

DISPATCHES

Curves of Pittsboro looking for an angel

Unless an angel with deep pockets swoops into Pittsboro sometime between now and December 29 a lot of bright lights will go out. That's when Sherry Beck, owner of Curves for the past 11 years is going to turn off the lights in the studio next to Piggly Wiggly, and lock the doors forever.

A whole community of women from Apex to Gulf, to Goldston to Sanford are going to be left "homeless". Curves is both a community and a daily drop-in for many area women. A community whose oldest member is 86 and who has been a regular since 2004. Members range in age from 16 to 86. And they all love it.

Another member says, "Curves is great for everybody but especially for people with ADHD. "I can come in the doors and get on track. Then my feet stay there, but my mind can go anywhere." She's been a member 10 years, and says, "It's a fast, efficient, effective half hour workout. I love it."

Sherry Beck, owner, is 100 percent into the Curves concept, a program that builds strength, lean muscles and burns calories. She is a model example for the program

having joined a Curves in Knightdale to lose weight about a dozen years ago. Beck became so enthusiastic with her own weight loss and training she searched for a place to open a studio. National Curves told her to find a nice little town and get back to them. She did, researched, found Pittsboro, moved here and started the business which at one time had 525 members. "I've seen Curves save lives," she says, "Seen women build self esteem, pull out of depression, gain mobility, lose weight." She totally believes in the Curves program. "It's a community of support," She says with her face beaming, her voice dancing.

Beck wants with all her heart the Curves studio to continue but she's tired and weary. Running the studio requires commitment and Beck wants to turn the space and the program over to someone like the person she was 12 years ago. Full of energy and ideas.

So angel, are you out there? Or do you know someone who wants to change people's lives? Contribute to life in Pittsboro and environs? Be part of a lively and caring support community? Call Sherry Beck at 919.545.2251 Soon!

Bidding adieu to Rita Spina

After 27 years in Chatham County Rita Spina is moving to Portland, Oregon.

Rita grew up and lived in New York before reinventing herself as a North Carolina artist and community activist. After graduating from Russell Sage College and earning her doctorate in psychology from Hofstra University, Rita worked in the public schools as well as having a private practice in psychotherapy. Rita also headed up a program at Hofstra that provided psychoeducational testing for students with learning difficulties.

Rita and her husband Larry loved sailing and for five years they lived on a boat in Huntington Harbor, Long Island. Larry had served in the armed forces in China and when China opened to tourists, Rita and Larry and several of her children were in the first group to visit China. Rita loved traveling and after Larry's death she traveled to Japan, to France on a Loire Valley bicycle tour and to many places in this country. Having four children and four grandchildren from Cape Cod to Boston to San Francisco and Portland also keep her traveling.

Here in Chatham, Rita was active in the Chatham County Health Department where she helped develop programs to deal with risky health behaviors. She also helped found The Chatham Citizens for Effective Community (CEEC). As part of the



board of that organization, Rita founded and ran Citizens' College which introduced citizens to the various departments of local government. This successful program is now under the auspicious of the County. One of the founding members of the Chatham Studio Tour, Rita has participated in this artist tour for 21 years. This, her 22nd year, will be her last studio tour here and friends and admirers of her unique art can visit her home/studio the first two weekends of December to say goodbye.

Rita's sculptures have been exhibited widely. She often had installations at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens and her art can be found in many private collections.

Rita can be reached by email at rkspina12@gmail.com.

Rita: We will miss you. You have made a difference in our lives and in that of the Chatham County community.

Judy Butt, jbutt@nc.rr.com
Carl and Anne Granath, granathink@gmail.com

BRIEFS

Chatham Arts Council launches new identity

The Chatham Arts Council has embraced a new identity with a new strategy, new logo and interactive website, www.chathamartscouncil.org, that will transform arts access in Chatham County. The arts organization is redefining itself to more effectively impact and serve arts and culture as the county continues to evolve.

It will focus on two areas: Investing in Chatham County Artists, and Educating Kids Through the Arts. This strategy aims to stimulate new art engagements, revitalize communities through the arts, foster job opportunities for artists, boost tourism to Chatham County and cultivate relationships between artists, schools, local businesses, and community organizations.

"This county is home to an astonishing number of artists and arts appreciators. It deserves an incredible arts council — impactful, sustainable, and fun," said Cheryl

Chamblee, Chatham Arts Council Executive Director. "The Chatham Arts Council will be instrumental in growing a community



that spends its dollars and time on extraordinary arts experiences right here in Chatham County."

An anonymous donor propelled the Chatham Arts Council's new identity with a generous seed gift of \$5,000 in late October. It was this donation that enabled the launch before year's end.

"A member of our community stepped forward to make what is by far the largest gift she's ever made to any organization," Chamblee said. "She told me that she believes we're poised to be that hugely impactful force for the arts in Chatham County, and she wanted to ensure that it wouldn't be delayed any further."

Beginning in 2015, the council will work with Chatham County schools to augment arts education through the development of artist-in-schools model for Chatham students.

"Two of Chatham County's most valuable creative resources are its artists and its

children," Chamblee said. "We're focusing our work right there."l

Incorporated in 1982, the Chatham Arts Council values a spectrum of arts disciplines from artists who paint to those who cook. It nurtures professional artists, emerging artists, artists-in-secret, aspiring artists, and young artists-to-be. The organization is perhaps best known for its family-friendly arts festival ClydeFEST — named after nationally recognized Chatham County folk artist Clyde Jones — which celebrates its 14th year in Spring 2015. In its 32-year history it has celebrated several milestones including establishing the Chatham County Studio Tour which was later spun off into its own entity, the Chatham Artists Guild, and creating the Sustainable Film Series, an intimate exchange among Chatham residents and local filmmakers. Until last year, the council produced arts classes and camps, but will no longer continue these offerings with the shift in strategy.

— Melissa Hlavac, Chatham Arts Council

Holiday Angel Tree helps Chatham's seniors in need

Residents can help Chatham County's senior residents in need during the holidays by adopting an older adult posted on the Angel Trees

located at both the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City and the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro.

The Angel Trees are on display now and will be available through Dec. 14. Please stop by one of the senior centers to pick up an angel. Please wrap and return gifts by Dec. 15 and put the angel identifier tag on the gift.

For those who do not have time to shop, consider making tax deductible donations to the Annual Appeal of the Council on Aging,





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which runs through December. Donations support the Council's programs and services throughout the year.

Donations can be mailed to the Chatham County Council on Aging, PO Box 715, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or donate online at www.chathamcoa.org. For more information on the Angel Tree effort, please call Barbara Woody at 919.742.3975 in Siler City or Lindsay Hickling or Allison Andrews at 919.542.4512 in Pittsboro.

— Debra Henzy, Chatham County Governnmnt

Health care in NC

The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties will sponsor another in a series of discussions on health care in North Carolina on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room B, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill. The program is free and open to the public. Parking is available.

Janet Hoy, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties, will provide an update on the Affordable Care Act and on efforts to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. Marci White, Executive Director, Mental Health America of the Triangle, will discuss the status of mental health care in North Carolina and the potential impact of Medicaid expansion.

The program is part of the League's statewide initiative to educate the community about the fiscal realities of Medicaid expansion and to encourage the State Legislature to reconsider expanding Medicaid in North Carolina.

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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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