elderly man sitting next to him. One thing led to another, and Hobbs, who happened to have one of his artist brochures with him, shared his vocation with his companion. The companion turned out to be not only the grandfather of the groom, but also a wealthy alumnus of Princeton, who was looking for an artist to create what would be his last legacy - the pair of steel tigers.

Designed and fabricated in Hobbs' Alamance studio, the two tigers were transported to Princeton on flatbed trucks in time for the end of football season. Hobbs followed the tigers, and at their installation, played his bagpipes. The tigers are at once fierce and benign. Though their ribs are designed to be topiaries for ivy, their huge faces are ready to pounce and devour. Hobbs laughs, "I suggested that they put their opponent team's mascots in the tigers' mouths!"

I ask Hobbs about his bagpipe playing.

HOBBS: I started playing in 1965 at Guilford. My two brothers and my father were also crazy about the bagpipes. My father actually started trying to learn in Indiana! I

remember this little practice chanter; it was like a recorder. I was playing the clarinet, but I kept looking at the chanter, and blew it a little bit. But it was this professor at Guilford who played the bagpipes, and offered to teach us, that got us going. I've studied in Scotland twice, been in various bands... It's a real source of passion for me as well as my musical outlet. I play at weddings, funerals... it's always the same tune that people want at funerals." Amazing Grace.

CROSSROADS: Are there other funeral tunes for bagpipes?

HOBBS: Lots! There's "Flowers of the Forest", which is a dirge that's played by the Scottish Battalion at funerals. The flowers of the forest represent soldiers that have been killed.

CROSSROADS: Do you play for free or for pay?

HOBBS: For pay, usually. I like the idea that people have to pay the piper!

Returning to his artwork, I ask Hobbs to describe what the work is saying.

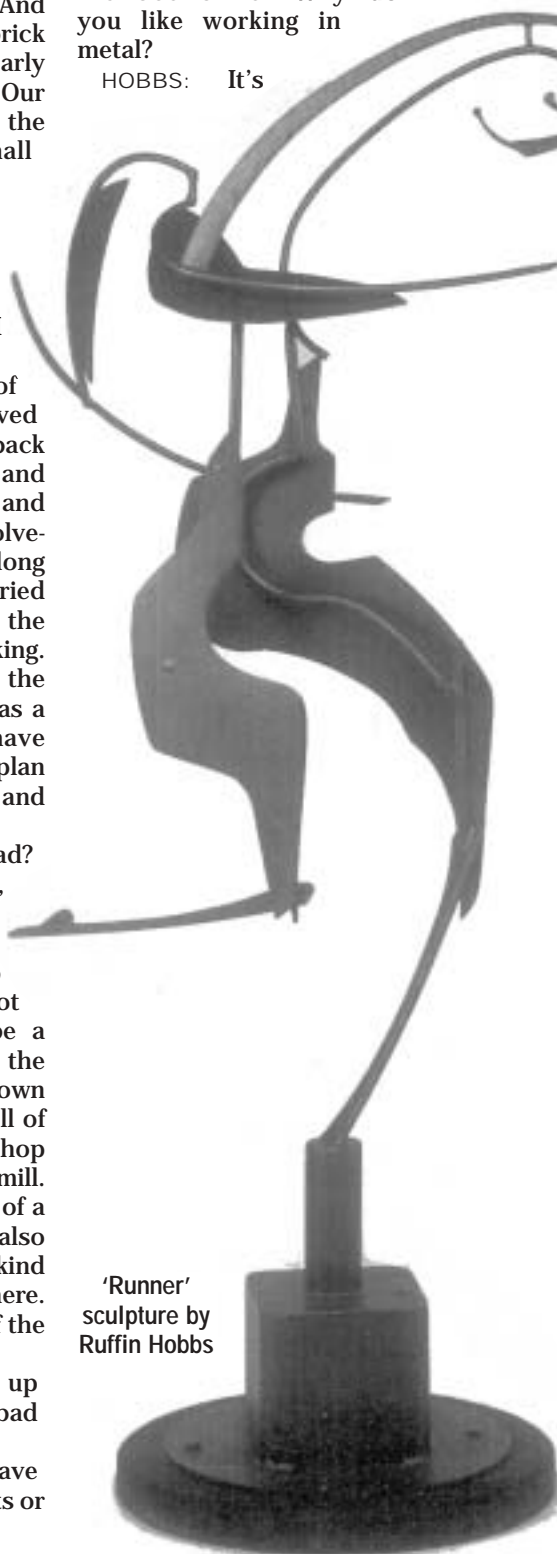
HOBBS: It's about an inner dynamic. It's about raw energy, dynamic power. It feels different with different pieces I make, but it's something inside. "I may be branching out into areas I haven't done yet. I doubt that my inner reality will change much, but I don't see it as being "fixed". I see myself at this point in my life as wanting to challenge myself.

Sculptor Henry Moore once said, "To be an artist is to believe in life." Hobbs' work, deeply rooted in the passions of past generations, is dynamic, powerful, and as exquisite as a set of wings.

It has a life of its own.

To see his work, visit Steinway Gallery in Chapel Hill.

Karen Ladd mixes her backgrounds in pastoral ministry and art in her massage therapy practice.



'Runner' sculpture by Ruffin Hobbs

Pittsboro gave 'bummers' the bum's rush

The weather in Pittsboro was quite pleasant on Sunday, April 29, 1865. About a dozen local folk were lounging in the center of town and enjoying the weather, and all seemed quiet and serene. General Lee had surrendered his army at Appomatox on April 9, and General J.E. Johnston had surrendered to the Union's General Sherman at Bennett Place on April 18, 1865.

Pittsboro's fairly isolated location saved it from the ravages of fighting, aided by severe floods along the Haw River and its tributaries earlier in the year, which prevented the Union troops in Raleigh and Durham from crossing. The Federal troops only passed through the town after both Lee and Johnston had surrendered.

The town had become a haven for people who fled the coast during the war, but nevertheless had been devastated by the loss of soldiers' lives and the death of some civilians from malnutrition and disease. The shortage of men to work the farms, a shortage of food, and the lack of money caused much hardship for the local citizens. Even the rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, once a thriving parish, complained that there had been no collections since Lee's surrender because of the almost complete absence of money in the area.

Suddenly five Federal soldiers rode into Pittsboro from the west and stopped at the center of town. There had been reports that "bummers" were robbing people living a few miles north of Pittsboro and the locals suspected that these five men were the bummers. Their suspicions were reinforced when one of the soldiers was seen to be riding a fine white horse that belonged to a local citizen.

When questioned about from where they had come, the soldiers said that

Chatham's Historical Heritage



FRED VATTER

they were the advanced guard of a large force following them, but the local citizens didn't believe them. Their surrender was demanded by Captain Thomas West, a veteran of the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry, who had mounted his own horse as they approached.

All but one of the bummers galloped away through the town, but the remaining one drew his pistol and engaged the captain in a horseback duel during which each one fired several shots. No one was hit, but the Federal soldier was narrowly missed by a bullet that lodged in the wall of a local storehouse. One local citizen was so excited by the skirmish that he ran into Hanks and Berry's drug store, seized an empty gun and began to snap it at the hostile Yankee, who finally galloped off after this companions.

A number of local Pittsboro citizens, probably young veterans who had just returned from the war, pursued the Union soldiers and caught up with them at the Haw River. In the ensuing exchange of gunfire three of the five intruders were killed. It was determined that the dead belonged to General Smith Atkin's cavalry, in Chapel Hill.

Atkins, an Illinois lawyer who had fought at Shiloh, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and through the Carolinas campaign

occupied Chapel Hill with his entire brigade - the 92nd Illinois, 9th Michigan, 9th Ohio and 10th Ohio cavalry regiments. The Union troops had been ordered to protect the University and the town was relatively undamaged by the occupation, and some citizens grudgingly remarked about the civility and propriety of the Union soldiers. This was quite a surprise in view of General Sherman's army's reputation for destruction. Ellie Swain, daughter of the University president, was so captivated by General Atkins that she later married him.

The local folk feared that General Atkins would send his troops into Pittsboro to avenge their fellow trooper's death. Accordingly, the next day they sent the Honorable John Manning to Chapel Hill for the purpose of negotiating a peace treaty between Pittsboro and the U.S. Armies. He explained to General Atkins that the bummers were destroying the property of the already suffering local citizens and stealing whatever little they had left in the way of food or farm animals. After listening patiently, the General said that the bummers deserved to be shot, and there would be no vengeance taken out against Pittsboro.

The local citizens of Chatham believed that this was perhaps the last battle in which Union soldiers were killed in connection with the Civil War. However, I have recently learned about the battle of Palmito Ranch near Brownsville, Texas during May 12 and 13, 1865. A force of Union infantry and cavalry attacked a Confederate outpost on the banks of the Rio Grande, which had done nothing to break an unofficial truce. On the second day of fighting the Confederate troops pursued the retreating, disorganized Union soldiers, who suffered 30 killed or wounded and

another 113 captured. This was the last fighting by land forces of any size during the war years.

