

Taking it outside in Chatham

Jordan Lake a gem for activities

BY JULIAN SERENO

Sunlight plays on the water, which shimmers and sparkles. Close to shore, shady reflections of towering trees bring to mind the paintings of Monet as their green lines quiver on the lake's surface. Some fishermen sit in the shade, aware of their bobbers as they as they relax in the glory of a spring day.

Welcome to Jordan Lake. It comprises one of the largest state parks easily accessible to the Triangle, and lies entirely within Chatham County. Formed by the damming of the confluence of the Haw and New Hope, which become the Cape Fear River, the state park opened in 1981 and covers 35,000 acres, with 150 miles of shoreline. The lake itself has a surface area of 14,000 acres. Jordan Lake was begun in 1967 by the federal government to control floods, and the state leases the property as a state park from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Jordan Lake has grown as a recreation



Sailboats slip across the waters of Jordan Lake.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILLITO



The fishing pier off Farrington Road is accessible to the handicapped.



An osprey nests at Beaver Creek.

resource to meet the diverse outdoor interests of Triangle residents.

Take fishing, for example. "Right now, you can fish anywhere you want off the shoreline as long it's not in the swimming area or boat launch area," said Mike Seigh, the park's superintendent. "There is a handicapped accessible fishing pier, off Farrington Road adjacent to the bridge over White Oak creek, a quarter mile from Crosswinds Marina."

And of course, you can fish from a boat. There are ramps aplenty for those who own their own boats, as well as boats for rent — even houseboats — at Crosswinds Marina.

Don't care for boating? There are plenty of beaches too. Many have picnic areas and grills on which to prepare your food. And there are camp sites as well.

What about hiking? A new four-mile hiking trail opened recently at Vista Point near Pittsboro. And one mile of a new loop trail at New Hope Overlook also opened during the spring. It will eventually be expanded into a five-mile loop, with an interior two-mile loop.

"Future plans are on the board for biking

See JORDAN LAKE, Page 10

Chatham Crossroads reaches crossroads

BY JULIAN SERENO

With the publication of this issue, Chatham Crossroads is broke. Whether or not it will simply enjoy a relaxing summer and come back in the fall or go belly up remains to be seen. Sadly, in my unvarnished opinion, the latter scenario seems the most likely.

The financial model upon which Crossroads has been operating no longer works. Born of the boom times of the late '90s, Crossroads existed, and then grew, on a mixture of volunteers, cash donations and grant money. The revenue stream has entirely dried up. Donations so far this year do not cover the cash cost of one issue, which is about \$2,000. The Board of Directors has diligently applied for grants from a number of foundations, but unfortunately we have been turned down by all of them.

While the commitment of volunteers has been strong on the editorial side — most of the articles, photos and cartoons you have been seeing on our pages are the work of volunteers — it has been moribund everywhere else in Chatham Crossroads, the 501(3)(C) non-profit organization. The organization needs desperately — and has needed — more members for its Board of Directors, especially hands-on individuals to take over the jobs of treasurer, grant writer and advertising director. It needs new energy.

Advertising and the sale thereof — the cash cow of the mass media — had always been an afterthought at Chatham Crossroads, and a theoretical one at that. Anyone who submitted an ad normally got it in the paper, and occasionally was billed for it. Ad rates were set so low that if the paper sold half its current 12 pages in advertising — it would barely pay for a single issue, let alone get the newspaper in black ink. Efforts to sell ads and organize the ad process all the way through production have been nonexistent, save for that of the occasional dedicated volunteer.

For this issue, after 'grandfathering in' the few folks who have advertised regularly in Chatham Crossroads, we have jacked up our advertising rates for everyone else. Sadly, this is probably too little too late to come up with the money that we need to continue.

Whether or not Chatham Crossroads returns from the precipice will ultimately depend upon what you, the readers, do. It is your newspaper — to serve your community by bringing together its diverse parts. And so it is you who must step forward — to offer your time, your talent and your treasure.

Otherwise, an independent voice — **your** independent voice — will be stilled.

To get involved, call me at 933-6492 or e-mail sereno@mindspring.com

Julian Sereno is editor of Chatham Crossroads.

Time to clean up Chatham's air

BY JUDY HOGAN

When I think of clean air in Moncure, I think of a diminutive 18-month-old girl whom I met recently, already walking and talking competently, able to control, with a fiercely spoken "No!", an impulsive dog three times her size. What this intelligent and confident child has no way of controlling is the air she breathes. I don't want her to suffer from asthma or cancer because of the present high levels of toxic chemicals put into the Moncure air by eight industries located close together near Old U.S. 1 and the headwaters of the Cape Fear River.

A group of N.C. State University Chemical Engineering Seniors (Students AWARE), who chose Moncure as their community outreach project, presented their findings to the Southeast Chatham Citizens' Advisory Council (SCCAC) at its April 16 meeting. For most who were present, the facts came as a shock. Chatham County is Number One in the United States for the emission of formaldehyde, 97 percent of it in North Carolina coming from Sierra Pine, located on Corinth Road., off Old U.S. 1. Formaldehyde is used in embalming and the manufacturing of certain wood products like particle board. It may cause watery eyes, burning sensations

in the eyes, nose, and throat, nausea, coughing, chest tightness, wheezing, skin rashes, and many kinds of allergic reactions. In scientific studies it also caused cancer in animals and may in human beings.

Chatham is among top 10 percent in the U.S. for sulphur dioxide (SO2) (97 percent coming from CP&L's Cape Fear coal-burning plant, also on Corinth Road). Chatham is in the top three percent in the United States for the release of hydrochloric acid. CP&L is making an effort to clean up its Cape Fear emissions, according to

See CHATHAM AIR, Page 10

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 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

Chatham Commissioners give thumbs-down to Briar Chapel

Briar Chapel is dead! Long live Briar Chapel?

The standing-room-only crowd roared its approval as Chatham County's five commissioners stood to vote no – unanimously – to Newland Communities' plans to develop Briar Chapel.

But the May 20 Commissioners' meeting that voted down Briar Chapel also acted, allegedly improperly, to add an 11th member to the Planning Board that had earlier deadlocked 5-5 on Briar Chapel. The addition of Larry Hicks to the Planning Board has created controversy that has exploded into the cyberspace of the Chatham County Online Chatlist and onto the pages of the Chapel Hill Herald.

Two Planning Board members, Chairman Garry Anderson and Jonathan Manning, resigned after the June 4 meeting, criticizing Commission Chairman Gary Phillip for pushing his anti-development agenda on the board. Hicks has drawn praise from everyone.

According to Geoffrey Graybeal's Herald article, Anderson resigned so he could publicly blast Phillips, and Manning also resigned because of his unhappiness with Phillips. Phillips was paraphrased saying that the voters who elected him know his views on development, and if they don't like them, they won't reelect him. Manning said he would work for Bunkey Morgan, who is running against Phillips.

And what about Newland Communities' future plans in Chatham County? After its defeat at the May 20 Commissioners' meeting, Newland President Don Whyte was in a state of shock and expressed only his disappointment. Since then, Newland spokeswoman Diane Gaynor, normally voluble, did not return Chatham Crossroads' telephone call. But if Chatham County voters elect a pro-development Board of County Commissioners, count on Briar Chapel coming back, sooner rather than later.

Commissioner call for halt to nuclear fuel shipments

Chatham County Commissioner and candidate for Sheriff Rick Givens has written to Gov. Easley, Sen. Edward, Rep. Price and to the head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission calling for a halt to the shipment of spent nuclear fuel rods into Shearon Harris nuclear power plant. His May 20 letter also called for the creation of a 10-mile no-fly zone around the nuclear reactor, located in southwestern Wake County just across the Chatham County line.

"Given the unexpected events of this year and the heightened threats on anything nuclear, I would respectfully request the delaying of the shipments of the fuel rods until we have a complete and comprehensive investigation of how real this threat is and a complete emergency plan in place if the unthinkable should take place.

"I also support restoring a no-fly zone within a 10-mile radius of nuclear plants, federalizing the security force, and conducting more extensive background checks of all plant employees," he wrote.

New director takes helm at Chatham United Way

The Board of Directors of the United Way of Chatham County named Jody Minor as their new Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer.

He is a Chatham County native and graduated from Jordan Matthews High School before going on to get degrees from Atlantic Christian College and the Institute of Organization Management at the University of Georgia. He brings more than 15 years of non-profit management experience to the United Way of Chatham County. Most recently, Minor



Board of Commissioners Chairman Gary Phillips, left, auctions off a critter by artist Clyde Jones, right, at the Haw River Festival in Bynum.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

served as Vice President of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of S.C.O.R.E. (Service Corps of Retired Executives).

"I wanted to come home and give back to the community that taught me. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and the volunteers to take the United Way of Chatham County to the next level of service in our community," Minor said.

BRIEFS

Innovative playground grows in Siler City

A novel playground for youngsters at the Paul Braxton Children's Center in Siler City is under construction. It is a project of Boundless Playgrounds. This playground will be open to the public at all times. The play components are for children ages 3-5.

Phase I, with a budget topping out at about \$54,000, is nearing completion. Phase II is a cooperative effort with the Chatham County Arts Council. They are in the final stages of awarding the creating grant, for which three artist teams are competing. This phase will put a piece or pieces of art on the playground that will be playable. It will be the largest installation of public art in this county.

The name of the playground is the "Village Playground" after the ancient African proverb, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' For more information, set your web browser to www.boundlessplaygrounds.org.

