

Restoring the dream

By Jeff Starkweather

I'm excited to be running in the May 8 Democratic primary for the new open seat in N.C. House District 54, representing all of Chatham County and a portion of Sanford. I want to use my 40 years of local experience as a longtime civil rights/employment attorney, community advocate, and former newspaper editor/publisher to work tirelessly for our community through the legislative process.

We are facing exceptional challenges, making this perhaps the most important NC election year in state history. Look at what's at stake:

Strong Schools: We must keep investing in our public schools from pre-K through community college and university levels. We should not be eliminating jobs for teachers and teachers' assistants. We need to treat them like the professionals we expect them to be. It's shameful that NC now invests less funding per pupil than just about any other state in the nation.

Good Jobs: Cutting state and local government jobs is not the way to grow private-sector jobs. We need government to be an active partner, promoting economic development. We must work strategically to support local businesses and attract clean industries — not simply wait for the jobs to show up.

Clean Air and Water: We also must protect the natural resources that make our region a stellar place to live and work. We should stop the fracking frenzy. The legislature must not allow hydraulic mining for gas in NC, until and unless we are certain it will not undermine our health and environment.

The new legislative majority has eliminated teaching jobs, attacked the educators' association, and begun dismantling environmental laws. Now they are trying to turn back the clock on the rights of women, minorities and anyone who

doesn't share their ideology.

With your help, we can stop them. If we work together for strong schools, good jobs and clean air and water, we can restore the promise of upward mobility for all. The American Dream is for everyone, not just the privileged few. I'm ready to do my part.

TESTED AND READY

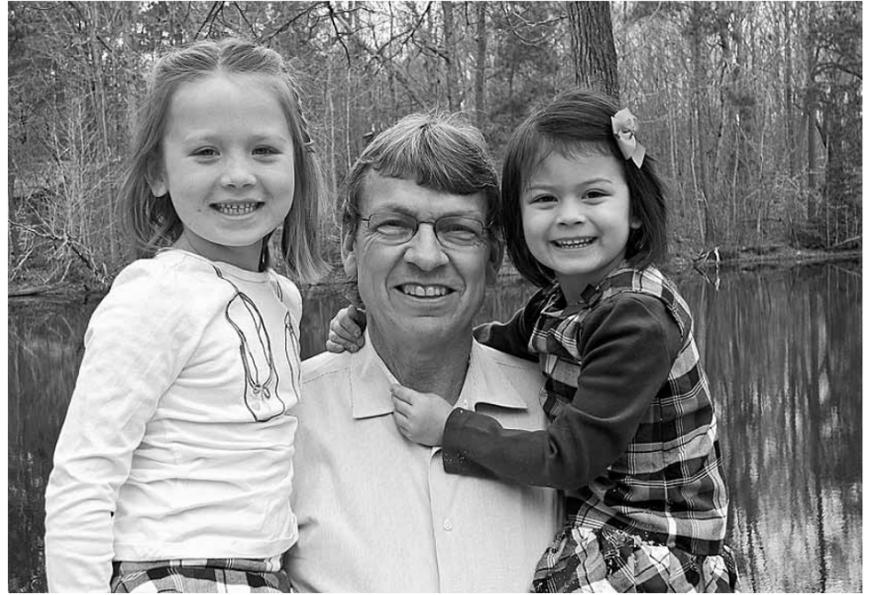
We are facing difficult choices to get our economy back on track. I believe I have the right combination of local leadership experience and knowledge to be an effective legislator, as we navigate these challenging times.

In 1973, at age 26, I became the "tell it like it is" editor and co-publisher of the Chatham County Herald — fostering open government, exposing polluters and giving a voice to all citizens.

After selling the newspaper in 1984, I went back to school and became a federal public defender and employment/civil rights attorney. I spent 20 years working through state and federal courts on behalf of low-income defendants and working people, women, minorities and persons with disabilities.

In 2003, I launched the most successful grassroots political campaign in Chatham history. The support of hundreds of local volunteers resulted in the subsequent election of a dozen diverse candidates to the County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education. I was also instrumental in campaigns for the election of a new mayor for Pittsboro and three women for the Town Board, including the first African-American woman ever elected to that position.

Since "retiring" I have been working 24/7 for good jobs, affordable neighborhoods and energy conservation through service on the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, Triangle South Workforce Development, Chatham County Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Energy and Green Building advisory boards.



Jeff Starkweather with Chatham granddaughters Ryan and Emery

RECOGNITIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS

In 2006, the News and Observer named me Tar Heel of the Week. In 2009, the West Chatham NAACP honored me as a Humanitarian of the Year.