Nevertheless, the citizens of Pittsboro had the honor of standing up for law, order, and decency, and prevailing in their efforts.

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

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Bonnie Terll of Hill Creek is mother to animals

BY JUDY HOGAN

Some of our souls in Chatham are four-footed, and we are fortunate to have a vet in Pittsboro (Hill Creek Veterinary Hospital on Rectory Street) who understands both them and us. Bonnie Terll decided to become a vet in 1984, when several experiences combined to give her lightning bolt clarity about what she wanted to be. A Duke graduate, she planned to attend medical school but decided to work first as a research technician at Duke Medical Center. She observed that the doctors she worked with weren't very happy in their personal lives. In the meantime she met a veterinarian in the lab and recalled her childhood desire to study veterinary medicine. The clincher was when her roommate's dog was injured. "I didn't ever want to feel so helpless again with an injured animal," she said. By 1992 she had finished the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine. She worked from 1992 to 97 for All Animals Veterinary Hospital in Sanford, and in 1998 she and Pat Pagel of Cole Park Veterinary Hospital opened Hill Creek.

Recently they took on an associate doctor, Rachel Davis. In fact, the four staff in 1998 has expanded to twelve, full- and part-time. Bonnie feels lucky that her staff's personalities all mesh, that they all care about the animals and want the practice to be at the highest level. When Bonnie approaches a new patient, she reminds herself that the cat, say, has already been poked with a



Bonnie Terll with friends Sophie, Zack and Buddy.

PHOTO BY MELISSA SEMENOV

thermometer, weighed, etc., so "she sees me a potential threat, too." Bonnie talks to her, pets her, gets down on the floor, if need be, to learn whether she's fearful, aggressive, or calm. Then she can alert the owner to what the cat's response to shots or ear exam, etc., may be. The hardest part for her is when animals have to be euthanized. Sometimes she cries, more for the loss of the relationship between the people and their pet than for animal, who is now "at peace and fine." She tries to comfort the people. Bonnie doesn't believe in euthanizing for behavior

problems or human convenience, and so Hill Creek has a few four-footed staff. Rosie was brought in because she'd refused to come out from under the bed for a year. Rosie now lives contentedly among the cat boarders and plays with them when they're let out for exercise. Hill Creek tailors the vaccinations any patient receives to their lifestyle. An indoor pet won't get the inoculations an outdoor one needs. They also consider the owners' budget and discuss treatment options. She still finds time to garden with her husband Steve, write, and make stained

glass, cutting the glass herself. She showed me a glass piece of two cats she was doing as a prize for C.A.R.E.'s (Chatham Animal Rescue and Education) annual cat show. She advises people choosing careers to "learn what kind of a worker you are." She herself learned from her data entry student job that she always did more than was required. "If you're the type who becomes overly committed, choose your career carefully. You might end up not having much of a personal life."

Chatham's development concerns her. "When we moved here, there was a cow pasture across the road. Now there are 10 homes. I can't wait for the day when progress means a better quality of life, not more people, more businesses, more stuff."

She hopes that plans for the growth of Chatham County will work to preserve the natural resources and quality of life that make Chatham such a unique place to live and work. I asked Bonnie's three dogs and the cat who were snuggled up to her and to me their opinion: "She convinced us," they made clear, "that our purpose in life is to love people. We work at it all the time." Website for Hill Creek is: www.hillcreekvet.com

Judy Hogan, founding editor of Carolina Wren Press (1976-91), has published five poetry and two prose books. She teaches creative writing in Durham and Chatham and freelances as a writer and editor. She lives in Moncure with her cat Achilles.

Agriculture

Continued from Page 1

small livestock. It will be at least another year before I open up. I'm hoping to sell to restaurants and local farmer's markets." Burton said she will run a pesticide-free operation, instead relying on the cultivation of certain plants that attract beneficial insects. "I also will focus on building soil fertility, which is feeding the soil, not just the plant," she added. "Soil fertility is a lot of the focus of sustainable farming. I learned about that in the program and a lot of other things that interest me like soil erosion effects on the watershed and land management." After graduating from UNC in 1996 with a liberal arts degree, Burton traveled in Europe, working on farms, including a potato farm in Scotland. This experience fueled

her growing interest in sustainable agriculture and upon her return to North Carolina she started work at Perrywinkle Farm, a sustainable farm in Chapel Hill owned by Mike Perry and Cathy Jones. She spent two and a half seasons as a farm assistant at Perrywinkle, learning daily about practices such as marketing, plant propagation, soil management and harvesting. While at Perrywinkle she began taking classes at CCCC. "I learned about the sustainable ag program from friends so I enrolled," Burton said. "With my interest in sustainable agriculture, everything seemed to go together pretty well. I learned everything from chemistry of different soils in North Carolina to how to drive a tractor." At CCCC, Burton found another love — automotive mechanics. "I took agriculture mechanics in the sustainable ag program and saw that I could really apply it to sustainable agricul-

ture, so I decided to enroll in the automotive program at the college. I built my own farm truck at CCCC, a big old green Ford longbed," she stated proudly. Burton now has a two-year associate's degree in automotive technology to go along with her bachelor's degree from UNC and certificate in sustainable agriculture. She is putting her automotive skills to use as a part-time instructor at CCCC's Chatham County Campus in Pittsboro, where she teaches in the Huskin's Bill program for high school students. "I love to get my hands dirty," she smiled. "Being involved in the land as well as mechanics interests me." Burton wholeheartedly believes in sustainable agriculture, and that has given her a keen insight into the field, insight she is more than willing to pass on to kindred spirits. "I would tell anyone interested in sustainable agriculture not to limit themselves

to just one area," she said. "Invite different kinds of experiences on different farms — large and small, nursery, dairy, livestock, vegetable — then see what you would like to take on. "We have a lot of interesting farms around here to look at," she continued. "There's a goat cheese farm, a goat soap farm, a sustainable dairy in Hillsborough, a sustainable chicken processing farm in Bear Creek. It's interesting. But it's good to see farms outside North Carolina, too. I've been up and down the East Coast, some West Coast and abroad. You get a different perspective." Whatever may drive people into sustainable agriculture, Burton is certain they will find it rewarding. "Sustainable agriculture is a very inspiring and motivating experience," she said.

Toye Eskridge is public relations specialist at CCCC.

At the Library

These books are among the many recent acquisitions of the Pittsboro Memorial Library.

Pursuit: A Novel by Thomas Perry. The latest psychological crime novel by the author of "The Butcher's Boy" and "Metzger's Dog." It's the story of two killers: one a professional assassin whose target was one of the 13 people he killed in a restaurant; the other a private investigator hired by the family of one of the victims.

Lost Soldiers by James Webb. James Webb's new novel takes place in Vietnam many years after the war's end, as an ex-Marine tracks down an Army deserter who had joined the enemy. Webb's insights into the history and politics of Vietnam, the tensions between generations and the persistent consequences of the war, underlie this mystery.

Weaver's Companion by Linda Ligon (editor) et al. Weaving techniques and pointers drawn from past issues of "Handwoven" magazine. The spiral-bound handbook, which both beginning and experienced weavers should find useful, is filled with reference charts and illustrations, Web sites and other resource information.

Do What You Love for the Rest of Your Life: A Practical Guide to Career Change and Personal Renewal by Bob Grifiths. The author, who left Wall Street for a more fulfilling career in the arts, offers practical and philosophical advice to people contemplating career changes.

Jacaranda Vines by Tamara McKinley. The death of tyrannical vineyard owner Jock Witney causes a crisis for his family and winery, Jacaranda Vines. In an effort to hold on to the vineyard, Witney's widow Cordelia takes her granddaughter on a journey through Australia's outback, during which she recalls the history of the family and of wine-making in Australia.