Chatham students win soil and conservation awards

The Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored its annual poster and essay contest during the 2001-2002 school year. The culminating activity was a luncheon, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation, and was attended by winners, parents, teachers, principals, and members of the Chatham County Schools Central Office Staff. The contest was coordinated by Brenda Williams, District Coordinator of the Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Poster Contest was for students in grades three through six. In the Poster Contest the following students were recognized as first place winners: Kristen Saunders, Bonlee (third grade) Alex Moody, Bonlee, (fourth grade) Christi Harmon, Bonlee (fifth grade) and Aaron Brown, Bonlee, (sixth grade). Placing second were Rachael Wright, Perry Harrison (third grade) Ashley Neal, Bonlee, (fourth grade) Janice Daniels, Bonlee, (fifth grade) and Stephen Mitchell, Bonlee (sixth grade). Coming in third were Tyler Edwards, Bonlee, (third grade) Levi Austin, Bennett, (fourth grade) Caleb Maness, Bennett, (fifth

grade) and Hannah Hart, J.S. Waters, (sixth grade). Winning honorable mention were Elise Crocker, Bennett, (third grade) Lane Snipes, Bonlee (fourth grade) and Clair Austin, Chatham Middle, (sixth grade)

The Essay Contest was for students in the sixth grade. The following students were recognized for their creative writing: First place, Meagan Moore, Bonlee; second place, Cathy Horner, J.S. Waters; third place, Travis Beal, Bennett.

Each winner received a certificate, check, and a t-shirt. The first-place, second-place, and third-place essay winners received checks for \$25, \$15, and \$10 respectively. The first-place, second-place, and third-place poster winners received checks for \$20, \$15, and \$10 respectively. Awards were presented by John Etchison, Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

County winners moved on to area competition, which encompasses 11 counties. Area poster contest winners are Kristen Saunders (honorable mention), Alex Moody (third place), Christi Harmon (honorable mention), Aaron Brown (third place). Meagan Moore (honorable mention) will be a representative in the Essay category.

Fiesta Latina to be held July 13 in Siler City

It's time again for the Fiesta Latina at Bray Park in Siler City, and organizations are invited to set up information booths at the event. Organizers expect 3,000 community members at this year's Fiesta.

It will feature live Latin music, food, dancing, kid's activities, a volleyball tournament, and free swimming pool for all. We'll also have Ms. Carolina Zaragoza, Mexican Consul in Raleigh, and local town and county officials at our opening ceremony at 4 p.m.

The reservation deadline is June 24. For more information or to register, call the Hispanic Liaison in Siler City at 742-1448.

Chatham Alliance forms to support breastfeeding

The Chatham Breastfeeding Alliance, or CBA, came together last spring as a community-based group. Its mission is to assist mothers in their choice to breastfeed; to educate health care providers about the variety of services available; to increase awareness of the environmental, health and personal benefits of breastfeeding; and to increase social acceptance of breastfeeding.

One of CBA's initial aims — to establish La Leche League in the county — has been accomplished and as a result, La Leche League of Chatham meets in Pitts-

See BRIEFS, Page 9

New smile greets customers at General Store Café

BY JULIAN SERENO

Stop by the Pittsboro General Store Café and everything seems pretty much the same as it has been. The menu, the décor, the way you place your order, pick up your drinks and bus your dishes after you are through – none of it has changed. You see the same familiar faces at other tables. The evening musical line up remains the same. Even its famous Green Chili Burrito is as large and tasty as ever.

But make no mistake about it, change has come. Roya Monadjemi, the new owner-operator, is a whirlwind of activity, taking orders, serving platters of food, adding ice to the soft drink machine, talking and



laughing with everyone.

"It is the same," she said of the cafe. "I'm just adding a little of my own personality."

Asked to reflect about her first couple months at the helm, she said, "It's good. The community is beautiful, colorful, interesting. I've had a lot of support from everyone."

Originally from Portland, Ore., she has lived in the area for 11 years and was prepared to go back west to get in the restaurant business when the

General Store Café went on the market. She, along with four other investors, bought it.

"I'm the one who is running the show," she said.

Asked about her vision for the café, she said, "Overall, I want the spirit and energy to remain the same. We'll be adding more appetizers and doing more functions, like parties and catering. For inside, I want to start selling flowers, mugs, t-shirts and gifts. We'll do more baked goods, and smoothies and cool stuff for summer."



"We want to do some outside seating, hopefully in front."

With a special place for her 7-year-old son Asante, Roya puts in long hours.

"I do everything," she said. "Even accounting. There are a lot of days that end at 3 a.m."

She has already spent six years working in restaurants, and appears happy to be in the business.

"My father was a restaurateur and musician," she said. "It's in my blood."

Julian Sereno is the editor of Chatham Crossroads.

Doug Lorie: The man in the hot chili pants moves on

BY MARJORIE HUDSON

A conversation with Doug Lorie is rarely about the man. It is more about the ideas that float in and out of consciousness, a poet's view of life. For example, on this spring afternoon, settling into weathered Adirondack chair, the subject is supposed to be Doug and his life as Pittsboro's guru of the green chili burrito — but it has turned, suddenly, to war. "Why does Israel feel SAFER in a war than at peace?" Doug asks. Why indeed.

My question is, why did Doug Lorie start wearing hot chili pants — familiar symbol of the transformation of the Pittsboro General Store into a café that serves food that surprises the palate? And why, after four years, is he moving on, giving up the chili pants for good?

"Mimi Sharp gave me the first pair," says Doug, referring to the original owner of the PGS Café. He pauses, consults a smile, continues. "I think it was, in a very gracious and considerate way, a message to me that my attire needed some upgrade..." Doug gives me the full benefit of his wry smile. When Becket and Richard took over the cafe, they continued the tradition, and Doug treated himself to a new pair too — eventually he had his favorite, the original red chile pants, then a pasta and green pepper pair — "the Italian medley," he calls it—and then, of course, green chiles, a tribute to the "walking ristra" — bunches of Mexican dried chiles hung as ornament throughout villages and homes in that country. Doug Lorie used to spend his free time cooking for friends, dreaming of having a restaurant of his own. He would buy a hundred bucks worth of groceries and cook for whoever wanted to eat his favorite foods. "Food brought people to me," he says. It was a way of creating and nurturing community.

With years of travel in India and South America, his taste ran to the hot — curry, chilies, salsas — spiced vegetarian foods that once seemed exotic in downtown Pittsboro. While working as a carpenter four years ago, a shoulder injury moved him to consider a different line of work. When Mimi Sharp happened to mention that she needed a chef at the new General Store Café, Doug slept on it, called her up, and claimed the job. "It was a moment of revelation," he says. "I saw I could have

'my restaurant' without having the incredible stress of ownership." Working from 8 or 9 am till about 3 in the afternoon, weekdays only, Doug had the unheard of luxury — for a chef — of never having to work nights or weekends. It wasn't long before he moved into the role of cultural icon in Pittsboro and the Triangle region.

In 1998, a journalist from NPR did a feature on the origins of the burrito in the Southwest. Doug wrote a letter that was aired on national public radio, and invited the journalist to come to Pittsboro for the real thing. It was the beginning of becoming a legend in his own time.

Local newspapers featured Doug's cooking, and he began to be known for his McDonald's spoof — listing the number of green chili burritos sold on a poster and giving wacky prizes for customers who hit nice round numbers. I, for one, relished the new foods on my plate when I had lunch at the café — foods I could barely pronounce the names of, and had only seen before in ethnic restaurants. Hot steaming plates of what Doug calls "vegetarian ethnic comfort food — cheesy, saucy, rich, gooey, soft, spicy, and fragrant!"

What are some of his favorites? Doug says he fell in love with tamales —the peasant food of Mexico, when he traveled there in the 1970s, then took a slow train to Guatemala. "Women would come onto the train with corn husks wrapped around a sweet soft filling, like a Mexican polenta." Doug explains that the filling was "masa"—a very fine cornmeal that was cooked then mixed with pork, chicken, and oil. Doug has created a vegetarian, green chili version, in which the cooked cornmeal, resembling lumpy pancake batter, is stuffed into corn husks, then parchment, then stacked on wicker baskets. The baskets are propped on coffee cups sitting in a few inches of water in five-gallon pots and are steamed for two hours. The result, he says is a "moist spicy corn cake" that is irresistible.

Another favorite is Palak Panir, a traditional North Indian dish, spicy curried spinach with pressed fried cheese — his version uses tofu.

For me, Doug has been more than a neighbor to greet behind the counter of my local café or a chef who brings great food to Circle City. He has been

someone to check in with about the life of the community, someone whose ideas I have valued, dished up with hot coffee before a downtown meeting. He has been a wink and a grin in the middle of a lunch rush, and he has even been a dance partner in impromptu dance fever that catches my feet when there's Marvin Gaye on the café sound system. He has cooked for community

benefit dinners that have made an enormous difference to projects dear to my heart. He provided a job for my stepdaughter when she was out of school and looking for a way to focus her young life. He is one of the people she misses now that she has moved far away.

See DOUG LORIE, Page 7



Poet and chef Doug Lorie is leaving the Pittsboro General Store Café, but not Chatham. For his world-famous burrito recipe, see page 7.

Vote for David LeGrys Democrat for District 3 County Commissioner

I have been a resident of Chatham County for 19 years. I am seeking the office of Chatham County Commissioner because I care deeply about the future of our county.

Experience: I have served six years on the Chatham County Planning Board and two terms as Planning Board Chairman.

Education: We must provide all Chatham County children with the educational facilities they need. We need to plan for new schools and recreational facilities before we are substantially over capacity. I will be an advocate for the parents, children and teachers of Chatham.

Taxes: Our current financial model is not working. We must gain control of our taxes by managing our residential growth. We must require new development to pay its fair share.

Planning: We must respond in a responsible manner to the growth pressures that Chatham faces. I want us to grow while preserving Chatham's quality of life.

