

DISPATCHES

Sludge-based fertilizer may cause illness

Treated municipal sewage sludge—the solids from sewage treatment—may be causing illness in people up to a mile from where it is spread on land.

Those are the findings from researchers at the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

The study, titled "Land Application of Treated Sewage Sludge: Community Health and Environmental Justice," appears in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. It involved residents from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina who live near fields where sludge is applied as a soil amendment. More than half of the people interviewed reported acute symptoms such as burning eyes, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea after sludge had been sprayed or spread. Neighbors of fields where industrial swine operations spray waste have reported similar symptoms.

"Study participants told us that the onset of the symptoms occurred while the sludge was being applied or soon after," says Amy Lowman, MPH, research associate in epidemiology, and the study's first author. "These were not one-time incidents, either. Respondents reported these illnesses occurring several times, and always after treated sludge was applied to the nearby farmland."

Other symptoms reported by more than one respondent in the wake of sludge applications included difficulty breathing, sinus congestion or drainage, and skin infection and sores.

Respondents also reported sludge run-off into local waterways and cattle grazing on fields soon after sludge applications.

"Both of these situations are against state rules. If there is run-off of treated sludge there can be contamination of

waterways or neighboring property," Lowman says. "Livestock are not supposed to graze on sludge-applied fields for 30 days after application."

In addition, all three states require signs warning that treated sewage sludge is in use on farmland, but several respondents reported that such signage was either not posted or not visible.

Study coauthor and principal investigator of the research, Dr. Steve Wing says, "Most people in towns and cities don't know where their sewage sludge goes. If they had to live near where it is being spread out, they might be more concerned about this practice. Many respondents in our study said it's not fair for rural people to bear the burden of urban waste disposal."

Lowman does caution that the study's findings are based on a relatively small sample size of 34 people and that better tracking of sludge applications and human health is needed to better document relationships between the sludge application and illness.

"However, we are talking about a material containing chemicals and organisms that can make people sick. Although the EPA promotes land application of sludge, it has not said it's safe for people's health or the environment," she says. "More than half of the people interviewed reported similar symptoms. These reports came from individuals in three different states on separate occasions who live up to a mile from areas where sludge was applied. These findings are consistent with previous reports of health impacts and support calls for health and environmental agencies to pay more attention to the potential for sludge to impact people who live near land application sites."

Time for fun: ClydeFEST, 2013



ally known folk art hero. There will be a critter-making demo, a chance to win your very own critter at the big critter auction, and critter raffle, too.

On the stage, sponsored by Bynum Front Porch, there will be music from bluegrass legend Tommy Edwards, 13 year-old fiddler Nathan Aldridge, Alice and Rick Zincone, and the Northwood Jazz Band; international dance with Takiri Folkloriko Dance Academy; incredible moves from The Bouncing Bulldogs rope jumping phenoms; fabulous tales from storyteller Cynthia Raxter; and magic and balloons from Happy Dan the Magic Man and Mr. Rainbow the Clown.

Aside from chainsaw virtuoso Clyde, the ballfield will be home to Georgia folk artist Peter Loose and his African Tortoises, face painting, a drum circle, fabulous food, photo ops galore, ice cream, a clown, a mime, a stilt walker, local artists, exhibitors, Critter auction, and masterfully crafted field games.

Kids of all ages are encouraged to get creative and paint their own critter cut-out in "Critterville" and pose for photos on one of Clyde's Horse-Dogs (or are they Pig-Giraffes?) in the photo tent. And of course there will be all the usual bright and beautiful hand-crafted games, alongside of local refreshments from ice-cream to hotdogs to wood-oven fired pizza to keep folks going.

Bynum is located midway between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro, just off Highway 15-501. Rainedate for the event will be Sunday, April 7, from 1-5 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to watch the website, at www.chathamarts.org, if inclement weather looks possible.

Mark your calendars for the Chatham County Arts Council's 12th Annual ClydeFEST Kids' Carnival of Folk Art Fun from 11am to 4pm at the Bynum Ballpark on **Saturday, April 6.**

This family fest will feature live music, food trucks, hands-on art activities and children's games inspired by Clyde Jones, the "CritterMaster" of Bynum and internation-



BRIEFS

16th Bi-annual Carrboro CD and Record Show

Sunday, April 7 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center Century Hall (2nd floor), 100 North Greensboro St. (Intersection of Greensboro Street with Main & Weaver Streets.) 40 tables of new and used CDs, vinyl records and music memorabilia

Free admission. For info: 919.260.0661 or Musical_roots@bellsouth.net or www.musicalroots.net

Artists for Animals Faire to help rescued animals

The Apex Arts Council (AAC) is hosting the second annual version of the largest art show on our yearly calendar. The Artists for Animals Faire is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, April 20**, at the Cloer Family Vineyards in Apex. The event is expected to showcase as many as one-hundred artists in as many artistic disciplines as possible, and benefit animal rescue groups around the area.