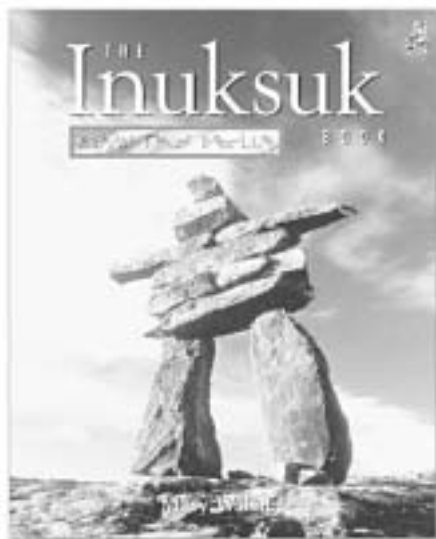
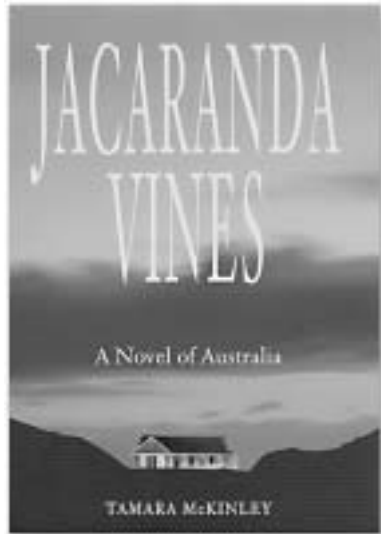
Swimming with Hammerhead Sharks (Scientists in the Field) by Kenneth Mallory. Ages 9-12. Mallory recounts his experiences during the filming of an IMAX feature on sharks, highlights the importance of careful observation in field research, and corrects misinformation about sharks. Many underwater color photos.

The Inuksuk Book by Mary Wallace. Ages 9-12. Wallace weaves information about the culture, language and daily life of the Inuit into her non-fiction book on the inuksuk, the stone structures built by the Inuit in the Arctic. Many photographs from the early 1900s.

Locust Pocus!: A Book to Bug You by Douglas McKelvey. Ages 3-8. A variety of bugs, from mosquitoes to roaches to moths, are described and illustrated in a gleefully "gross" manner that is sure to appeal to lots of kids.

Emily's Art by Peter Catalanotto. Ages 5-8. This story of a first-grader's experience with an art contest is accompanied by beautiful watercolor illustrations.

All book cover art courtesy amazon.com



In praise of 2-lane roads

Last summer in the mountains near Asheville, an elderly friend of mine was tearing

Writers Corner

WITH MARJORIE HUDSON

up a mountain road in her ancient Subaru, I was hanging on for dear life beside her, and she turned to me and said, "There's nothing like a two-lane road!"

My sentiments exactly. Especially where driving outside the lines means a short flight in a wingless craft. Yee-ha!

The two-lane roads I love are legion. I started young. There's the one back in Maryland, just past the Beltway, where I used to take my big BMW motorcycle-riding buddies just to see if they could take a curve and take a joke. I would turn out in front of the pack, in my zip suit and my zippy little Honda road bike that got 90 miles per gallon, high test, and they would follow, screeching off the main road to take the turn, and ending up in road hog hell. It wasn't called Seven Locks Road for nothing. There were at least seven sharp turns where your rear wheel could lock up, skid on gravel, and fling you into a barb wire fence. What fun! I dared a cousin to speed down that road once in my parents' lumbering station wagon and for weeks after he thought I meant to kill him. Still not sure I'm forgiven.

I don't drive like that anymore, but I still love a two-lane road. The thing about them is, you know where you are — from mountains to the sea, your world becomes geographical, and particular, full of surprising pleasures. The Blue Ridge Parkway, for one, is a master class in two-lane driving. I remember the first time I drove around its lush curves, sunlight glinting through the trees and into my eyes and blinding me intermittently, pleasantly, till I was drunk with the blackish green shade and flashing light of hemlock. Those hairpin turns are sweet. You lean in, and your body seems to take the turn as if it already knows how to fly. Whether or not the car follows gracefully depends on the car.

On a two-lane road, sometimes there are one-lane bridges. Places dear to my heart, because they require you to play chicken with the approaching traffic, if there is any, or at least be polite and honk, and you get a glimpse of a little creek and feel the rumble — usually — of the much-asphalted timbers under your tires, the actual wood of a plank road built a fair time ago, maybe even by the farmer whose land you are crossing — maybe even with his trees.

There is a reason that new car ads always show the car on a two-lane road. It's the place where driving is fun — and even (dare I say it) beautiful at times. It is the kind of road that speaks to a well-made car and clunker alike — and tells it to have a great time. It is a democratic kind of road. It is the kind of road where trees make an arch overhead for everyone who passes and build cool shade on a scorching day. Such a road makes the kind of flickering green light that any child who has ever been outside in a temperate climate has seen, waving her arms at the effusive sky. It is the most friendly light outside of a mother's face.

Another thing about two-lane roads. Usually there isn't much traffic. If there were a lot of traffic, the road would have long since been torn up and made into a four-lane. Which brings me to my favorite two-lane road. This is a road that I have used many times as a kind of rosary, with at least ten places where my mind is forced to take note.

1 Come to the corner, thank god for a clear patch so I can turn.

2 Come to the Stroud field, on a sunny March day after a soaking rain, and sing a little song of praise, amazed at how green rye can be, and how the color makes you want to lie down in pastures and restore your soul.

3 Come to the little bridge at Pokeberry Creek, say a prayer for the mink and

beaver you have seen there and the otter you hope is coming back.

4 Come up the hill, say a prayer for Lora, buried in the cemetery there two springs ago.

5 At the Bynum Road, check out the old gabled farmhouse, empty for years, paint flaked down to bone, glass windows still reflecting light like eyes, wonder who lived here and when they are coming back.

6 Take the big downhill run before the Haw River Bridge. Go fast, almost legally.

7 Look for that big sycamore below the dam—see a blue heron lift his wings as if in personal blessing. Eight, Pray you get up some speed to pass that slow car because you don't have a chance in hell on any of the rest of this two-lane, blind-curve, hill-humped road. This is the only straightaway for miles.

8 hang on to the wheel as you check out the Bynum Bridge downstream.

9 Pray to stay alive to see those sparkling waters again.

10 One place in this road is my personal sign for spring: I have looked for it in late winter when discouraged, and although I never know when it is coming, it has never let me down: dogwood and redbud in such gorgeous profusion, on both sides, that you know there is no going back to the half-baked spring of March. Resurrection is inevitable. Summer is a-comin.

ALL THAT HAS CHANGED. U.S. 15-501, the muse for at least one of my short stories, and for at least one Sally Sutton painting, fields and sky lush with blue and gold, is going four-lane. At first I thought, that's okay. Four lanes won't take up that much more room. Maybe it will be like a kind of parkway. There will still be curves, and turns, and Pokeberry Creek's narrow crossing, and the sycamore below the dam where the full moon has been known to roost along with the herons. I was wrong. Turns out a four-lane road has something called a right of way that's about four times as wide. There's got to be cleared space to either side as wide as the road. There have to be new power lines—strung on big, brawny things that seem almost twice as tall as the humble electric poles of a year ago. Sets of four and five gleaming silver wires zingback and forth, from one side to the other, until you are dizzy. Dozers straighten the curves, crush the high places, build up the low places, until it looks like every other road that was ever made anonymous. The gabled farmhouse is gone — flattened in an afternoon. Neighbors' houses, once tucked away behind carefully tended trees, are now exposed to sun and traffic and headlights shining in the living room window.

The new bridge takes out the view downstream and a cove of sycamores. No heron shall lift its wings in blessing as we go by. It won't be all bad, I tell myself. It will be safer now to pass. Easier to see a school bus stopped for a child. Maybe someone will get up funds for a wildflower planting to replace the ox-eye daisies and Jerusalem artichoke that are now scraped away to bare clay.

Sometime next year, or the year after, we will be driving along, on a new, flat wide, anonymous road, choked with traffic, and our minds will drift, pretending we are in a car ad, zooming around a particular dappled curve. We will blink our eyes and find ourselves slam in the future — flat as a four-lane road on the way to nowhere.

Pray for a patch of redbud.

Marjorie Hudson is author of *Search- ing for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand*.

At McIntyre's Books

Sat. March 16 at 11 a.m. Stephen Vogel will read from his non-fiction work, *Prime Mover: A Natural History of Muscle*.

Sat., March 23 at 11 a.m. Carol Svec will read from her new work, *After Any Diagnosis: How to Take Action Against Your Illness Using the Best and Most Current Medical Information Available*.

Sat. March 30 at 11 a.m. Thomas Parramore will read from his work celebrating the centennial of the Wright brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk, *First to Fly: North Carolina and the Beginnings of Aviation*.



Development

Continued from Page 1

protections in the existing ordinances. The "big box"/fast food shopping megacomplex proposed for the intersection of U.S. 15-501 and the bypass north of Pittsboro is another zoning change request (to the town of Pittsboro) and is at the headwaters of another big creek that empties into the Haw. The S.T. Wooten asphalt plant on Sugar Lake Road wants to greatly expand capacity for what is already a non-conforming use in the watershed of Jordan Lake. A development company from Cary is planning a major development on nearly 1500 acres of former International Paper land on Dry Creek in Hadley Township.

Elected officials of the county and town are spending many hours at

public hearings and pouring over development plans.

The big question boils down to WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE? Are our county and town zoning and watershed protection ordinances just guidelines and suggestions, or do they have real teeth? Do we believe that they are the rules everyone should play by, or do big developers call the shots? Every citizen needs to think carefully about these questions.