Farming: I grew up on a family farm. My 4-H projects included raising chickens and honeybees. I support ways to insure that farming remains part of Chatham County. I support right-to-farm laws, Voluntary Agricultural Districts and the Land Use Value Assessment Program.

Environment: I will not compromise on clean water, clean air, toxic waste dumps, or the health of the people of Chatham County.

I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you.

www.legrysforscommissioner.org

Committee to Elect David LeGrys, 111 Pokeberry Lane, Pittsboro, NC 27312



The Rev. Bertha Thomas 'raised by angels'

By JUDY HOGAN

When Bertha Thomas was a child in the 1920s, she played in the yard where I live now and stubbed her toes on the big oak tree roots. She was born in Moncure on the land of the old Taylor plantation May 28, 1922. Her first "job" at age 10 was as companion to the "junior slavemaster's wife," who lived in the old Taylor house. She had to sleep in the widow's room on a mattress on the floor and go everywhere she went.

This little girl became the tall, stately woman who surprised me last February by giving me a Valentine hug in front of the Moncure Post Office. She believes in hugs. "It shows people you're not scornful of them. People often need a hug more than words."

Bertha, ordained in 1970, says: "I'm just a lady that the Lord has blessed." She tells her listeners: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." You can hear her on the Sanford Gospel station, WXKL-AM, 1290 on Thursdays, 9 A.M.

Bertha went to school in a one-room school house on Gum Springs Road, but she wasn't able to finish high school because she helped a relative raise children whose mother was ill. She wanted to go to college and become a nurse. When her mother died, she says, "I buried my dreams and desires in a valley of forgetfulness and went forward with my life."



Kindness and care inform the ministry of the Rev. Bertha Thomas.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

After her six children were grown, she worked as a nurse's aide in the Rowan Memorial Hospital in Salisbury. The other aides said she spoiled her patients, who missed her on her day off. "I didn't spoil them. I just looked after them. They never had to ring for

me. I was in and out all the time. I gave the hospital my full eight hours."

Bertha enjoys helping people laugh. One woman told her, "You put a smile in my heart." In the 1980s she worked for the Chatham County Council on Aging, was their first black supervisor of in-home aides. The other staff urged her to get her GED, which she did in 1981. Then God insisted she go to college, so she went over to Shaw Divinity School. She told them she didn't have the tuition money, but to her surprise they found her a scholarship. She completed four years for her Bachelor of Theology; then in 1986, received her Bachelor of Arts from Shaw University. She inspired the much younger students and the staff by telling them that "We are here to do God's work in a more excellent way."

The Rev. Thomas, who began the Free Spirit Baptist Church in Moncure in 1979 and now serves as Assistant Minister at the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, did not have an easy childhood. Because her mother had to work, she was left with her grandmother or an aunt, where she was often punished when her older cousin did wrong. She was the chief water carrier, and the well was always at the bottom of the hill. The buckets were heavy even before they had water in them, and she sometimes carried two to save trips. "The bucket was always empty. I was not very tall, so the bucket almost

touched the ground as I carried it up the hill. The milk cow always had to be hitched periodically in spots of green grass. I was afraid of cows, so my uncle assigned me the job of moving the cow." Once the cow attacked her with its horns. She has never gotten over her fear of large animals.

Human beings, however, for Bertha, are not scary. She loves them, no matter their skin color. The morning we talked she'd been awakened by a phone call at 6 a.m. A young man's voice asked, "Grandma?" She answered, "Yes?" She was surprised one of her grandsons would call so early. He sounded troubled. She said, "Who is this?" He said, "I have the wrong number." When he hung up, she prayed for him. "Maybe he had the right number," she said.

Bertha's main commitment is to her ministry. "I know who I am," she says. She has led a full life and has no regrets. "The angels raised me. God was always looking after me." He still is.

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 and would love to have other suggestions for Chatham women, not well known in the county, who contribute to the lives of the people around them.

Chatham Creative Arts Incubator promises new approach to help artists prosper

By: LEON TONGRET

The Chatham Creative Arts Incubator (CCAI), which is expected to open Phase I of its operations this fall, is planning some unique services and capabilities that should dramatically help the resident artists to build their businesses.

As a bit of background, Small Business Incubators have been around since the early 1980's. There are been some 2,000 incubators started since then, with 22 located in North Carolina, and there are another four in the process of formation here in the state.

The purpose of a small business incubator is to provide a support structure that helps new and emerging businesses to start and grow. The expectation is that after a business has been in an incubator for three to five years, they will have developed the necessary skills and financial underpinnings on which to grow a sustainable business. At that point, they will need to find larger spaces in the community and will move out of the incubator making room for new businesses.

Studies have shown that incubators have been quite successful in dramati-

cally increasing the chances that a new business will survive past five years. For instance 86 out of 100 incubator businesses survive past five years, while only 15 out of 100 of the businesses in the general population survive until their third to fifth year. In addition, incubator businesses on average grow faster and are more profitable than businesses in the general population.

Incubators provide support to new businesses by offering low market rate leases and by providing shared services and equipment such as secretary/receptionist, conference rooms, faxes, copiers, etc. They also provide assistance with training, mentoring, business plans, etc.

The Chatham Creative Arts Incubator (CCAI) plans on adding a number of innovative programs for its tenants. These include the following:

Targeting Businesses: In order to have an interesting mix of businesses; CCAI will be identifying specific businesses to include, such as a chocolate factory, bakery (specialty breads), leather crafts, blacksmith, glass

blowing, and nursery/greenhouse/landscape design.

Training: Central Carolina Community College will



have space in the incubator to offer pottery classes as a part of their new two-year Sculpture program. This will provide possible ways for the tenants who would also like to teach classes as well as make pottery to have another revenue source.

Shared Industrial Equipment: The tools and equipment needed by many businesses can be quite expensive. To help offset some of this expense, the incubator will provide specialty equipment in some selected areas. Those areas include a fully equipped wood-working shop, blacksmith shop, kitchen for culinary classes and for bakery and confectionery businesses, a restaurant, film studio, and a theater stage.

Marketing Department: One of the most common complaints made by artists is lack of sales. CCAI will have a marketing staff that will work closely with the artist to identify the best marketing opportunities for their talents. In addition, the department

will help create a marketing strategy, assist in developing a coordinated package of business cards, literature, etc., and will help with the design of a web site. In addition, a sales group will help with making appropriate commercial contacts to generate the needed sales volume for the artist's products.

Product Design: Having the right product to meet a market need is always critical to success of any business. CCAI will employ a product design expert who will help create products that may use elements of various artists within the incubator to create promising products, and then will assist with 'productising' the new item.

Shared Gallery/Retail Spaces: It is always important to have products on display for customers who want to touch and feel the item. CCAI will incorporate a number of specialty retail areas around pottery, wood products, blacksmithing/metal sculptures, culinary arts, and paintings.

Grand Events Throughout the Year: As a way of bringing a steady stream of customers from in and out of North Carolina, CCAI will offer events throughout the year. This can include seminars and classes with given artists for a day, weekend, or longer. We will host major events similar to Sanford's new Pottery Festival to bring large groups to the area for a weekend. The combination of these is designed to keep a steady stream of potential customers coming back again and again to the artists within the incubator.

All these programs should provide a way for those artists who participate in the program to build prosperous businesses.

Leon Tongret is director of the Small Business Center at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro.

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Work Women Men family
"Creativity is the only outcome of conflict that satisfies the soul."
Michael Meade
Creativity

Community

Pittsboro grew up around its courthouse

Chatham's Historical Heritage



FRED VATTER

If local folk were asked to briefly describe Pittsboro, most would probably immediately think of the beautiful courthouse at its center, which offers a commanding view to all roads leading into town. This structure, built during 1881-82, is the fourth courthouse to stand in the Pittsboro area. In fact, the first one, a frame building on Mial Scurlock's farm, was built in about 1771 before Pittsboro was established. The area was simply referred to as Chatham Court House.

When Pittsboro was established in 1787, a new wooden courthouse was erected one-half mile north of the original one. Originally it was proposed that the town be laid out in Mial Scurlock's land, but he died and apparently a clear title could not be claimed. Therefore, the act of setting up "Pittsborough" in January 1787 placed the town on lands of the late William Petty, and extended it for two blocks in each compass direction from the courthouse. The community was laid out in 125 lots of one-half acre each. The original spelling of "Pittsborough" was changed to Pittsboro around the time of the Civil War.

In 1843 the wooden courthouse was replaced by a third building, said to be the first brick building in Chatham County. The wooden structure it replaced was moved one-half block north on Hillsboro Street. It was used as a store, and later a garage before burning in 1928.

The brick building of 1843 was a reflection of poor planning and hasty construction. It was found to be too small, poorly ventilated, and rapidly deteriorating. The use of large amounts of mud in the mortar resulted in cracked bricks and a crumbling foundation. Its roof even blew off in a storm. Apparently the local populace didn't have much respect for the building and an 1845 ordinance provided for a twenty-five cent fine for any person urinating in or against the courthouse.

On May 18, 1881 the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, concerned for public safety, requested proposals for building a new courthouse on the site of the old one. A solicitor of the inferior court with no architectural experience drew up plans which the Commissioners chose over those presented by professionals.

The actual construction contract was awarded to Alvin J. Bynum and William L. London who took the



The Chatham County Courthouse bathes in the soft light of luminaries honoring the firefighters killed on September 11.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

job because no builder would accept it for the proposed \$12,000 fee.

