

Volunteers for National Day of Service at Jordan Lake

TWO GROUPS cleaned up shoreline trash at Jordan Lake on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Jordan Lake Environment Education used the National Day of Service Program website to attract 66 volunteers, including 16 primary school children, to their effort as part of Clean Jordan Lake's Adopt-A-Shoreline Program. On Saturday, these volunteers removed 102 bags of trash and 14 tires from the Wildlife Resources Commission's Fishing Access points at Bell's Church and off Big Woods Rd.

On Monday, a group of five teenagers from Northwood High School led by three adults tackled trash at another heavily used shoreline section off Lystra Rd. Fran DiGiano, President of Clean Jordan Lake, said "in just two hours, this enthusiastic group picked up 29 bags of trash. They will return again when the water level recedes enough from the recent rains to remove much more trash that is currently floating in the water." Jean Kirby, a parent, said about their time at the lake that "My kids loved it! This is exactly what they are interested in so they were excited."

The teenagers found a small barrel in good condition that had rolled off the road and was stuck in the rocky embankment. They lined it with a plastic bag to leave near shoreline. Mrs. Kirby said "we are taking personal responsibility to empty the trash barrel routinely and hope that shoreline users will take advantage of it."



A Jordan Lake Environment Education volunteer tosses a bag of trash into the bed of a truck.

PHOTO BY GEORGE FAGET OF THAT ORGANIZATION.



At left, student volunteers take a break. They are, from left, Cory Volk, Montgomery Kirby, Ashby Volk, Chandler Kirby and Montana Kirby. They are students at Northwood HS. The two girls are students at Margaret Pollard Middle School.

PHOTO BY JEAN KIRBY.

DISPATCHES

Chatham County Arts Council Awards \$8,500 in Arts Grants

The Chatham County Arts Council has awarded more than \$8,500 in grant funding to 10 local non-profits for arts-related programming in 2013.

The awards were determined by a panel of local arts experts, which reviewed applications requesting funding for projects ranging from after-school activities to anti-poverty initiatives. Applications were evaluated according to program impact, feasibility and reach. More than \$17,000 in funding was requested.

"Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services is thrilled to receive a Grassroots Grant," said Marianna Spence, development coordinator. "We'll be using the funds to purchase supplies and contract with a local artist to facilitate a few sessions of our teen girls support group. We have found that art is an effective intervention – it is a therapeutic way for survivors to open up lines of communication and start healing and empowerment."

Funding for the county awards comes from the North Carolina Arts Council. Their grant awards are considered a "blue ribbon stamp of approval" to leverage additional funds from foundations, businesses and local governments, generating almost \$16 in matching funds for every \$1 invested. Each grantee must match the funds awarded.

Programs were funded across the length and breadth of Chatham County, from Siler City to Bynum, and must conclude by June,

2013.

In its 31st year, the Chatham County Arts Council works to advance and enhance the arts in Chatham County through programs, publicity and support. The Grassroots Grant program is just one of several funding opportunities available through the organization.

More information about the grants can be found at www.chathamarts.org, and www.ncarts.org.

— Gwendolen Gray

Chatham County Citizens' College welcomes students

Learn more about Chatham County and how its local governments work by enrolling in the Chatham County Citizens' College.

Participants will gain a better understanding of how major county and town services operate and who manages them; explore options for serving as volunteers to help local governments; get to know key managers and department heads; and interact with other interested residents of all ages and backgrounds.

The Citizens' College is offered jointly by Chatham County and Central Carolina Community College's Continuing Education Department at its campus in Pittsboro. Continuing Education credits will be awarded.

"CCCC in Pittsboro is excited to now include this wonderful program in our Continuing Education offerings," said Dr. Karen Allen, CCCC Chatham provost. "It fits perfectly with our mission to foster stronger communities and informed citizen."

The Citizens' College will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday night,

March 7 through April 12. Locations will vary across the county, but will include the new Justice Center, North Chatham Fire Station and Jordan Lake Water Treatment Plant.

The registration fee is \$25. Limited scholarships to help cover the cost are available through CCEC-Institute, Inc., the educational arm of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities. If interested in a scholarship, contact Debra Henzey in the County Manager's Office at 919.542.8258.

The initial deadline to register is Feb. 22. To register for the class by phone or to request a printed form, contact CCCC's Continuing Education Office at 919.545.8044.

— Rita Spina

BRIEFS

Circles® Chatham event fights poverty

Enjoy a silent auction of works by noted local artists plus the lyrical sounds of The Laine and Avis Duo during An Evening of Art and Music to benefit the Circles®

Chatham anti-poverty initiative. All proceeds will fund programming that helps financially vulnerable people become self-sufficient. The cocktail party will be 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Saturday, Feb. 23**, at Governors Club, and includes hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$20 of which is a tax-deductible donation. Register by Feb 12 by visiting www.circleschatham.org, emailing info@circleschatham.org.

org or calling 919.533.9440.

Chatham Circles® is part of the Circles® National Campaign, which is active in 70 communities nationwide and growing. The non-profit's goal is to equip people who are struggling financially with access to the long-term relationships, resources, education and opportunities they need to achieve self-sufficiency.

Learn the feel of life in poverty

One Chatham

What would you do if you couldn't pay your bills, keep a roof over your family's head, put enough food on the table, or take a sick child to the doctor?

You can get a feel for what that's like and learn how our community can help low-income people become self-sufficient at Poverty Awareness Day on **March 7** in downtown Pittsboro. The event, co-sponsored by OneChatham and Circles® Chatham, includes two workshops.

The morning Bridges Out of Poverty session will offer an overview of the issues

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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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