Educate yourself about the issues and get out and vote this spring and fall for the candidates who represent you and your positions. It may be the most important thing you do.

Elaine Chiosso is executive director of the Haw River Assembly, a grassroots organization working since 1982 to protect the Haw River watershed. To join or get more information call 542-5790 or e-mail hra@emji.net

The future

Continued from Page 1

Chapel, designed as Chatham County's first comprehensive community.

Considered "large" for the county only through the ultimate number of homes to be built over a long period of time, Briar Chapel is, in reality, bigger on benefits to the people of Chatham County. In fact, four very unique land-use cornerstones form the foundation for Briar Chapel, including the following:

Cornerstone One: Briar Chapel Hill will empower the county to manage its growth: Under its comprehensive design, Briar Chapel will help the county responsibly manage local growth through the phasing of 200 to 300 homes per year, over a 10 to 15 year period. No more than 2,500 homes will ever be built at Briar Chapel.

Cornerstone Two: Briar Chapel will retain open space and help perpetuate the rural character of the county: Through comprehensive planning, Briar Chapel will protect an unprecedented 50 percent of its 1,490 acres as open space, retaining vital animal migration corridors, enhancing and establishing wetlands, and preserving such natural landmarks as Bennett Mountain. In addition, abundant parklands and trails will be created, and the proud stands of pines along the community's outside boundaries will be forever retained, serving as a natural buffer and establishing a scenic community entry.

Cornerstone Three: Briar Chapel will provide more than \$10 million in needed amenities/facilities/improvements to the people of Chatham County: As a comprehensive community, Briar Chapel will yield more than \$10 million in such needed and desired

amenities as a site for a new state-of-the-art elementary school, several youth sports fields, walking/biking trails, an internal water treatment and holding facility, a range of entry level housing, grouping of traditionally styled residential neighborhoods, a retail plaza, and numerous new road improvements.

Cornerstone Four: Briar Chapel will serve as a model for retaining local land-use controls through good planning and design: Comprehensively created through more than 40 community meetings and several public hearings, Briar Chapel reflects the best of public-private partnering to protect Chatham County's local quality of life. Briar Chapel is an innovative solution to the challenges crippling other nearby counties who are still following older piecemeal planning and development practices.

By design or by default? Which is the pathway that Chatham County will take as it is forced to respond to the pressures of progress. At risk is much including the chance to seize the opportunity for Chatham County to take its destiny under its own control and set the new standard for planning excellence, to do it differently and do it right — or, to do nothing, and possibly lose the opportunity today, right now, to effectively, wisely, plan for the future.

So, we stand, side-by-side, those of us at Newland Communities with the planners, politicians and people of Chatham County. All of us at the crossroads, deciding to either follow the same course as in the past, or to boldly go forward on a new path, a new road, the road often less traveled.

Which is the best course for Chatham County?

We believe that the answer is Briar Chapel.

Will Briar Chapel be a boon or a bust for Chatham taxpayers?

By DAVID V. STALLARD

One of the many controversies, that erupted on Jan. 22 when Newland Communities' team presented its proposal for Briar Chapel to the Chatham County Commissioners, concerned Newland's assertion that Briar Chapel would "pay its own way" taxwise.

Lucy Gallo, a CPA with Thomas, Knight, Trent, King & Co., summarized at the meeting a detailed Estimated Annual Impact Summary in Section 12 of Newland's proposal of Dec. 27. She concluded that, at completion, Briar Chapel would contribute to Chatham County an estimated annual surplus of \$684,000, i.e., about \$111. per Briar Chapel resident.

I offered an opposing analysis. I am a retired engineer living in Ferrington Village, who studied the Impact Summary and its underlying assumptions in the proposal. I concluded that Briar Chapel would not contribute a surplus but would cause a large annual tax burden on Chatham.

A key assumption in Gallo's analysis is that there will be 890 schoolchildren in the 2,500 living units on completion, i.e., an average of 0.356 child/unit. This figure was based on a study by Tischler & Associates, "Public School Student Generation Rate Tables—1996 Chatham County Public School Impact Fee Report." In 1996 Chatham County had no development like Briar Chapel, but it did have Ferrington Village and Governor's Club, which had large retiree populations and very few schoolchildren.

The estimate of schoolchildren should be relevant to a community of young families, as Briar Chapel probably would be. Conversely, retirees would want, and be able to afford, more space and tranquility, and would probably live elsewhere. As young parents, he and his wife had

lived in Wayland, MA, in a middle-class neighborhood with an average of 2.5 children per house.

A figure of 1 schoolchild per living unit would be a more realistic figure than 0.356 in the Briar Chapel analysis. In support of the estimate of 1 child/unit, he and his wife obtained data from Southern Village, also a young community, that indicated a probable average of 0.83 schoolchildren per living unit.

My reworking of Gallo's Economic Impact Summary with an estimate of 1 schoolchild/unit resulted in more operating costs, more debt service for schools and a Briar Chapel tax burden of \$5,682,000 annually for Chatham County.

Moreover, Newland proposed to put \$2,000 in escrow for each housing unit, for a maximum of \$5.0 million.

This money would be given to Chatham County to help pay for a school, if the County begins construction of the school within 5 years of the approval date; otherwise the money would revert to Newland. I have been reliably advised by a person familiar with the Chatham County school administration that it cannot move quickly or in anticipation of new construction. Therefore, Newland's proviso of a 5-year limit had the effect of an escape clause.

Chatham County can not afford the taxes and risks of Briar Chapel. I urge the Commissioners to vote No on Articles for their proposal and the supporting zoning amendments.

The Chatham County Planning Board is currently working on criteria for a compact community and evaluation of the Briar Chapel proposal. Input from citizens can be sent to Keith Megginson, Planning Director, at the County offices or directly to a member of the Planning board, such as Dave LyGrys of Pittsboro.

Have another rosebud

By MAGGIE WILSON

"They're really getting out of control, you know."

"Indeed. They're overpopulating and expanding their habitat into ours at an alarming rate."

"Yes, out of control. Mindless rutting and reproducing so that there isn't enough food for all of them. And they have no natural enemies."

"They say they're not native to this area. Someone brought them here, at least this species."

"Someone really should do something about them. It would be for their own good. Like what they say about the trees — it's better if you cut most of them down, then the ones that are left can thrive."

"Right. On the other hand, they do have their good points. They put out that corn."

"What? Are you crazy? They put it out so when we come to eat it they can shoot us!"

"Oh. Really? And the roses, too?"

"No, not the roses. I don't know why they put the roses out. They don't seem to eat them."

"Hmmm... Well, they are dangerous, it's true. You can't go anywhere anymore without one of them running in front of you. There's nothing we can do?"

"No. Like I said, no natural predators... except, of course, themselves."

"Ah... here, have another rosebud."



Maggie Wilson is an artist and writer living in her dream home in the woods of Chatham.

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COMPACT COMMUNITIES

Are they good for the environment?

BY CATHERINE E. BOLLINGER

Forests define the rural character of Chatham County just as much as farms and fields do. More importantly, forests are the native landscape of our region. By 2040, according to the Draft Southern Forest Resource Assessment (co-written by experts from a number of federal and state agencies and released last November), at the current rate of development there will be no significant tracts of forest left anywhere in the southern Piedmont, including Chatham County. If we allow development to eradicate our native forests, the environmental consequences will be profound.

Our county planners have determined that compact communities may help us preserve the rural character of our landscape by concentrating many people in a relatively small area. However, as our planners work to identify areas suitable for such communities, they need to remember that a key factor in their decision must be the existing vegetation on those sites.

Chatham County's land-use plan calls for compact communities, such as the proposed Briar Chapel development, to be built in non-urban areas in the northeastern corner of the county. The closest urban centers are Carrboro and Chapel Hill—towns in another county. And it's likely that residents of any proposed developments in this area will shop and work in these urban centers, bringing few benefits to Chatham County beyond property taxes.

Besides the fact that the areas targeted for compact development are not close to any Chatham County towns, much of this region is also forested. The environmental consequences of replacing large forest tracts with acres of buildings and roads are substantial. In fact, the impact is so significant that it must be considered when county planners recommend sites for development.

The proposed Briar Chapel development clearly illustrates the negative impacts of replacing forest with concrete and asphalt. Newland Communities' environmental consultants state that 1000 acres of the proposed development is currently an unbroken forest tract of native trees and shrubs. Such an area is vital to the continued wellbeing of the native plants and animals of our Piedmont, because they are adapted to live in forests.

The authors of the Draft Southern Forest Resource Assessment identify seven classes of forest communities that are already rare in our southern



Loss of forest land appears to be in Chatham County's future.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

forests. Two of these classes exist in the 1000 acres of forest that Newland wants to replace with development: old growth forest and bottomland-floodplain forests.