Specifications were as follows: Foundation trenches dug to a proper depth to secure permanency of the building; Brick was to be locally made except for serviceable brick taken from the old courthouse. Only hard-burned brick was to be used below the ground floor or in any exterior wall; Floors were to be 1-1/4 inch by 5 inch well-dressed long leaf heart of pine, tongue and groove, and blind nailed; The cupola should have an iron weathervane at least five feet high, and space left for a clock.

The clocks themselves were not included in the original contract. The Chatham Record of September 20, 1962 recalled that Mrs. Joseph John Jackson worked for several years to raise money for the clocks by arranging plays, concerts, and similar events. Just as she neared her goal of approximately

\$450 the town fathers asked for the money, stating that it was badly needed for the school. Mrs. Jackson turned the funds over reluctantly and the courthouse did not get its clock until the recent donation by a generous benefactor.

The specified locally made brick was produced in a specially built brickyard about one-half mile from town. The Chatham Record of August 25, 1881 reported that a number of citizens, especially young people, went to see one of the kilns burning 165,000 bricks for the new courthouse. The newspaper very graphically described the scene in one long sentence. "The flames were darting all through the crevices, bursting through the top, and all the mass aglow with heat, presenting quite a picturesque and striking scene, the lurid flames casting fantastic shadows on the surrounding forest, illuminating the darkness of the night, and the weird-like figures of the laborers throwing fuel into the eyes of the kiln, all combining to make one think of the regions below."

The County Commissioners received the new courthouse on July 4, 1882. In 1907 the main entrance on the north had the monument to the Confederate soldier erected by the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Approximately 4,000 people are said to have attended its dedication. Since then several generations of old timers recollect boyhood contests to see who could flip Coca-Cola caps and get them to stay on the brim of the soldier's hat.

The year 1986 saw the beginning of an extensive and very sensitive renovation of the building at a cost of about \$1,300,000. The project was completed in 1991. A small one-story addition on the east end of the building was removed to bring the exterior back to its original configuration. The copper roof was restored, a weathervane was reconstructed, the windows were restored to their original size and shape, and the brick and stucco were treated.

The Chatham County Courthouse, with its rich Phillipine mahogany paneled interior and its striking exterior is truly a building of which all the county's citizens can be proud. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979.

Sources of information about the courthouses of Pittsboro include several publications by the Chatham County Historical Association: Chatham County, 1771-1971; the Architectural Heritage of Chatham County; and the Town of Pittsboro's brochure entitled "Pittsboro Historic District" and "Since then" a brief history of Pittsboro written for the town's bicentennial.

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.

Candidates for sheriff

Editor's Note: In the April issue of Chatham Crossroads, candidates James Bowden, Rick Givens, Isaac (Ike) Gray and Richard Webster wrote about their candidacy for Chatham County Sheriff.

Darden Jarman

My name is Darden Jarman and I'm a candidate for Sheriff of Chatham County.

I have been a successful independent businessman for over 30 years. I also have experience in law enforcement. The job as sheriff is one in which requires a great deal of managerial ability, as well as positive leadership. My vocational history indicates success in both areas. I also believe strongly in the work ethics. I'm a hard worker and demand the same of my employees. As your sheriff this work ethics would become a part of my administration.

My top priority will be to restore integrity and trustworthiness in the sheriff department again. I plan to utilize the most qualified personnel within the department in my administration. Those willing to work and learn

additional job skills will have nothing to fear from me. Those with a negative attitude will be seeking employment elsewhere. Restoring public trust can only be done through improved performance and service to the public.

Talk is not enough; the public must see a positive performance from all members of the department. Everyone must pull together as a team to get the job done. Having all officers of the department take a more professional approach on all calls concerning the citizens of Chatham County. If you look like a professional, then and only then will you be accepted as a professional. There needs to be more compassion shown to victims and their families. Every call should be handled as if it were a family member.

Unfortunately there are some officers with the department that have taken advantage of the existing system, and have not given their best.

I will be hands on sheriff, and in my own business set my goals high. I will not be satisfied until these goals are met.

The number one problem in Chatham County as in other counties is the sale, and use of illegal drugs. The sale, and use of illegal drugs account for 85 to 90

percent of all crime. I intend to use all the resources at my disposal to close areas where drugs are bought, sold and used. By taking a more proactive approach to the drug problem, drug sales, and use can be reduced. I believe more drug violations in Chatham County should be tried in Federal Court. There must be a combined effort between Law Enforcement, Federal Prosecutors, District Attorneys, and Judges before any significant improvement will be seen. Drug dealers are terrorists. They are poisoning our children and our communities, and should be dealt with harshly. By educating our children, and showing them that Chatham County has a zero tolerance for drugs, and that violators will serve lengthy jail terms, drug trafficking will be reduced. What kind of message have we been sending to drug dealers, and drug users, and our own children when they see the little or no punishment for violating our drug laws.

I believe the next Sheriff of Chatham County should be honest, and he should have integrity and show responsibility. He should be a man with high moral, and a strong belief in God. I have all these qualities, and the N.C. Training Standard as a Law Enforcement Officer

certifies me.

When elected your Sheriff I will make the Chatham County Sheriff Department shine. Not only will I have a polishing cloth but also every man that works for me will have one. If elected your sheriff I will have the fortitude to do what is right however unpopular it might be, and the fortitude to accept responsibility for my actions.

Marijuana

I believe a relentless pursuit of the truth regarding the missing marijuana is the most important factor in restoring public trust. Every resource available should be used to locate, and prosecute the responsible parties. The parties responsible for the security of this evidence also need to accept responsibility for this embarrassing situation.

The largest drug bust in Chatham County history has resulted on no one charged, and all evidence lost. This is a disgrace to everyone who lives in Chatham County. You have to have some remorse for the three people who have been charged for removing a portion of the marijuana from the landfill. If the Sheriff Department had done their job these men would not be charged today.

The Art of Food

BY KAREN LADD

Imagine an evening in early June. A coming of summer kind of evening. You are on a deck somewhere in Chatham County. Several people are gathered; some of them old friends, some have just met. A Chatham artist has just finished showing some of her watercolors — huge, exuberant animals splashing and flying across canvases.

People are sitting down now to listen to another Chathamite read from her new book, a book about memory and mystery and childhood. The second reading will be poetry written by the son of the host. Dinner has been prepared and delivered by yet another Chathamite who is a gourmet cook, and assembled by a group of volunteers. After dinner by candlelight, you and the other guests will be treated to a concert of world class drumming by a local master percussionist.

You are at a Chatham County Arts Council Dinner For the Arts. Now in its third year, Dinners for the Arts has been a hugely successful fundraising project that has rewards for everyone involved.

Hosts are assisted every step of the way by Arts Council volunteers, from planning menus and inviting artists, to cleanup. Guests are making new friends and enjoying a dinner with wonderful entertainment, in return for donations to CCAC. Chatham County artists and performers are recognized as honored guests. And the CCAC gets much needed funding for programs which benefit the entire county.

The Arts Council is cooking this year! In addition to the Dinners for the Arts, there is a series of luncheons held at the Arts Council Farmhouse on U.S. 64 West. The luncheons, a brainchild of Maggie Zwilling, CCAC Programs Director, and Janice Escott, Cordon Bleu trained chef and nationally renowned cooking instructor, are meeting with great success. Janice's credentials include owning her own cooking school in California, a weekly radio show, and two weekly newspaper columns. She has had such notable chefs as Jacques Pepin teach at her school. Janice herself has taught all over the world, including on the QE2 en route from New York to Southampton. The two women are also planning a cookbook, which will include Chatham art as well as favorite recipes from our local cooks.

I interviewed Janice and Maggie at the Ferguson Farm to find out more



The Arts Council is cooking this year with a new series of luncheons held at the Arts Council Farmhouse on U.S. 64 West. The luncheons are the brainchild of Maggie Zwilling (left), CCAC Programs Director, and Janice Escott, Cordon Bleu trained chef and nationally renowned cooking instructor.

If you are interested in hosting a Dinner for The Arts, or would like information about the Luncheons at the Farm, call the Chatham County Arts Council, 542-0394. This is fundraising at its best, or as CCAC Executive Director Regina Bridgman says "its friendraising as well as fundraising!" Bon Appetit!

about the art of food.

Crossroads: What does "Cordon Bleu" mean, and what does it mean that you are a Cordon Bleu trained chef?

Janice: Literally, "Cordon Bleu" means "blue ribbon". It was the first really "public" kind of cooking school in Paris. In 1995 it was 100 years old. I was in the 100th year class. It teaches the pure French cooking. I went to London

instead of Paris. I didn't want to miss a thing, and I knew that if I had to struggle through the language, I might miss something, although I could understand the food part.

Crossroads: What is the most important part of food presentation?

Janice: The Japanese say that we eat with our eyes as well as with our tongues. I believe that is true. If something is just thrown on a plate, it's not nearly as appetizing. And it doesn't take very much to make it beautiful! Color is really important. And arrangement. It can be simple, yet beautiful.

Crossroads: What is the "art of food" and is there an art of eating, as well?

Janice: Cooking begins as a science, and ends up as an art. Because if it's presented properly, and with thought, it becomes art. But without the science in the beginning, the art doesn't happen as well. You could make it look pretty on the plate, but it could be a failure because of the taste. I think of art as covering all bases. It isn't just looking at something, but in the taste, the flavor, the way it feels in your mouth! Having that contrast of ... maybe soft and crunchy, maybe a little spicy, and maybe in another place it could be soft and creamy. There are so many

nuances. And surprises are important. For example, putting puff pastry under a piece of salmon. The salmon has this lovely color and, soft texture because of its fat content, so it feels really good in your mouth. And then you cut into it, and here's this wonderful puff pastry underneath! What a surprise! And then we make a wonderful little sauce for the top! You have to think about what it's going to taste like, and how it's going to look. Even when you look at a painting, you see it in a very multidimensional way. Your own past experiences, how the colors affect you. You do the same thing with food. It's important to eat thoughtfully, rather than just eat to live.

