

## REPUBLICAN

continued from page 1.

the rate of our population. Revenue isn't our problem, spending is. A quick read of the 2010-2011 budget shows debt service is expected to increase 423 percent since 2007.

Blue collar jobs and industries are being shunned because they don't meet the BOCs definition of "green" or "sustainable", severely limiting work opportunities for our citizens. Overly burdensome regulation is putting Chatham at a comparative disadvantage to surrounding counties. Existing business can't survive and new ones aren't interested in opening. All the while, our

Commissioners are discussing the refugees that may come to Chatham due to "Climate Change".

If adopted as proposed, the major corridor ordinance will transfer 23,000 acres of private property to governmental control. A joint land-use commission with majority vote being given to Cary officials will decide how Chatham uses Chatham land in the eastern part of the county.

Just a few examples of Chatham Tzars include; a sustainable community's director that will cost the county \$180,000 this year alone. A new transportation director was added along with a human relations council director. These individuals

have a disproportionate and inappropriate level of influence on county operations.

How many times do we have to learn that when government tries to micro-manage an economy, standards of living decrease.

All is not lost however; we can get on a new path if we get involved and pay closer attention to local politics. We can have a county that balances environmental concerns with needed infrastructure. We can stop spending on unnecessary pet projects. We can protect private property rights and we can create an environment that fosters job growth and job retention. A better future is possible if each of us would devote at least as

much effort to local issues as we do national issues.

The local school board, sheriff, and board of commissioners have a greater impact on our daily lives than does the president. If you are eligible to vote in the primary on May 4, I urge you to do so. If you aren't, then you must start now getting involved and learning about the issues to be a fully informed voter by November. Nothing less than our way of life and our liberty are at stake.

*Brian Bock is a Republican candidate for Chatham County Commissioner in District 3. Formerly Chairman of the Chatham County Republican Party, he resigned to run for elective office.*

## DEMOCRAT

continued from page 1.

Directors, and the hiring of new EDC leadership, Chatham County now has a completed economic development strategic plan, an organizational structure to implement the plan, and the direct engagement and involve-

ment of Goldston, Pittsboro, Siler City, CCC and Chatham County Schools, among others.

To increase effectiveness, improve communication and lower costs, the Board merged and integrated several county departments and services under the Sustainable Communities Department. This Department now includes Planning, Permitting, Transportation, Affordable Housing and Green Building initiatives. Ordinances have been updated to provide clear guidance in the growth of Chatham County with an eye to encouraging both economic and residential growth that preserves the County's rural character and environment.

In short, Chatham County is on the move! It is focused, it is future oriented, it is engaged with our municipalities, and it is a leader amongst counties in planning and growth management. From the financial stability of our school system, to

the protection of our resources, to the proactive focus on our economic opportunities, Chatham County is light years ahead of where it was even six years ago ... and millions of light years ahead of where it was in 1978, when the idea of strategic planning was first initiated.

In electing our Board of Commissioners, the citizens of Chatham County grasped onto the county's vision, "Chatham County will be a place that cooperatively controls its own destiny to assure the state of well-being desired by all of our people, while proudly preserving diverse cultural heritages and the County's rural character." (Vision prepared by the Strategic Plan Development Committee and signed by the five governing boards in the County in April 1995.)

Currently, three members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, George Lucier, Carl Thompson, and Tom Vanderbeck

are up for re-election. Since they are running unopposed in the Democrat Primary, their names will not be on the ballot until the General Election in November. As the election season heats up, it will be important for the citizens to keep focused on how far we have come in six short years (although we've been planning for over 30 years). We cannot and should not look back ... we have too much to look forward to!

For more information, please visit <http://lucier4chatham.blogspot.com/>, <https://sites.google.com/site/elect-carlthompson/> and <http://www.vanderbeck4chatham.org/>.

*Larry Hicks, a Chatham resident for more than 20 years, has been involved in Chatham County planning since the early '90s including serving on three strategic plan committees, planning board, Healthy Chatham, and most recently the Economic Development Corporation.*

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