Because the Piedmont region has been farmed and logged intensively for three hundred years, no truly old-growth (200+ years) forest remains. But the proposed Briar Chapel tract does contain older growth forest that is part of a diverse, healthy ecosystem that has been identified by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program as worthy of preservation. It also contains two creeks that are tributaries to the Haw River; these creeks are surrounded by healthy bottomland and floodplain

forest. Thus, not only is this tract valuable for its sheer size; it also harbors ecosystems identified as rare by experts.

What happens when 1000 acres of healthy, increasingly rare forest is destroyed and replaced with development? The environmental impact includes the destruction or displacement of many animals. Large ones, such as deer, beavers, and raccoons, will move onto adjacent lands. Many bird species, such as red-shouldered hawks, barred owls, and pileated woodpeckers, will fly away and never return. Frogs, turtles, salamanders, and other water-dependent creatures will die.

The local climate will change. Tem-

peratures will be higher in the summer; rainfall patterns may change. Light and noise pollution will deter any displaced animals that might try to return. The impact of inadequate sewage treatment systems cannot be fully predicted, but at best, nutrient pollution of local wetlands and streams is likely; at worst, sewage spills may pollute these waters. Rainwater runoff from developed land into our wetlands will carry a variety of pollutants, including excess fertilizers, pesticides, silt, and oil.

But if the experts are right, by 2040, what you will notice most in Chatham County is the transformation of the landscape. No large tracts of forest will remain, only fragments of woodlands. Such woodlands will not contain healthy ecosystems; they will be dominated by a variety of plant and animal invaders not native to our region. These invasive exotics, as they are called, are aggressive, and in fragmented woodlands, they easily out-compete native species adapted to true forests.

Many of our native trees, weakened by trying to survive in woodland fragments, will be killed by invading insects and diseases. The Asian Long-Horned Beetle and the Gypsy Moth are serious threats. Sudden Oak Death, a fungal disease devastating oaks on the west coast, is expected to reach eastern forests in a few years. If we do nothing, in less than forty years, the Chatham County landscape will be homogenized by non-native invaders. The diversity provided by our native trees and shrubs will be largely a memory.

Our native Piedmont ecosystems are not infinitely resilient. They will not survive unless the residents of Chatham County today decide that priorities must change. Land-use plans must consider the ecosystems currently occupying the land. Forests should not be slated for intense development. To encourage the preservation of large forest tracts, economic incentives, such as tax breaks and conservation easements, should be available to landowners.

Compact communities can indeed provide a way to preserve the rural character of Chatham County. But that rural character is more than farms; it is also forest. If the intention of Chatham County's planners is to preserve the healthy native environment its citizens cherish, they must act now to preserve our forests.

Catherine E. Bollinger is a freelance writer who has lived in Chatham County for nearly 13 years. She has a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University.

Briefs

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Later there will be Music for babies and pre-schoolers and their parents with Kathleen Hannon. The four sessions will be April 11, April 25, May 9, and May 23 and they are open to children through age 4. There will be two classes of up to 10 little ones on each of those days. The first class meets at 2 p.m. the other at 3 p.m. Cost is \$40 per baby or pre-schooler (no additional charge for parents!) and the group will meet in Pittsboro. Call Louise Omoto Kessel at 542-2513 or email at: louiseok@mindspring.com for more information or to sign up.

Family Violence and Rape Crisis auction

The 10th Annual Art, Crafts & Antiques Auction is planned for 3 p.m.,

Sunday March 24, at the Fearington Village Barn, Pittsboro. This is FVRC's largest fundraiser and features silent and live auctions offering work from local artists and craftsman, gift certificates for dining, theaters, area retailers and much more. Live old-time and Celtic music will be provided by Blue Moon Rising, a local band featuring hammered dulcimer, concertina, fiddle, and guitar. Pam Smith will be returning as auctioneer this year. Individual admission is \$10 and includes refreshments, wine, and light hors d'oeuvres. Take home a special treasure and support an important cause. If you would like more information about the event, please contact Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services at 542-5445.

Pittsboro Playground Project to meet

The Pittsboro Playground Project will have a general meeting on Thurs.

March 14 at 7 p.m. in conference #2 at CCCC. Everyone is invited. We will be sharing information and progress and reviewing the playground design that the design committee has chosen.

In Playground Project news, the yard sale made \$750. Also, the Piedmont Conservation Council has given the playground project a grant of \$4129 and some change to cover the cost of clearing, tree removal, and grading the playground site. Our next fundraiser will be April 13 — A Kids' Concert.

Leslie Palmer art on display at library

The display in the Reeves Auditorium at the Pittsboro Memorial Library for March is the work of Leslie Palmer. Ms. Palmer lives in Fearington and the exhibit is drawings in graphite on paper. The display is free and open to the public during library hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays,

and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The library is located at 158 West Street, over a block west of the Pittsboro Courthouse.

Yoga Class

7 times a week in downtown Pittsboro. All levels.

For profound health and balance improvement.

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o p i n i o n

Briar Chapel bad news for Chatham

By NANCY PEACOCK

I applaud Chatham County for having the foresight to create a Land Use Development Plan that seeks to protect rural character and open space while at the same time allowing for some growth. It is unfortunate that an out-of-state developer has arrived before we have had the time to move that plan from a stage of vision to one of solid ordinances with distinct definitions. To my way of thinking, we in Chatham County should be able to define the meaning of our Land Use Development Plan and anyone wanting to build in the county should be required to meet our criteria. As it stands now, Newland Communities, headquartered in San Diego, has arrived to twist the Land Use Development Plan to meet its own criteria.

Newland Communities has chosen a site for its Briar Chapel subdivision on the north end of Chatham County. Newland claims that Briar Chapel is a compact community. It would be made up of 2500 dwelling units. The estimated number of people who would be living there would be 6,175. The proposed retail space measures 637,000 square feet. Included in the proposal are four community centers and a heli-pad. The development itself would be three times the population of Pittsboro and is larger than both the Southern Village and Meadowmont developments combined. To call Briar Chapel a compact community is like calling New York City a compact community. I guess you could say that it meets some of the qualifications but it's a bit of a stretch, or more accurately, a sprawl.

Newland insists that this sprawl will be good for us, that it will enrich our lives and make our property values go up. But what I see in it is more asphalt, more storm water run off, longer traffic jams, a lowering of air quality, problems with trash and recycling needs and a new place to shop, none of which I need.

Newland states that "there is presently a need for additional commercial enterprises and businesses in northeastern Chatham County" but I have not noticed such a need. What I have noticed are empty storefronts in both Cole Park Plaza and Chatham Crossing, just a few miles down road from the Briar Chapel commercial site. What I believe is that Newland's proposed shopping area along 15-501 has nothing to do with the current needs of northeastern Chatham County and everything to do with Newland's own needs to attract buyers to Briar Chapel.

Newland insists that the widening of 15-501 will easily accommodate the added traffic of its development but it was my understanding that 15-501 was being widened to accom-

modate the traffic that we already had. By allowing this many more cars into the area, all of them probably heading towards Chapel Hill, the universities and RTP, we will be inviting yet more widening of roads and further threatening the land of long term residents.

Newland also states that the garbage and recycling generated in Briar Chapel will most likely be trucked out of the county, but where? And for how long? Presently, these questions remain unanswered but the final answer may rest within our own county's landfills and recycling centers. Whatever contract Newland is able to negotiate, it will eventually run out and Chatham County may be faced with the huge problem of processing the excess household garbage of this very large development.

Another negative in the equation of Briar Chapel is the school that Newland is providing a site and partial funding for. On the surface this seems mighty generous, but considering that it will fill with students from Briar Chapel, it doesn't leave the county in any better position than it is in now.

There is also the matter of the 700 acres of green space that Newland promises to preserve. Seven hundred acres of green space sounds pretty good, until you go looking for it on the map. There's a block here and a block there but nowhere is there a solid 700 acres and nowhere is it clear what is defined as green space.