Crossroads: What are you doing at the Arts Council?

Maggie: When we met Janice, she said that she was interested in teaching cooking classes at the Farmhouse. It's an ideal way for people to get together, have a wonderful meal, and see the artwork in our gallery. When we first got the idea, there was an old stove here. So Carlos and Karen Cockman, of Cockman appliances, donated a stove and hood. Jan Groce donated a dishwasher, which needed a little work. So Carlos came back and fixed the dishwasher for us! With all of that, we have a great working kitchen. We had the first luncheon in February. It was a huge success. The second one we had recently was for the Alliance Francaise. It was a special class. And everyone had a great time!

Crossroads: When you do the cooking classes, do the students have a chance to cook along with you, or is it mostly demonstration?

Janice: I like to do both. In the first class, which was a lunch class, the lunch was pretty much prepared, because the group was so large - 38 — although we did some of the preparation at the luncheon. In the French class, they were all right here in the kitchen!

Crossroads: These are luncheons, not classes?

Janice: There will definitely be instruction. But it won't be as in depth as an actual class. We're starting with the luncheons and then we will do the classes later.

Crossroads: One last question. What's your favorite midnight snack?

Janice: I love tea ... but actually, my mind goes to chocolate!

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

Chatham salon nurtures writers

Writers Corner

WITH MARJORIE HUDSON

One of my favorite cultural phenomena in Chatham County is the writers group, or salon, an invention I have participated in and fondly observed among writers and readers in living rooms, at dining room tables and in church parish halls. It is one of the "secret lives" of Chatham that it generates and nurtures writers who are happy to publish and write in local obscurity, while winning prizes and acclaim in New York or France or India.

A new practitioner of the Chatham writer's salon and in-home classroom is Judy Hogan. Though she has taught writing for nonwriters and professionals alike for years, she has formerly traveled to Durham and Chapel Hill to do it. Now her investigations into Proust and Dickenson have migrated to her home county, and I am glad for it.

Judy is a poet, scholar, former Duke professor, community activist, founder of Carolina Wren Press, and novelist. She lives in Moncure, where she is the proud grower of a new apple orchard, and a new class that reads Proust. Here is a poem inspired by that class.

THE SPILL OF THE BLUE-GRAY LIGHT 14

by Judy Hogan

By Century Creek, March 10, 2002
For my Wednesday Proust class

I've read of people who found the whippoorwill a nuisance. Shrill and nearby, it kept them awake. For me his insistent, urgent cry of pride and longing was always welcome. I'd turn symphonies off to hear it. I would have gladly lain awake to that aching lullaby. Some might find the high-pitched scritch-scratch-screach of the peepers noise pollution. They'd rather hear the melodious wren or the exultant song-sparrow. I love them, too, but for the sound of desire, pure, unmitigated, give me peepers in February, whippoorwills in July. I've heard of people who feel overwhelmed by ladybugs that come in for the winter, who hate the katydid when

they creep in and strum a leg in the bathtub or even a cricket close by on the hearth in winter. I could never kill an indoor spider, much less a songster katydid, a fiddler cricket. Once when I was walking Half-Dollar Road, ladybugs alighted on my clothes, and I carried them home with me, picked them off to live among my flowers. I couldn't kill a small creature that does growing things so much good by cheerfully eating their prey.

We must align ourselves in this world. Every hour the battle rages. On my side are the determined ranks of the peepers; whippoorwills close in with their bugle call, katydids sustain me in the depths of summer nights. Crickets tune up when I need extra cheering. Praying mantises and ladybugs feed me by guarding my garden.

My father used to talk about "the grain of the universe." "Go with the grain," he'd say. We human beings always want to go against it. We pretend we don't feel what we do. We cavil against these creatures bent on helping us. We attack our allies. No wonder we stumble, blind. One recipe for healing, that is to say, remembering what we already know, is to sit in March sun by a creek bank, let the soft bright green of the mosses clumped along the bank bring us that ease and comfort that we could have all the time. Let the pebbles reveal their light browns and golds under a glimmer of water ripple. Let peepers reawaken all we long for and may have. Choice is always ours, after all. And pray for a visitation of ladybugs.

Doug Lorie

Continued from Page 3

What Doug has loved most about his job, he says, is that "food is a community magnet. It's also a service, a way to contribute — what is called in India a 'seva' (say-vah), or spiritual service — where feeding people is a major community activity."

Doug says some of the best moments of his life have been in the café "when the flow of energy is perfect — everyone has been fed — everyone is happy to be there. I would stop and pause and look out over that small landscape of the café and say, My God, this is working!"

"The café is a kind of sculpture for me, one that I have made daily, collaboratively," he muses. "Now I'd like to use my creative energies in some other way." He is training Rosalia, his assistant, to take over the green chili cookery, so we will not lack for ethnic comfort food.

Doug hopes to spend some time writing in his next life. I have read some of his stories and know him as a gifted storyteller. We have much to look forward to, in Doug's next incarnation in our community. Doug is not leaving Chatham, just reclaiming a little piece

of the heart of downtown Pittsboro. He's been a convert to Chatham County for a long time — he built his own home here, and feels strong connections to the land that have seduced him away from his beloved Southwestern landscape.

"North Carolina has a very subtle beauty," he says, "it's very comforting, a beauty that inhabits you and enters in to your body and soul slowly. That's what keeps me here." Doug says he wants the community of Pittsboro and Chatham County to know how much it has meant to him to have them come into the café, to greet them and hug them, to have them be such a large part of his life. "Working here has made my sphere of connection much larger than it was — I will miss the people here, and my world will be smaller without them."

I suspect anybody who calls Doug up and offers to pay for groceries could get him to cook a great meal — and have the honor of his company along with it. If you have a café story or a thank you to send to Doug Lorie for his years of seva to our community at the Pittsboro General Store Café, email him at dougfigtree@mindspring.com.

Marjorie Hudson is a writer who lives in Chatham County and eats Palak Panir every chance she gets.

DOUG'S GREEN CHILI BURRITOS

From Doug's memory of the authentic green chili burritos found in Southwestern taco stands, here's his Pittsboro version, that won the hearts and guts of many thousands!

- Use canned or frozen green chilies
- Sauté with jalapenos, garlic, onions, and olive oil for two hours or so.
- Fill a large (14-inch) burrito with chiles, Monterey jack or cheddar cheese — LOTS of cheese! — and refried beans.
- Top with fresh tomato salsa and sour cream.



"These are a LOT bigger than the ones I used to get in New Mexico," Doug says. "And you have to use real cheddar or jack, not American cheese. This is a designer burrito!"



POETRY

Gifts

By Maggie Wilson

I am blessed that Nature lets me play in her yard with her children like when I was a child and had friends and it didn't matter what I was like or what they were like we were all children and that's all that mattered Now that it's so clear that I am not like the other kids I go to sit by the river with the setting sun sparkling on the water and putting a gold star on my forehead yes, you're a good girl we're proud of you Here we are all different and all the same all god's children We do what we need to do and tolerate or not the others

It's the wild but not quite the edge of civilization and not a desperate

fight for survival it's not too cold or too hot or too dry or too wet There's a river and trees and grass and plants and the roads are far away and no one here has guns we watch each other and listen and if I'm good they come near they let me see them let me look into their eyes hear their songs watch their games Some are actively my friends I think trees who let me hug them who hold me when I need to cry when I can't walk another step can't understand why

a stag a stag who

honors me with acknowledgment of work well done by merely not running away the dog is a princess and so dear, so dear and so honest it scares me sometimes and faithful and that scares me too sometimes I wonder what I've done to deserve such blessings and sometimes I remember— nothing I just am like all the others all different and all the same children of the earth of Nature of god gifts with gifts given them life death and life again

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

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Artists to memorialize 9/11 with '5,000 Flowers' project

By DEBORAH R. MEYER

Nary a soul in this country has remained untouched by the events of September 11, 2001, and related events that have followed. Flags went up on poles, on houses, mailboxes and cars. Each in their way, people found ways to remember the seriously affected.

Two artists in New Mexico who are close friends, Sondra Diepen and Carol Adamec, searched for a way as well. With the first anniversary of the tragedy rapidly approaching, they decided they would do what they do best, create art in memory of those no longer here. Too, they knew that on the day itself, many horrific images would be flashed again before the public and they decided art exhibits exalting life and beauty would be a powerful way to commemorate the day.

So they are having a juried art show this coming September in their hometown of Albuquerque. They didn't stop there. They thought big, created a web site and started to spread the word about the 5,000 Flowers Project.

Simply, it is this. Ms. Diapen and Ms. Adamec hope that artists of all types and ages will create works of art that involve flowers to be displayed this coming September in venues around the country and possibly the world.

In Chapel Hill and Carrboro, just up the road, Weaver Street Market heard the call. Anke Gassen, a marketing assistant there, is spearheading a local movement to get the project to bloom. Weaver Street Market will host its last "after hours" event of the year on Sept. 12 and it will serve as a community-wide reception for the artists and organizations that participate in the 5,000 Flowers Project.

So, if any Chathamites are interested in any aspect of the project, you can call Gassen at 929-0010, ext. 115, or e-mail her at wsmbutterfly@yahoo.com. (Or you can email the two who are helping her, Debbie Meyer the author of this



check out
5000Flowers.com

article at deborah.meyer@duke.edu, or Hunter Levinsohn at Hlevinsohn@nc.rr.com.) The web site for the project, which elaborates on the project and lists participating galleries is <http://5000Flowers.com>.

