

From the Publisher...



Technological changes may have shredded big media and dented the print media industry, but micro-publishing in our area is alive and well: The weekly *Chatham News and Record* is under new management with publisher Bill Horner leading the charge. TAJ Talk, a minority owned multi-media concern is led by Aaron Hall, who is doing the "Chatham County Roundup" every Friday on WCHL and *Chatham Magazine*, under the leadership of Ellen and Dan Shannon of Shannon Media, is publishing a beautiful magazine every other month that's edited by Matt White.

Chatham County Line will hold its place as a local monthly for voices throughout the area and thus be bookended by our friends at these two other fine publications and in the digital realms.

I urge our readers to shop locally in Chatham County and support local businesses. This includes the support of all local media.

We can all make our dollars go further and circulate them in our community farther if we do business with each other and in the process get to know each other through thick and thin.

This is important because when times get tough it will be the fiber of our local community that gets us through to the other side—not drones sent by faceless corporations headquartered in another state or virtual friends we met playing games online.

"Just us" and that will make all the difference.

— Randolph Voller

Local farms, food and art in Downtown Pittsboro

Stars are high above the tower of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse as it catches the colors of the setting sun. Fresh food raised by neighboring farmers is carefully and innovatively prepared by local chefs. Guests and their neighbors enjoy this delicious bounty at tables on Pittsboro's Hillsboro Street decorated by colorful, just-picked flowers while art and music made by area creatives enhance the experience.

This is the vision for Local on Main: PBO's Farm & Art Dinner.

On Sunday, May 19 from 5–8pm, Main Street Pittsboro will host this first-ever event in the heart of Pittsboro's historic downtown. Held in the middle of Hillsboro Street, Local on Main will highlight some of the best of what Pittsboro has to offer: a unique history as the home to performing, visual, and culinary artists in the county seat of one of North Carolina's most thriving agricultural areas.

Dinner guests will enjoy a cocktail hour, then five courses created by chefs from Pittsboro restaurants including Angelina's Kitchen, The Country Bakeress, Pittsboro Roadhouse, Pickle Jar, Postal Fish Company, Root Cellar, Small B&B, and Virlie's Grill using products sourced from area farms. Local musical talent Dave Smith and Tracy Lynn, and Dave Quick Jazz will



PHOTO BY KIM HAWKS

provide the entertainment and other Chatham County artists will be highlighted throughout the evening.

Sponsorships are available. Please email admin@mainstreetpittsboro.org for more information. Individual tickets are \$100 and will go on sale on Monday, April 15th at MainStreetPittsboro.org and on the Facebook page for Local on Main: PBO's Farm & Art Dinner

Proceeds from Local on Main: PBO's Farm & Arts Dinner will benefit Main Street Pittsboro, a community-based non-profit aiming to strengthen Pittsboro's historic business district through beautification efforts, advocacy, promotion, preservation, and events that attract residents and visitors alike.

What's it Worth?

by Chris DiGiovanna

A few years ago, I was e-mailed a picture of a china plate. I'm normally not too excited at the prospect of selling china, as it's sold everywhere and younger generations don't typically buy it if they can't put it in the dishwasher. However, this plate was different. In the picture was a note stating that it had been a gift from [then] Governor Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt's mother-in-law to one of her employees, who handed the plate down to the next generation upon her death.

I was intrigued but cautious. Presidential memorabilia can be quite collectible, but it's important to authenticate anything of value prior to sale. After a brief search online, I was disappointed to realize that it was not from Teddy Roosevelt's White House china. However, with a little more research, I discovered that it may have come from a different presidential service set, that of Rutherford B. Hayes.

There are not a lot of reference books on White House china, however Margaret Klapthor's authoritative *Official White House China: 1789 to the Present* is considered one of the best. In it, she details the story of how the Hayes' china service became one of the most colorful and well-known china sets produced for the White House.

In 1879, Theodore R. Davis, a well-known artist & reporter for *Harper's Weekly*, went to the White House to oversee the photography of the President's cabinet for an illustration

in the magazine. While passing through the conservatory, he found Mrs. Hayes and began a conversation. As one who enjoyed hosting social events, Mrs. Hayes had recently ordered a new state dinner service from the Haviland Company in Limoges, France. After hearing about the original idea to adorn the plates with a fern motif, "Davis expressed regret



that the new China could not be made in the United States and suggested that she had a marvelous opportunity to create something especially American by using the flora and fauna of this country as decoration on the new china." Needless to say, Mrs. Hayes loved the idea and the rest... is history.

Klapthor's book went into great depth on the entire set and served as an excellent reference. I learned the piece that I was researching was a soup plate titled "Southward Flight". Since it was missing a large "TD" cypher on the bottom, it was either a piece made for sale to the public, or perhaps from a supplemental purchase that the White House made in 1884 or 1886.

After authenticating the piece, I received permission to sell it and listed it for auction on eBay. A week later, it sold for \$3189. Not a bad price for an old plate.

CONTACT US

Have a treasure or family heirloom that you're curious about and would like to have researched? Submit your inquiry with 2-3 high resolution photos via e-mail to chris@traderchris.biz.

Chris DiGiovanna is the President of Pittsboro-based Trader Chris Consignments, which specializes in selling valuable collectibles, jewelry, watches, and estate silver on eBay. He has sold over 20,000 lots to buyers in every US state and 54 countries. For more information, please visit www.traderchris.biz

chatham
County Line

"where all voices are heard"

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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.

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