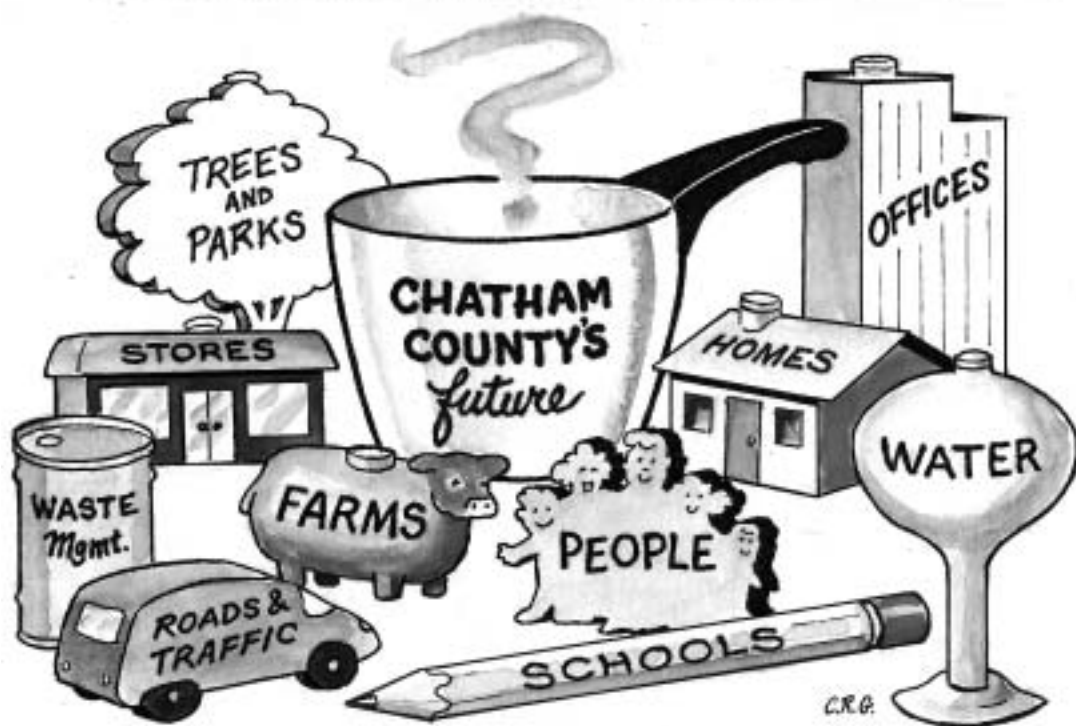
Possibly the most insulting thing that Newland has done has been to relocate their sewage plant so that it sits outside of their own development and is adjacent to the back yards and in some cases the front yards of people who have inhabited this county for generations.

Newland does not seem to understand (or perhaps care is a better word) why their vision of what is good for us does not fit with our vision of what is good for us. Instead they seem content to simply smile and tell us that they propose to be our new neighbors. They tell us that they realize change is hard. They tell us that the abominable growth that the Triangle has experienced in the last ten years only proves that we need more abominable growth.

Trust us, they say, but I fail to see why we should. Why should we trust a company that sees nothing wrong with locating its sewage plant adjacent to its new neighbors' farms and land?

If allowed, Briar Chapel would cost Chatham County more than it could ever provide. The building of Briar Chapel would take 10 years but it will not be just 10 years that we will suffer for it. It will be forever. The building of Briar Chapel could be the worst thing that has happened to Chatham County in a long, long time.

For best results ... MIX INGREDIENTS CAREFULLY!



Development plans never die and they don't fade away

By JULIAN SERENO
EDITOR

Development plans have a weird sort of immortality. They go before various local elected boards and often as not get sent packing.

But then they reappear, morphing into something new that tries to answer the reasons it got canned in the first place. Those plans too get the boot from the people's representatives. But once again, later, the development plan is back, changed again.

It seems almost inevitably that the development eventually happens.

For environmentalists and others who tend to oppose developments, it's vexing. They think they have a stake nailed in its heart but no matter what, it is always coming back to life.

An example of this is the New Hope Commons shopping center in Durham. I worked as an editor for the Durham Herald-Sun at the time that the proposals for major developments - a Walmart and a Home Depot in the U.S. 15-501 corridor - kept going before Durham's elected bodies. They kept getting rejected because the developments would all lie right next to New Hope Creek, an environmentally sensitive area slated for protection. While the proposals had some political

support in the Durham City Council because they would add to the tax base and would be a source of jobs, the opponents had an ironclad majority so it wasn't going to happen.

But then a peculiar thing happened. At one of the many votes concerning the development, an opponent, a Durham City Councilwoman, got tired and accidentally voted "aye" when she meant to vote "nay". She wasn't allowed to change her vote, so the "ayes" had it.

As a result the developments all got built: New Hope Commons shopping center with a Walmart, Old Navy, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble and much more, and on the other side of U.S. 15-501, a Home Depot on Mt. Moriah Church Road. All of it is right next to New Hope Creek.

The councilwoman felt just awful about it, but what was done was done. Everyone at the Herald-Sun seemed to accept this version of events.

I was surprised at the time that no one even entertained the possibility that things might not have been what they seemed. I'm cynical enough to still wonder. There are shoe boxes full of cash in my imagination if not anywhere else.

One thing that will never surprise me again, though, is that the developments eventually do get built - no matter how many oppose them and no matter how dead they may seem.

Citizens must demand nuclear safety

To the Editor:

Excellent issue on the risks at Shearon Harris. We appreciate Crossroads showing both sides, because it is easy to understand the importance of eliminating and/or reducing risks, especially regarding terrorism. Interestingly, CP&L so far refuses to comment on the risk reduction measures promoted by citizen groups and 25 elected officials.

A couple of clarifications. Our information should have reflected that there will be approximately 10 million pounds of high-level waste if all four pools are filled as CP&L plans; presently, the pools contain three to four million pounds.

Also, we agree that waste casks stored at each plant should not be left exposed for possible attack - nor should they be buried. The Risk Reduction Plan calls for CP&L to space the casks apart, with each set on a concrete pad and surrounded

with earth or gravel mounds. This is the way the military protects vital targets. If a cask were destroyed, a few dozen bundles of fuel rods would be at stake - versus

about 4,000 currently in the Harris waste pools. It's not a perfect or permanent solution, but it would almost certainly remove Harris from any terrorist's list of top targets.

Finally, we have just learned that a federal program found that military shipments of high-level nuclear waste are even more poorly protected than are the weapons plants and power plants. Special operations personnel have gone public, concerned that they were able to hijack trucks carrying nuclear waste in every one of five attempts during "mock terrorism" exercises. CP&L is the only utility shipping irradiated fuel, which it does approximately monthly on rail lines coming into Harris. This is a risk that should be avoided.

I urge Chatham citizens to speak out and get involved with a new group, Chatham for Nuclear Risk Reduction (542-4234). The risks are real - and we CAN do something about it.

Jim Warren
DIRECTOR, NC WARN

Moncure air

Continued from Page 1

ozone in the lower atmosphere and set off red and orange alert days in the whole Triangle area).

Half the smog problem of the Triangle is from coal-burning plants owned by Duke Power and CP&L. Automobiles do the rest. The Cape Fear plant in 2000 had reduced its NOX emissions by 20 percent, according to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Hydrogen chloride was up slightly in 2000. Sulfuric acid was down 28 percent in 2000. These toxic releases into air or water, most of which are permitted, including arsenic, barium, chromium, copper, hydrogen fluoride, manganese, nickel, sulfuric acid, zinc, are not good for health. Besides causing cancer, these chemicals can irritate eyes, skin, respiratory system, and lead to bronchitis, allergic reactions. Some target the liver and kidney.

Manganese can cause Parkinson's disease. Several thousand people live within a few miles of these industries. Even before I moved to Moncure, in the summer of 1998, when I attended a meeting at the Celestial Lodge about the Southern states low-level nuclear dump planned for Moncure, people were talking about the bad-smelling releases from Allied Chemical (Honeywell).

Reports circulate that people who live near these industries are dying. An epidemiological study needs to be done (to compare the illnesses of Moncure residents with those in a similar community not exposed to toxic air), but in the meantime new things are in the works for our benefit.

(1) Seven Students A.W.A.R.E. (Advocating Work and Action to Reduce Emissions) with N.C. State University have made the community needs of Moncure the focus of their senior design project in the Department of Chemical Engineering. They have been researching resources on air quality and trying to understand our community's concept of our air quality.

They have asked on the Chatham Chatlist (chatlist@bellsouth.net) for people to write them about their concerns. They are also trying to learn about the interaction between the industries and the community. In April and May they will be available to

make presentations to groups in the area.

(2) The residents are forming a Moncure Air group to work with the various groups and organizations willing to help, like the Students AWARE, the UNC ERP (Environmental Research Program), NC WARN, and Clean Water For N.C (CWFNC). Hope Taylor-Guevara of CWFNC has offered to write grants so that we can set up a "Bucket Brigade" and perhaps a hot line and resource center for residents and workers in Moncure. A Bucket Brigade is done by residents trained in how to capture polluted air in a plastic bag and send it in for analysis.

Hope commented: "Employees of these facilities protecting their own health and safety may be doing a great service to their community by making the industrial processes more efficient and lowering chemical releases." The issue is complex because each industry has a permit from the state to release a certain amount of these chemicals. But with seven of them so close together, even though Department of Environment and Natural Resources permits are supposed to consider what other industries in the vicinity are also releasing, this may not always be done.

When a bad odor is detected or a smoke plume is seen, a company may be releasing more than its permit allows.