Deborah R. Meyer is a writer living in Chatham County.

Are you sure you want to live in the woods?

Do you know what it is to be committed to another? Then you know there are moments of bliss, moments of conflict, ingrained differences and things shared, and you know that a successful relationship requires honoring the other. We sometimes put our best-fantasy-foot forward, sharing that dreamy vision of our lives with the world. We try not to dwell on the work to be done, thinking "no one really wants to hear all that".

I tend to do this with Chatham. I write of the moments that make life here special; I share good news. This month I discovered among the profusion of wild ginger in the yard that wild ginger actually has flowers! I never knew. We were transplanting some because we had to dig a hole there, and in the process discovered purple, thick petals, hidden like a small toad under the leaves. Tim and I delighted in peering under leaf after leaf. Interestingly, the transplanted ginger from last year did not have flowers; I wonder if it takes a few years to regroup.

That is the good news this month. But what I really think needs to be said is a bit more about the reality of living in the woods of Chatham. By not telling the whole tale, I might be contributing to the disappointment of new residents who seek that idyllic life. Let me be a bit more honest about this relationship.

While living in the woods is beautiful, and offers a peace unknown in suburban settings — as we breathe with our trees — there are also, among other things, ticks galore. If you move to the woods of Chatham, they will be there. Some people spray chemicals, but this has a tendency to upset the balance of a place, killing and damaging others in the process: bats and birds among them. Without bats, mosquitoes may be more abundant. There is also poison ivy, unyielding clay, and lime in the water. A hurricane can wipe out acres of trees in a flash. The woods are shady. They cut the summer heat and we don't need air conditioning, but if you envision a garden brimming with broccoli, it

will need sun, not trees. Some people turn to the culture of "the lawn" to move the woods back and have a reprieve. This comes with its own costs: financial, environmental, life-energy, and the loss of a bit more of what you came to enjoy — the woods. Would you actually prefer a place with open land to start? If so, why clear more?

Living in the woods, and simply out in the country, means living away from market hubs, and using

resources to access goods and services. Reducing use requires extra thought and preparation, combining trips and storing on site. Shopping is a two-hour round-trip for us, not including shopping time. This is a choice we've made. We do not want the resources closer, because it means commercial centers and population growth. How many residents think they want a place in the country, but end up thinking a shopping center nearby would be kind of convenient?

Wishing there was a way to reduce development pressure on Chatham, I had a fleeting, naive thought the other day that perhaps we could put a moratorium on property value increases, causing property values to be artificially depressed in order to avoid the tax trap, and the temptation to cash in on what was once home but subtly turns into an investment. I know it's not that simple, but sometimes the complexities confuse rather than clarify. I simply know that the woods, fields, small farms and waterways of Chatham are our greatest resource. I want others to know what they are getting into if they pursue this relationship, so they are not disappointed and tempted to make this place into someplace else.

Like any relationship, living with the woods brings moments of bliss, moments of conflict, ingrained differences and things shared. Most of all, it requires honoring others.

Cecelia Carver is the Director of the Screech Owl Farm School whose web site is www.screechowl.com



NOTES
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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 ■ 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)

Chatham writer goes searching for Virginia Dare

By DEBORAH R. MEYER

"Let's say there's a scuppernon vine, its trunk the size of an elephant's leg — no, the size of a baobab tree. Its tendrils extend across miles and miles of coastal drift, along sand and even into the water. Bronze globes float in the brine when the tide is gentle, become crushed and pulpy in pounding storms. Let's say it's August, and the Gulf Stream is warm, and it is bringing things to shore that the shore has never seen: gold signet rings; Spanish amphoras filled with wine; the bones of Englishmen."

And so begins "Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand," by Chatham writer Marjorie Hudson (Published in April by Coastal Carolina Press, www.coastalcarolinapress.org). It is a beginning that grabs, makes the reader want to gulp in the 197-page book in one sitting. But one can't. The book, described by Hudson as "a book of non-fiction, fiction, and memoir that attempts historical accuracy through documentation" requires one leaving time to dream of, delve into and roll around in the lush language and fascinating stories that Hudson has penned.

Who is Virginia Dare? As Hudson writes, "The facts are these: Virginia Dare was the first child born of English parents on American soil, on August 18, 1587. She was part of the first English attempt to plant families in the New World, a colony of one hundred-plus sturdy souls. The expedition was governed by her grandfather, John White; organized by Sir Walter Raleigh; and had the blessing of Queen Elizabeth. Virginia survived long enough to be baptized. She was likely still alive when John White shipped back to England for supplies. And, as people around here like to say, she was never seen again by European eyes."

Hudson came to her as a subject for her book in what she describes as a rare moment in life. An editor, Emily Herring Wilson, called her up after reading a piece she had written 10 years ago and told her she was so impressed by it, that she was inviting her to write a piece for an anthology she was putting together about women

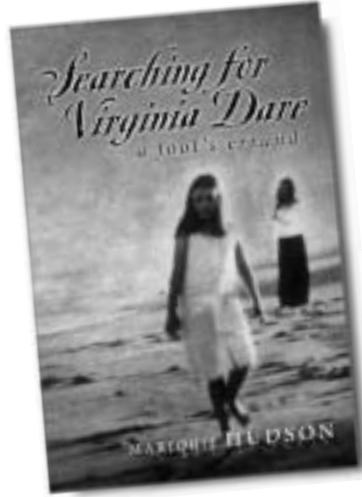
in North Carolina, "North Carolina Women: Making History." Hudson recalled that Wilson had a list of writers and subjects to choose from and Virginia Dare was in there. "I picked her because I didn't know a lot about her. I wanted the challenge. I had heard of her but was not sure of the whole story so I had to do a lot of ground work to even understand the Lost Colony story and by the time I had finished, I had 80 pages of writing on the subject." Eighty pages was too much for an anthology, of course. Wilson told Hudson, "This is a book." She also told her she thought the press would be interested and to come up with a draft. "I had meanwhile gotten fanatically interested," said Hudson.

In her research, Hudson saw that people interpreted the Virginia Dare story as one about powerful women, or lost children. But what Hudson felt was the core of the Dare story is the idea of missing information in stories or identity. "I felt a compulsion towards this," said Hudson, who herself left a life behind to come to North Carolina and start a new one.

Virginia Dare was in her mother's womb when the English adventurers stepped foot on Roanoke Island. Hudson writes, "This colony brought seventeen women to Roanoke Island; one gave birth shortly after Virginia was born, and one came with a babe in arms. There were eleven boys on the ship's roster. There were eighty-five men. They had come for the promise of 500 acres each. They were hoping to find silver and gold. They intended to build America's first English city, the Cittie of Raleigh, on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. In short, they had come with the idea of raising children and improving their fortunes — and they had come to the wrong place."

So we read of the history and lore of Virginia Dare and her and her colony's disappearance as Hudson traverses the state, burrows into research collections, interviews archeologists, historians and North Carolina citizens, and we come to learn, shard by shard, of the personal gaps that Hudson seeks to fill.

As I greedily devoured the book, eager to learn of Virginia Dare, I kept



thinking how brave Hudson was, setting off a myriad of times, on her own, to unknown places and people, to collect clues. So it is quite funny when Hudson explained one of the reasons for the subtitle she gave the book, "A Fool's Errand." "I get lost, take the wrong road with my car." She said that she also did something in the book that people rarely do, admit their fears, their gropes into blindness. By doing this though, Hudson adds a rich layer to the book. Anyone who has ever dreamed of being a writer will read this book and have a much better sense of how to be one. For as we know, creating the prose is just part of the process. We must move, in motion and thought, towards a subject, be it Virginia Dare, or the Civil War, as Charles Frazier tackled in "Cold Mountain." We travel with Hudson, in her car and in her mind, moving towards a better understanding of the driver and her subject. Getting lost is part of the project. No fool here.

Hudson knew she was taking a chance approaching an historical subject in the way that she has. She explained, "It was risky for me to write in some ways as the book approaches history on a level of myth and personal feeling and it takes the stance of providing documented historical material

and at the same time analyzing it through the lens of imperfect memory and for me to even use the words Virginia Dare; some may believe it to be a form of hubris, claiming a territory that doesn't really belong to me. But I maintain that is where history is and always has been. I began to see that other people related to it in the same way."

What surprised Hudson most about her research was how people today really relate deeply to the story of Virginia Dare, and too, how many North Carolinians don't know about her. She feels that the Dare story is the great American family story and she hopes by telling it as she has, people will get interested in Dare as well as get interested in telling their family stories and not forget to get stories before they go to the grave.

Hudson recently gave a reading at the Barnes and Noble in Greenville, N.C. and one of the audience members was a woman who was, after World War II, a dresser/costumer for Paul Green's symphonic drama *The Lost Colony*. "She told us stories about how she got costume fabric when textiles were scarce, and dressing Andy Griffith. People show up with this fascination and light in their eyes for Virginia Dare."

Hudson sees her book as her love letter to North Carolina, its land and people. And like a love letter one treasures, any reader will surely keep the book for years to come, to reread, to share, to incite their own searches for who they are.

Upcoming readings of "Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand," will be held Thurs. June 6 at 7 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble at Crabtree Valley Mall (782-0030), Fri. June 7, 4-6 p.m. at The Inn at Celebrity Dairy in Siler City (542-5649, this event is a fundraiser) and Thurs. June 20 at 7 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble at New Hope Commons (489-3012). For more information about the author, the book and additional information on Virginia Dare, go to www.searchingforvirginiadare.com.

Deborah R. Meyer is a writer who lives in Chatham County.

Briefs

Continued from Page 2

boro at 10 a.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the Pittsboro United Methodist Church, 71 West Street. Call Adrienne Berg, 933-1633 for more details.

