

briefs & announcements

dispatches

Temple Theater is a local jewel

When I first moved to Chatham, I was thrilled to discover a little known jewel in the area; the Temple Theater. I never imagined I could live in the secluded country of Pittsboro, and yet be so close to such fine live theater as what the Temple Theater offers. There is no need to drive all the way to Raleigh, Durham, or even Chapel Hill. It is right near us, just a short distance south of Chatham. Forget about dealing with rush hour traffic or struggling to find parking in those nasty parking garages. Sanford is an easy drive, and you can park a short walk away from the theater. With several wonderful restaurants, also in walking distance, (my personal favorite is "Bella") you can make an entire evening of it. And you only have to drive a short way to get there. After the show, you can enjoy a lovely walk down the streets of "old Sanford," as I call it, and peak in the windows of the many gift and antique shops. When you are ready to leave, it's just a quick drive home again. That is what I call having your cake and eating it too!

Since living in Chatham, I've

enjoyed many wonderful shows at The Temple Theater. They have all been exceptional. It is always an evening delightfully spent. And yet, so few people know about this gem, lying right beneath their noses. Why is it that some of the "best kept secrets" are kept secret for so long?

Sadly, this little gem of a secret may not be here much longer. The Temple Theater is in grave danger of having to close its doors due to financial difficulties. They are asking for donations in order to stay afloat and weather the storm. If you appreciate great live theater and value having it

so close to home, please visit their website at www.TempleShows.com and see how you can help. And while you are there, order your tickets for their upcoming productions. They have an incredible line up for the season.

With this glistening jewel lying so close to us, it would be a shame to let it fade away.

— Carole Hoffman



Enforcement under the program.

A number of North Carolina sheriff's offices and police departments have formed partnerships with ICE to flag for deportation all illegal immigrants who are arrested.

Chatham officials expressed concern that the program would have "negative consequences for the community and local governments."

"Enforcement of ICE agreements can lead to violations of civil rights and liberties, distrust of law enforcement, the separation of family members and racial profiling," Esther B. Coleman, director of the county Office of Human Relations, said in the announcement.

Commission chair George Lucier said in a statement that the Board supports law enforcement's duty to uphold the law but also commended local officers for not participating in the ICE program.

"Our county has been blessed with a diverse population for much of its existence," Lucier said in the statement. "This has included people of color and immigrants, who were not always American citizens or documented residents. All of these residents have enriched our economy, our character and our culture as well."

The board noted that while ICE is supposed to remove dangerous criminals from the streets, a state legislative committee found that many ICE detentions were for minor offenses, mostly traffic violations. County officials also pointed out that immigrants in communities with ICE agreements are reluctant to report crimes, for fear that they or family members might be detained.

Margie Ellison, chair of the Chatham Human Relations Commission, said that the ICE detention process does tremendous damage to children by separating them from their parents.

briefs



The Feb. 28 Mardi Gras party will feature zydeco dance lessons and more.

Mardi Gras at Chatham Mills

Let the good times roll at a Mardi Gras party at Chatham Mills on Saturday, February 28 from 7 p.m. to Midnight. Music by Zydeco Band, Unknown Tongues (www.unknown-tongues.com/) and by local funk, blues, and cajun masters Howie DeWitt! Zydeco Dance Lessons Leading up to the Event (call 919.542.0394 for details!).

Cajun Food, cash bar, prizes, guest appearances, crazy costumes, photo booth (think prom circa 1987) cake & king and queen crowning! Dancing!

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P.O. Box 1357
Carrboro, NC 27510
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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.

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