In order to improve air quality here, we need to: (1) know what they are permitted to release; (2) work toward making sure the overlapping effect is being considered; (3) discover whether they are in strict compliance; (4) encourage the industries to lower even their permitted toxic releases, as even those permitted threaten our health. We need help from (1) people with technical expertise; (2) people in the community willing to make calls to the Department of Environment and/or to a Bucket Brigade person; (3) people to educate both the community and the industries.

An interesting model exists in Texas, where the Southeast Houston Mothers for Clean Air have organized the whole community. Southeast Houston "is considered an environmental justice community because it is predominantly a low income and

minority community bearing an inequitable burden of the negative environmental consequences of industrial and commercial operations."

Sound familiar? Moncure is mainly low-income and about half African-American. They not only have Bucket Brigades in Houston; they provide lists of agencies to report air complaints to as well as lists of contact phone numbers for media, local emergency, and other helpful organizations, political leaders, civic clubs.

They say: "Don't just tolerate bad odors, ash, dust. Do something. You'll feel better about it." It's amazing what a few concerned mothers can do. Can you imagine the difference in local, state, and federal responses to us in Moncure if we refused to tolerate toxic air?

We do have some built-in barriers to overcome:

(1) Chatham County's tax base relies heavily on the taxes paid by these companies. They, in effect, help keep our real estate taxes from going higher, although three Commissioners, Phillips, Pollard, and Atwater have come out for drawing only environmentally friendly companies to Chatham. That would seem to be wise, but meantime we already have more than enough environmentally unfriendly ones.

(2) Some of the people most affected and concerned work for the companies. Even though they are most at risk, when push comes to shove, they may reason, "I have to have this job even if it makes me sick." There are laws to protect workers from these kinds of choices, but they may have to take risks to seek justice.

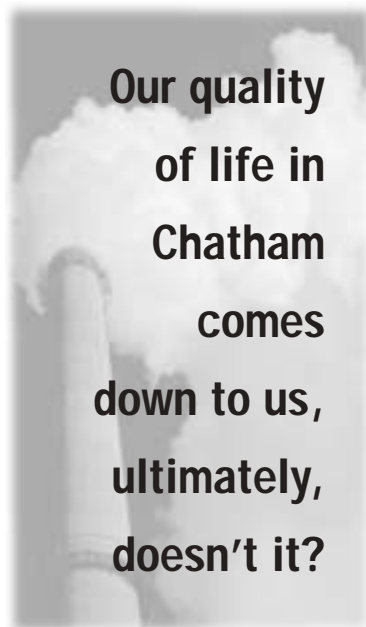
(3) What's in the air is invisible most of the time.

(4) It's easy to wait for someone else to do it or to delay your own response. We in Southeast Chatham will have to decide what we are willing and able to do.

If you are interested in helping improve the air we breathe, give me a call: 545-9932 (judyhogan@mindspring.com), and/or check out some of the following websites: Right to Know Network: <http://www.rtk.net>; Environmental Defense's Scorecard (specific community information) <http://www.sscorecard.org/>.

Our quality of life in Chatham comes down to us, ultimately, doesn't it?

Judy Hogan is a writer and teacher of writers living in Moncure near Jordan Lake.



Teach-In

Continued from Page 12

suffered a job loss, there is also a "ripple effect" in the community, the Rev. Palmer explained. "There is a fear factor that allows for more exploitation and abuse than before," Palmer said.

However, the Rev. Palmer was hopeful that the situation can be changed, and said that she was encouraged by the turnout at the event. She also meets people frequently who are interested in advocating for immigrants' rights, and employers who want to sponsor workers in order to help them obtain the necessary documents to work in North Carolina.

At the close of the event, organizers circulated a petition letter to U.S. Sen. John Edwards asking for legislative changes that would benefit Latino workers.

The event was organized by Natalia Deeb-Sossa and others at UNC, and co-sponsored by UNC's Department of Sociology, mujeres aprendiendo por nuevas oportunidades (m.a.n.o.), women learning for new opportunities), the CAMPUS Y, Students for Economic Justice (SEJ), Students United for a Responsible Global Environment (SURGE), LINC, and the Progressive Faculty Network.

Pastor Martines Reyes is a small business owner who lives in Carrboro and grew up in Veracruz, Mexico. Dani Moore is a community educator living in Durham. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Chatham Crossroads.

Programa

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y del contacto regular con los legisladores. La presión, que pueda ejercerse en Carolina del Norte, hacia los Legisladores podría remediar algunas de las injusticias a las que los hispanos están haciendo frente. "Tenemos que educar a gente sobre las sus derechas," expresaba. "También necesitamos hablar con la gente que tiene poder, y necesitamos hacer que ella, las leyes, sean más humanas en nuestro estado."

La Rev. Maria Teresa Palmer, pastor de Iglesia Unida De Cristo de Chapel Hill, hablo específicamente sobre los despedidos de trabajadores en el Harris Teeter de Carrboro. "Detrás de los números en las noticias, ella dijo, hay familias verdaderas que sufren," y como un ministro, ella vea "el rostro humano" de esas situaciones. La Rev. Palmer manifestó que Harris Teeter no era el único ejemplo, cuando se quería hablar sobre gente que ha perdido sus trabajos, después del 11 de Septiembre. Un hotel local despidió recientemente a un gran número de trabajadores hispanos, citando, argumentando "retraso crónico" por los trabajadores. Sin embargo, por igual perdieron el trabajo los que no tenían ningún caso de llegadas con retraso. Además de la inseguridad financiera que han sufrido, las familias. Por la pérdida del

trabajo, hay también un "efecto de la ondulación" en la comunidad, La Rev. Palmer explico. "Hay un factor de miedo, que permite, la tolerancia de explotación y abuso, en niveles superiores a los anteriores," dijo Palmer. Sin embargo, la Rev. Palmer esta esperanzada en que la situación puede ser cambiada, y mejorada. Ella también, expreso que se reúne frecuentemente con personas interesadas en abogar para los derechos de los inmigrantes, y los patrones que desean patrocinar a trabajadores para ayudarles a obtener los documentos necesarios para trabajar en Carolina del norte. En el cierre del evento, los organizadores circularon una petición-carta al Senador John Edwards de los E.E.U.U. que solicita sean realizados cambios legislativos que beneficien a trabajadores Latinos. El evento fue organizado por Natalia Deeb-Sossa y co-patrocinado por el Departamento de Sociología de la UNC, "Mujeres aprendiendo por nuevas oportunidades" (m.a.n.o.), el "Campus Y," "Estudiantes por la Justicia Económica" (SEJ), "Estudiantes Unidos para un Ambiente Global Responsable" (SURGE), "LINC," la "Red," y la facultad progresiva.

Pastor Martines Reyes es un propietario de la pequeña empresa que vive en Carrboro y creció en Veracruz, Méjico. Dani Moore es educador de la comunidad que vive en Durham. Ella es también un miembro de la junta directiva de Chatham Crossroads.

Chatham Crossroads Rack Locations

■ PITTSBORO: Senior Center, CCCC, Ronnie's Quick Stop, Pittsboro Memorial Library, Pittsboro General Store, Cane Creek Video, Lowe's Foods, Thrift Store, Food Lion, Cooper Gas Station (15-501), Frosty's ■ SILER CITY: Chatham County Chamber of Commerce, Food Lion, BP Gas Station, Wren Library, Tienda Romero, Best Foods, Chatham Pharmacy, Servco Gas Station, PTA Thrift Shop, MovieMax Video, CCCC, Pantry, Helping Hands Center, Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Tienda Gabriel, Tienda Guerrero ■ BYNUM: Tuck's Country Store ■ CARRBORO: Weaver Street Grocery ■ CHAPEL HILL: Chapel Hill Library, Wellspring Grocery, Davis Library, Student Union, Undergrad Library, Chapel Hill Senior Center, Weaver Street Grocery ■ COLE PARK PLAZA: Lowe's Foods, thrift Store ■ FEARRINGTON: Market Café and McIntyre's ■ GOLDSTON: Goldston Library ■ JORDAN LAKE AREA: Amoco, (Hwy 64), Topp's Station (64/Mt. Gilead), BP (Wilsonville), Phillips 66 (Wilsonville), Carolina Meadows Center ■ MONCURE: Fast Serve Market and Mini Mart (by US1)

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

Send your letters to: Editor, PO Box 1685 Pittsboro, NC 27312. Must include name, address, phone number. Or email them to editors@chathamcrossroads.org

Programa detalla problemas de hispanos en Carolina

POR PASTOR MARTINES REYES Y DANI MOORE

El 25 de febrero del 2002, aproximadamente 220 personas asistieron a un programa en la Universidad de Carolina del norte en Chapel Hill en respuesta a los problemas de muchos hispanos en sus vidas diarias. El programa se llama, "Solidaridad - progreso y acción: Seguridad para los hispanos." Los líderes y trabajadores de las comunidades se enfocan en los problemas de los hispanos en la lucha al intentar conseguir servicios médicos o conseguir y mantenerse seguros en un trabajo. Los organizadores del acontecimiento comenzaron a planear el programa después de un número de trabajadores Latinos fueron despedidos de una de las tiendas de Harris Teeter en Carrboro en noviembre y diciembre de 2001.