Also on the agenda is a plan to donate educational adult and children's literature to county libraries. We are planning fundraisers to support this effort. If you'd like to be involved or find out more, please contact Ellen Chetwynd at 967-6960 or Susan O'Hara-Brill at 967-6928.

Writers workshops planned for summer

Writers can work on independent prose projects, including fiction, journal and autobiography at writers workshops this summer that Judy Hogan will lead. Everyone will work on his/her own writing project, take a turn reading to the group, follow a self-designed contract, and turn in a completed piece of work at the end of the course. We will read Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility"; study it as a model, discuss it in depth, while reviewing basic techniques useful in all genres, like scene writing, characterization, plot, preparation, etc.

Classes will run 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays, July 2-Aug. 6. Cost: \$80. Place: private

home, Durham or Chapel Hill. Classes are limited to 12, on a first-come, first served basis. The book will be available at The Regulator Bookshop, 720 Ninth St. Durham, 27705.

Judy Hogan is a writer (diary, essays, newspaper articles, reviews in magazines, 5 books of poetry in print and 1 non-fiction book) and was founding editor (Carolina Wren Press, 1976-91, and Hyperion Poetry Journal, 1969-81). She has taught writing to Triangle residents since 1974. The methods she developed during the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored "Roadmap to Great Literature" series in the Durham County Library have helped writers improve faster than any other methods she has found. Many of her former students have had stories, poems, and books published. Of the 30 books she edited and published, 13 were selected for display in "New American

Writing Exhibit" at the International Book Fair in Frankfurt, Germany, by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, contact Judy Hogan at PO Box 253, Moncure, N.C. 27559, (919) 545-9932 or <judyhogan@mindspring.com> web: <http://judyhogan.home.mindspring.com>

'Chatham Hunger Walk' set for Siler City in October

Not much will change this October when participants from around the

county gather once again for Chatham County's 14th annual walk to raise money for the fight against hunger. But a new format will give walkers the added option of making their 10-kilometer circuit primarily to meet local needs.

Now known as the Chatham Hunger Walk, the event will be run independently by CORA, the county food pantry, and is no longer co-sponsored by Church World Service — though participating groups still have the option of making their same contribution to the ecumenical ministry based in Indiana. The change was made primarily to get more organizations involved in the fight against hunger.

Under the new format, churches, school groups and community organizations can decide what proportion of their contributions will be used locally: 25, 50, 75 or 100 percent. The balance will be sent to Church World Service to support hunger projects across the world.

Last year, food pantry volunteers distributed groceries equivalent to 51,652 meals to local residents facing short-term need — a staggering 61 percent increase over the previous year and far more than anyone ever anticipated.

The Chatham Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 20, in Siler City. CORA is an all-volunteer, non-profit and ecumenical ministry providing food for neighbors in short-term need. The ministry provides free groceries for up to one month each year,

while local pastors and social service agencies work with pantry clients to solve personal challenges creating the need.

Rock Rest Adventures wins professional kudos

Honoring Rock Rest Adventures for its dedication to preserving the environment, the Professional Paddlersports Association presented its 2001 Environmental Excellence Award to Joe Jacob, who accepted the award on behalf of his entire staff.

Joe Jacobs also led some National Geographic Adventure magazine photographers and a writer on an expedition in the Roanoke River Swamps of eastern North Carolina, where they camped on elevated platforms. The article, "The Gothic Swamps of Carolina," was printed in the April 2002 issue.

Horton art works on display at the Ackland

Throughout this school year, 20 of Judy Ingram's Horton Middle School students have visited the Ackland Museum of Art in Chapel Hill. The class explored, and then interpreted, and finally incorporated ideas from the collection in which they were immersed into their own artwork.

The exhibition, titled "In Our View, Middle School Responses to the Ackland Collection", opened in May and will continue through the summer.



Jordan Lake

Continued from Page 1

trails," said Mary Jane McKendy, who works in the office at Jordan Lake. "But you have to remember, the purpose of the lake is flood control so we don't want to build them where they might get washed away."

Jordan Lake is a Mecca for stargazers. Whenever a noteworthy astronomical event occurs, the staff of the Morehead Planetarium at UNC sets up telescopes at Jordan Lake so all comers can see the stars, comets and meteor showers in their brilliance, undimmed by the streetlights that are ever more common elsewhere in the Triangle.

The lake is host to other educational programs as well. Jordan Lake Forestry

offers programs on the flora, and Jordan Lake State Park offers programs on everything else.

For those who wish to see fauna in the wild, Jordan Lake offers quite a bit. Deer, beavers, foxes, owls and osprey all live there. Most famous of all are the bald eagles that make the park their home.

"Eagles," remarked Mr. Seigh. "If you look for one, you never see it. But if you aren't looking, they'll sit down right in front of you."

It costs \$4 per car to visit Jordan Lake from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In April, May and September, cars are charged the \$4 fee only on weekends. For more information about Jordan Lake call 362-0586.

Julian Sereno is the editor of Chatham Crossroads.



A scull skims the surface at Jordan Lake, above, while fishermen, left, prepare to plumb its depths.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SHILLITO

Chatham air

Continued from Page 1

spokesman Keith Poston. They plan to install scrubbers to cut down on the sulfur dioxide and have already reduced the nitrogen oxide (NOX, which contributes to the ozone level).

By working with the community and communicating plans to reduce emissions, the plants can go a long way in allaying community concerns. More importantly, the N.C. Division of Air Quality (DAQ) should require the plants to use the most up-to-date modeling of the air pollutants and the advanced control emission technology suggested by the environmental reports that place us high in the state and nation with respect to several air toxins. We should not have to rely on student reports.

Meantime, the word in Moncure is that people are getting sick. A school bus driver told me that in February the Moncure School had many absences, a lot from asthma. She herself, who has never suffered from asthma, had it. In February we had a long period without rain or wind. At a local shop, the staff was joking in February that people said it was like visiting a hospital ward: they were all sick. A man who lives near Sierra Pine told me that his wife had been troubled with asthma only after moving here, and that she was bothered on days when she "shouldn't have been," i.e., when there had to be something in the air besides pollen, for instance.

David LeGrys, who is running for County Commissioner (third district) and currently serves on the Planning Board, was present April 16 when the NCSU students gave their report. He says: "To be told that our county has the highest level of formaldehyde in the entire nation, was not something I felt we could ignore. I was happy to work with some wonderful people, including [County Commissioner] Margaret Pollard, Winifred Smith, and Jane Gallagher, to research this issue and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Commissioners."

The commissioners accepted his recommendation unanimously and sent a letter (see page ___) to the N.C. Division of Air Quality. Apparently DAQ was set to do a study of our air two years ago to look at concentrations of selected chemicals from the cumulative emissions of the neighboring industries, but it never got off the ground because of lack of funding. DAQ's concern was the overlapping effect of so many industries in close proximity, even if each plant was releasing only what it,

COMMISSIONERS WANT

May 6 letter to the DAC from Gary Phillips, Chatham Commission Chair

Mr. Alan Klimek, Director
Division of Air Quality
1641 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641
Re: Moncure, NC air quality issues
Dear Mr. Klimek,

We recently learned that significant levels of respiratory toxicants including high levels of formaldehyde and SO₂ are being released into the Moncure area of Chatham County. We were told that Chatham County was #1 in the nation for formaldehyde and in the top 10% nationally for SO₂.

The information was presented to a citizens group from Moncure by students from NC State University as part of a community outreach program. The information comes from a study of 1999 data.

We are requesting that you address this information as soon as possible. The Board's interest would be well served if you could come to one of our work sessions in the near future.

We would like to have information about the accuracy of the study, and if the study is correct then hear what more recent emissions data contain: what DAQ policies are in place to address the issue and finally what monitoring plans are in place to cover formaldehyde, SO₂, ethylene glycol, sulfuric acid, chlorine biphenyl, HCL and others.

I would like to call you in the next few days to arrange a time for you to meet with us.

Thank you for your prompt attention of the important Chatham County air quality issue.

Sincerely,
Gary Phillips

individually, was permitted.

DAQ Director Alan Klimek has been asked to meet with the Commissioners.

LeGrys said, "We took a measured, thoughtful approach that seeks to work within our system to request state help and service. New data should be available soon, and we understand that the companies involved are taking steps to address this problem."

Margaret Pollard, Commissioner from the Moncure district, commented: "It's intolerable. The health of the most vulnerable, the elderly and the children, must be protected." She also wants tests made of our water and soil, as they are bound to be affected by what falls out

of the air.

Harold Taylor, Moncure community leader and member of the County Planning Board, said that he was the first person to bring the air issue to the attention of Jim Warren of N.C. WARN, the organization that encouraged both an earlier 2001 UNC study (Environmental Resources Program) and the NCSU students.

Taylor had noticed bad odors especially along old U.S. 1. For him it's presently Moncure's most important issue.

Gary Phillips, Commissioners' Chairperson, says, "This is our most pressing environmental issue in the county." He has been concerned a long time. The state may soon tell the county that they can't have any more industry until this pollution problem, which adds to the general Triangle pollution, is solved.

Rick Givens, Commissioner, now running for Sheriff, was surprised and shocked that we were first in the U.S. for formaldehyde emissions and high for others. "It's appalling," he said. "We don't have that much air and land left. We have to take care of what we have. The Commissioners want to help. The companies may not have realized the extent of the problem they've created. The clean-up costs may be a problem for them, even if they make more profits in the long run."

The prognosis is optimistic for cleaning our air with the community and the Commissioners eager to work with the Division of Air Quality and the companies to seek a win-win resolution. In the meantime, keep your eye on those bright, confident babies who need clean air as do our more sensitive elderly citizens, many with pre-existing lung problems, not to mention the rest of us who breathe the air in Moncure.