The idea for the event came from local author Belea Keeney, now tasked as Producer

for the Faire. "I wanted to do something really special," she said. "This just seemed like a logical way to bring us all together for some good causes."

Half of the profits of the Faire will be donated to three local animal rescue groups.

"The concept of using art as a means to benefit animal rescue efforts was so compelling we could not help but do it," said AAC President Bob Crowley. "Then the location provided us with such an expanse of space we had to find a way to fill it."

Artists expected to display their talents at the event will include painters, sculptors, photographers, poets, bands, and many others. The concept is to fill the day with as many artistic disciplines as possible. Along with this, since the focus will benefit animals as well as art, a number of cows, sheep, horses, chickens, ferrets, cats, dogs, and other species will be attending and eager to meet our human visitors. Art and literature will be available for purchase, puppies and kittens will be available for adoption, and the vineyard will have wine for tasting and purchase.

Admission to the event is free. Selected vendors will provide coffee, soft drinks, snacks, and ice cream for purchase.

Chatham Chamber 25th Annual Golf Tournament

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its 25th Annual Golf Tournament to be held at The Preserve at Jordan Lake on **April 29**. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a Shotgun Start at 9:30 a.m.

Green fees include a day of golf, golf cart rental, a goodie bag, light breakfast, beverages, and lunch during the Awards Reception. In addition to team prizes for the top three teams, there will be three contest prizes, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. If a golfer is lucky enough to be the Hole-in-One winner, he or she will drive home in a new vehicle from Pittsboro Ford.

Please contact the Chatham Chamber of Commerce to pre-register. 919.742.3333 or info@ccucc.net.

Chatham County Courthouse rededication

Chatham County invites residents to attend one of many activities happening on **Saturday, April 20**, as part of the Grand Reopening of the 1881 Chatham County Courthouse, including the public opening of the Chatham County Historical Association's Museum

and a special ceremony.

At 10:30 am, the Historical Association will open the doors to its new museum with extensive displays on many aspects of the county's history. The museum is housed on the first floor of the courthouse and will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day.

Those who want a guided tour of the courthouse by the project architects should meet at the north entrance under the portico at either 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Taylor Hobbs and Grimsley Hobbs of Hobbs Architects, PA will serve as tour leaders. No reservations are required.

For those who just want to walk through the courthouse on their own can do so between 10:30 a.m. and noon and between

BRIEFS CONTINUED, PAGE 10

CHATHAM
County Line

"where all voices are heard"

ESTABLISHED IN 1999
PO Box 1357, Carrboro, NC 27510
phone: 919.933.6492
fax: 919.932.2602

chathamcoline@mindspring.com
Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

Editor and Publisher: Julian Sereno
Page Design & Ad Design
Hart Palmer, hpalmer@mebtel.net
Website Design: UniqueOrn.com

Chatham County Line is wholly owned by Avanti Media Consultants, LLC.

© 2013 Chatham County Line

www.chathamcountyline.org

Rosemary
House
BED & BREAKFAST

Gracious, Comfortable
Guest Rooms

76 West Street, historic Pittsboro
888.643.2017 • 919.542.5515
www.rosemary-bb.com

Rosemary...for Friendship and Remembrance

G W
W

GLASS & WINDOW WAREHOUSE
Residential • Commercial • Auto

Shower Doors • Table Tops
Mirrors • Glass Replacement
Windshields • Storefronts

Authorized Shipping Center for
UPS with Fax and Copy Service

919-742-1003

812 E. Third Street, Siler City
www.glasswarehouse.net
Licensed & Insured NC General Contractor
Family Owned & Operated Glass Shop

WAKE UP WEDNESDAYS
LOOKING FOR
NEW BUSINESS OR
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?
Come network with a variety of local
businesses and organizations.
Wake-up Wednesday meets every
3rd Wednesday of the month
from 8 am-9:30 am at the
Carolina Brewery, Pittsboro.
Admission: \$5; includes breakfast!
Call (919) 542-1808 for
more information.