I'm especially humbled now to have the endorsement of many current and former elected officials and community leaders in both Chatham and Lee counties, including:

Chatham County Commissioners: Sally Kost, George Lucier, Carl Thompson, Tom Vanderbeck, Gary Phillips, and E.T. Hanner. Chatham County Board of Education: Del Turner, Flint O'Brien, Kathie Russell and District 1 candidate Karen Howard. Pittsboro Town Board: Pamela Baldwin and Beth Turner.

Lee County Board of Education: James Womack (Democrat). Sanford: Mayor Cornelia Olive and City Councilmen Walter McNeil and James Williams.

And a host of community leaders including: former Chatham Democratic Women

Presidents Barb Alotis, Pam Hawe and Miriam Pollard; and Former North Carolina Democratic Women VP Bonnie Bechard.

Here's what they are saying:

"Jeff is by far the most experienced and knowledgeable candidate running for this seat — exactly the kind of fearless and effective advocate we need in Raleigh in these times." — Chatham Commissioner Sally Kost

"Jeff has the courage and passion to speak truth to power, and the ability to create legislation that will restore fairness and democracy to our economy and government. He is the right man at the right time and we need him now more than ever." — Del Turner, Gulf, Chatham Board of Education

"I trust Jeff because of his life-long commitment to fairness, justice and equal opportunity for all, including immigrants. He is smart, strategic and is committed to protecting our natural resources, creating jobs, increasing government accountability, and protecting the civil rights and liberties of everyone. I will vote for him and hope you will too." —Ilana Dubester, former director, Hispanic Liaison.



LUNCH | BRUNCH | DINNER | BAR

Now Open for Dinner!

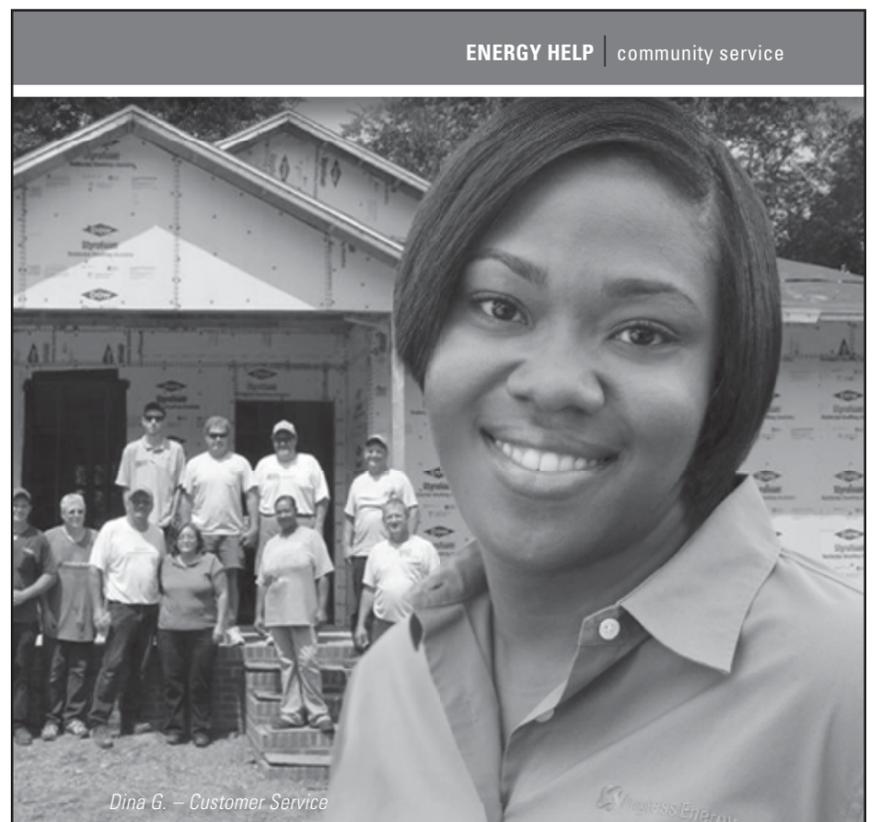
Try a dish from our brand new menu:

- Truffle & Parmesan French Fries
- Iceberg Wedge Salad
- The Farmhouse Burger
- Goat Cheese Soufflé
- Beer-Battered Fish & Chips
- Buttermilk Fried Chicken with Mac & Cheese
- Grilled Meat Loaf, Ribeye, and Beef Tenderloin
- Banana Bread Pudding with Caramel

Located midway between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill
on US15-501 in Ferrington Village



919.542.2121 | ferringtongranary.com



Dina G. — Customer Service

WE DELIVER ELECTRICITY
TO HOMES — and share our
energy with the community.

At Progress Energy, we put our energy into more than electricity. Each year, our company and our employees give millions of dollars and countless hours of community service. It's all part of the Energy Help we bring to you and the community every day.

 **Progress Energy**
progress-energy.com

©2012 Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.