Until the state monitors our air with its sensitive equipment for specific chemicals emitted from these plants, it is not possible to assess the potential health impact of these cumulative emissions.

A citizens' task force is in the works under the aegis of the SCCAC to focus on the problem. Those interested are invited to our June 18 meeting (7 p.m., the firehouse on Old U.S.1) to hear Jane Gallagher, who understands environmental health issues.

For more information, try these web sites: Right to Know Network: <http://www.rtk.net>; Environmental Defense's Scorecard (specific community information) <http://www.sscorecard.org/>. For more information: Harold Taylor: 542-4848 or Judy Hogan 545-9932.

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

o p i n i o n

Future development should fund future parks

By ALAN BADDOUR

One day a few months ago, I was walking near the traffic circle in Pittsboro when a woman rolled down the window, on her way east through town. The car was full of preschool children, and she yelled over their joyful shouts to ask me for directions to the nearest park. It was a school day, so I knew the school playgrounds were not available, and of course neither were the private church playgrounds. Slightly embarrassed, I told her we had no parks, and that she should keep on driving to Apex or Chapel Hill. I was sad and ashamed that Chatham County couldn't provide a visitor - or residents - with a park. (I've since learned that we have one park in Chatham County - about an acre in Bynum.)

There comes a time in the growth of a community when its recreation needs can no longer be patched together by individual volunteer efforts, as important as those are. Eventually, we as a community must seek more - so that we may have reliability, continuity, and a certain level of professionalism. For the same reasons children move from backyard basketball and sandlot baseball to organized (though still fun and not necessarily competitive) sports, we as families and adults should be able to count on places and organizations to help us strengthen our bodies, our minds, and our spirits, through organized parks and recreation in Chatham County.

So, how can development and developers assist us in meeting the recreation needs of Chatham County? The harder questions are not the subject of this article: we must of course decide the proper scale, density, design, and general feel of any new development. I recognize that some growth is inevitable, and indeed, if the above decisions are appropriately made, growth may be good. Development moves from good to compelling, if - and only if - our community demands and receives from the developers things important for all of us; not just the developer, and not just those living in the new development.

I suggest that we seek from all developments, with the exception of certain "family subdivisions," not just green space, but green space useable by all county residents.

Green space is usable by all when it is at least partially landscaped into parks, trails, playgrounds, and sports fields. Green space becomes even more usable by all when it is linked to other green space by trails that can be walked, jogged, biked, and baby-strolled, and when these trails and parks are accessible by sidewalks from the homes of nearby neighborhoods. It is incumbent upon us to demand of our county officials that they adopt a countywide plan to ensure that developers build for us, our children, and beyond.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners can achieve this, in part, by approving the proposed Recreation Exaction Fee that is presently before the Planning Board. Under this

proposal, the developer of any new subdivision would be required to give the county an exaction fee equal to 1/35th of the value of the improved property. The proceeds would be used for recreational needs in that local geographic region. The county would have the right to choose whether to receive the exaction fee in cash or land, based on need in that area. The fee is properly scaled to not overwhelmingly burden small developers and is nimble enough to not force the county into creating multiple, miniscule parks that might become a financial drain on the County's budget.

I further believe that Chatham County should demand from all large developers (any development over a certain, pre-determined size) a donation of land sufficient to support infrastructure necessary to build a school, a community park, and perhaps even a YMCA or other family-centered health and fitness community center.

Finally, I suggest that all developers must be required to build either sidewalks or bike/pedestrian lanes throughout their developments. It serves no purpose to create a school, park, or YMCA that no one without a driver's license and a car can get to safely. Further, over time, the developers (and, I suppose, new homeowners) bear the cost of upgrading the walkability of the county. This is a small price to pay to "buy-in" to Chatham County. I grew up in Orange County, in Chapel Hill, and I have seen the sidewalk requirement in Chapel Hill slowly move the town's neighborhoods from a bizarre patchwork of sidewalks (that made me believe Shel Silverstein must have surely had Chapel Hill in mind when he titled his famous book) to a smoothly integrated sidewalk system that allows walkers, joggers, children, strollers, and retired persons to safely move within their neighborhoods and beyond. It took twenty years, but that vision has indeed led to a community that can be navigated on foot, and the cost was shared by those who profited from the development.

Development can be destructive to a community. It is incumbent upon us to demand that it instead make our community better. We must be willing to stand by our principles, even if we lose developments in the process. If we do this successfully, we will ultimately gain the right type of developments for our county, and secure the benefits necessary to delight the next generation of Chathamites.

Not everyone will use the parks, sidewalks, greenway trails, or YMCAs that we demand of developers. Of course not. But the entire community benefits from their existence, because they can be used by everyone, the County will not be saddled with their cost, and, eventually, hopefully, it will be difficult for our children to discover where the sidewalk ends.

Allen Baddour is member of the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He resides in Pittsboro with his wife Holly and their two sons.



Imagining Chatham County Parks in 2020

By DON LEIN

When I was asked to write an article on my vision for Chatham County Parks for 2020, I asked myself whether I should write on what I hoped for, or what I expected.

This is what I expect. Chatham County will have grown 60 to 100 percent over its present population, depending upon how the county manages development. If county-wide water becomes a reality, then add 25 percent to the previous estimate. The baby boomers will be retired and other retirees will flock to places like Chatham because lower taxes are easier on their fixed retirement incomes. The Surgeon General has declared obesity our number one health problem. Chatham County already ranks very poorly in rate of teenage obesity, which will be exacerbated by 20 more years of McDonald's type food and no gym classes. Our collective and individual ability to handle stress will probably continue to plummet, so our citizens are going to need recreational facilities where they can get in shape, both physically and mentally.

What form will these recreational facilities take? Where will they be? Who will pay for them? Many questions arise and I will attempt to address them seriatim.

These public facilities will include an expansion of our present recreational facilities for active recreation; ball fields, courts, pools, playgrounds, kalyaking, etc. There will be even greater growth in facilities devoted to passive recreation; walking/hiking/jogging trails, equestrian trails, handicapped trails, bird watching, picnicing, etc. These facilities will become a more prominent part of the park system because they preserve, rather than clear cut, they are friendlier neighbors, they are less expensive to develop and maintain and they are more in keeping with retaining the rural character of Chatham County.

These parks will be located with as much geographical diversity as practicable. Pragmatically, they are going to be wherever we can obtain the least expensive land suitable for parks and

recreational purposes, which will be within suitable travel time to most Chathamites. It would be fiscally irresponsible not to look at land that is being offered free or at a nominal price. There certainly will be community parks in all four quadrants of the county, as well as a district park centrally located. The American Tobacco Trail will be a reality and Jordan Lake will have a number of additional parks. Much of the land around Jordan Lake is designated as interim game lands, meaning it is interim until it can be developed for recreational use. It is only a matter of time until Cary, Durham, Chapel Hill, Sanford, Apex, etc., lease these parcels and provide their citizens with inexpensive access to Jordan Lake. I also expect that a number of the facilities we will be regularly using will be located at the public schools. It is incomprehensible to believe that in the next 20 years we can't figure out a way to make taxpayer funded facilities available to the taxpayer. I expect there will be trails/greenways along the shores/banks of our waterways to protect the waterways, provide a fitness activity for our citizens, and provide a habitat for wildlife.

There will also be an upswing in volunteerism to help develop/maintain parks in the county. Some will come from local groups who use and look after local community parks and river greenways, while others will develop with specific interests, i.e., hiking, biking, equestrian, bird watching, nature study, etc. I expect these groups and their national organizations will help us with innovative ideas, sweat equity, and funding.

Finally, what about costs? Who will pay for all these facilities? Largely, the taxpayer! However, using the Chatham Public Schools as a paradigm, only a small portion will come directly from the Chatham County taxpayers. The school gets only about 1 out of 4 dollars directly from Chatham County and I expect park development costs will be similar. There will be many grants from state and federal agencies (again taxpayer money), as well as private

See IMAGINING, Page 12

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

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

Hay muchas oportunidades para relajarse en Chatham Chatham offers many different ways to relax



A la fiesta del Río Haw, se puede bagnar (derecho) o agozar el teatro (sobre), y mucho mas.
The Haw River Festival features more than just theater (above) and swimming (right).



Las fiestas de Chatham ofrecen las comidas internacionales.
Chatham festivals offer foods from all over the world.



Dos hombres van en bicicletas por la carretera 64.
Two men ride their bikes on Highway 64.



El grupo Triangle Brass Band tocan sus instrumentos al nuevo centro del Chatham County Arts Council.

The Triangle Brass Band performs at the new home of the Chatham County Arts Council.

Imagining

Continued from Page 11

funding agencies.

Over the next two decades there will be considerable money made available to increase fitness in America (the pronouncement by the Surgeon General was only the opening salvo on the increased emphasis on fitness). And as was mentioned supra,

Chatham will rank right up there as one of the most deserving localities for those funds. When should these costs be incurred? Development costs can be postponed with no major penalty, while procurement costs will continue to rise over time and therefore should be expended as early as practicable. Shouldn't we wait until we have solved problems in other areas before we start funding parks? No, there are areas where more money is irrelevant to the solution of problems, but that is an article(s) unto itself.

I expect by 2020 that we will have more trees than we have now and, hopefully, among those trees we will have trails and resting spots where our citizens can enjoy the peacefulness that comes with living in Chatham County. If you share this vision, come join us at the Parks Foundation or join/form your own local group so that we can work together to keep Chatham green and healthy.

Don Lein is President of the Chatham County Parks Foundation.