Pero la historia bien-publicada de Harris Teeter no es el único caso de trabajadores hispanos en Carolina del Norte intentando navegar por un mercado laboral difícil - en el área de agricultura, en las plantas procesadoras de carne, en la construcción y en otras industrias, los patrones han utilizado a trabajadores indocumentados extensivamente, y luego inexplicablemente son despedidos. Ahora, los inmigrantes en Carolina del Norte están haciendo frente a desafíos adicionales por no haber podido reglamentar su estatus antes del 11 Septiembre del 2001. Ejemplos, de esta situación incluyen nuevas dificultades en la obtención de las licencias de conducir e incluso en el acceso a los servicios médicos y sociales. Estas dificultades, se han incrementado a partir, del

Para más información

... sobre la remuneración de trabajadores, salud y seguridad en el trabajo, entre en contacto con NC Occupational Safety and Health Project (El Proyecto de la Seguridad y la Salud Ocupacionales de Carolina del norte), (919) 286-9249.

... sobre las derechas de los inmigrantes y las leyes de inmigración, entre en contacto con NC Justice and Community Development Center (El Centro de la Justicia y del Desarrollo Comunitario), (919) 856-2570.

Una copia de la petición-carta a los funcionarios elegidos está disponible por e-mail para deebssoss@email.unc.edu o en Internet en <http://www.unc.edu/~deebssoss/>

estado de "alerta" que vive el País debido a los ataques terroristas

En el evento, Javier Castillo habló sobre la importancia de los trabajadores Latinos en la economía de Carolina del Norte y sobre el estándar de vida y bienestar financiero de los residentes del Estado. Como ejemplo, como ejemplo, él dijo Carolina Turkey de Mount Olive, NC, esa es una compañía cuya mano de obra esta conformada en un 70% por trabajadores Latinos, ellos dicen. "No podemos, sencillamente, durante la noche, enviar a su hogar a 350.000 personas" residentes del estado de Carolina, el Sr. Castillo cito otros asuntos económicos para reforzar su presentación. Kathleen Castillo habló sobre las importancia del tema de la salud en referencia a la población Latina. Ella junto a otros

proveedores del cuidado médico, comenzó un nuevo programa para ofrecer servicios médicos gratis a los inmigrantes sin seguro en el condado de Pitt. La Sra. Castillo argumento que otra de las razones por las cuales la gente no accesa o recurre a los servicios médicos es por la carencia de buenos intérpretes en el área médica. Desde Septiembre de 1998, su grupo ha estado atendiendo a pacientes las tardes de domingo en la parte posterior de una biblioteca pública en el condado de Pitt. "Deseamos tratar la mente, el cuerpo, y el espíritu, pero también la dignidad de estos residentes de Carolina del Norte que ofrecen tanto a nuestro estado." Expreso su deseo de que la gente consiguiera buena asistencia médica, ella asevero que éstos eran "servicios bien-merecidos."

Carla Gonzalez-Burkhard, abogada con NC Justice and Community Development Center (El Centro de la Justicia y del Desarrollo Comunitario), enuncio las leyes que afectan a inmigrantes, antes y después del 11 de septiembre. Ella explicó la importancia de la educación mutua sobre cuestiones de inmigración, y describió las percepciones incorrectas que muchas personas en Carolina del norte tienen sobre inmigrantes indocumentados. La gente le ha dicho que no entiende por qué los trabajadores indocumentados "No van a la oficina del servicio de inmigración y de naturalización y solicitan los documentos necesarios." Además de la educación mutua, Gonzalez-Burkhard animó, alentó a los asistentes que entraran en contacto con a sus legisladores para reformar leyes injustas en el área de inmigración.

Armando Carbajal, otro participante, expreso que cuando él era un niño, se imaginaba "que los Estados Unidos eran un lugar de la libertad y de democracia." Pero su vinculación y participación en los asuntos laborales de trabajadores inmigrantes en Carolina del Norte Le han mostrado de primera mano que los Estados Unidos tienen todavía, mucho que hacer para alcanzar, para realizar ese ideal. Un miembro del personal del proyecto de la seguridad y la salud ocupacional de Carolina Norte (NC Occupational Safety and Health Project), Carbajal acentuó que las leyes de trabajo son débiles en los Estados Unidos con respecto a su país de origen, Honduras. Él incentivo a los miembros de las audiencias ejercer su poder a través del voto

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Teach-in examines travails of Hispanics

BY PASTOR MARTINES REYES AND DANI MOORE

On Feb. 25, 2002, approximately 220 people attended a "teach-in" at UNC-Chapel Hill in response to the many hardships Hispanics face in their daily lives. In the teach-in, titled "Solidaridad — Progreso y Accion: Seguridad para Hispanos," or "Solidarity — Progress and Action: Security for Hispanics," community leaders and workers focused on the struggles Hispanics face when trying to get adequate health services or get and keep a job.

Event organizers began planning the teach-in after a number of Latino workers were fired from a Harris Teeter grocery store in Carrboro in November and December of 2001.

But the well-publicized Harris Teeter story is not the only instance of Hispanic workers in North Carolina trying to navigate a difficult job market - in agriculture, meat processing, construction and other industries, employers have used undocumented workers extensively, and then suddenly and unexpectedly let them go.

Now, immigrants in North Carolina are facing additional challenges because they were unable to document their status before September 11, 2001. Examples include new hurdles in obtaining drivers' licenses and an even harder time accessing medical and social services since the terrorists attacks put the country on higher alert.

At the Feb. 25 teach-in, Javier Castillo spoke about the importance of Latino workers to North Carolina's economy and the standard of living and financial health of all North Carolinians.

As an example, he said that Mt. Olive, N.C.-based Carolina Turkey is a company with a workforce that is 70 percent Latino. "We cannot, overnight, just send home 350,000 people" from the state of North Carolina, Mr. Castillo said. In addition to economic issues, Kathleen Castillo spoke about the important health issues facing Hispanic North Carolinians.

With other health care providers, she started a new program to offer free medical services to uninsured immigrants in Pitt County. Ms. Castillo argued that another reason people do not access health care is the lack of good interpreters in the medical arena.

Since September of 1998, her group has been seeing patients on Sunday afternoons in the back of a public library in Pitt County. "We want to address the mind, body, and spirit, but also the dignity of these North Carolina residents who offer so much to our state," she said. Saying that she wanted people to get good medical care, she stressed that these were "well-deserved services."

Carla Gonzalez-Burkhard, an attorney with the North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center, outlined a number of the laws that affect immigrants, both before and after September 11.

She stressed the importance of educating one another about immigration issues, and described the misperceptions that many North Carolinians have about undocumented immigrants. People have told her that they just do not understand why the undocumented workers "just don't go down to the Immigration and Naturalization Service office and obtain the necessary documents." In addition to educating one another, Gonzalez-Burkhard

For more information

... about workers' compensation and health and safety on the job, contact the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project at (919) 286-9249.

... about immigrants' rights and immigration laws, contact the North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center at (919) 856-2570.

A copy of the petition-letter to elected officials is available by email to deebssoss@email.unc.edu or online at <http://www.unc.edu/~deebssoss/feb25petition.html>.

encouraged attendees to contact their legislators to reform unjust immigration laws.

Another speaker, Armando Carbajal, said that as a child he had imagined "that the United States was a place of liberation and democracy." But his involvement with workers' compensation and salary issues for immigrant workers in North Carolina has shown him first-hand that the United States has yet to realize that ideal.

A staff member at the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project, Carbajal emphasized the weak labor laws in the United States as compared with his home country of Honduras.

He urged audience members to exercise their power through voting and regular contact with legislators. Pressure on North Carolina's elected officials would remedy some of the injustices Hispanics are facing. "We have to educate people about their rights," Carbajal continued. "We also

need to talk to people that have power, and we need to make them be more human in our state."

The Rev. Maria Teresa Palmer, pastor of Iglesia Unida De Cristo (United Church of Christ) in Chapel Hill, talked specifically about the firings of workers at Harris Teeter in Carrboro. Behind the numbers in the news, she said, there are real families suffering, and that her work as a minister allows her to see "the human face" of these issues.

The Rev. Palmer explained that Harris Teeter was not the only example of people losing their jobs in the post-September 11 climate. A local hotel recently fired a number of Hispanic workers, citing "chronic lateness" by Latino workers. However, even those who had no instances of late arrivals lost their jobs.

In addition to the financial insecurity of particular families who have

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