

DISPATCH

Fit for a Princess

by Kathy Hotelling

Imagine a beautifully decorated large room with a magnificent skylight in the middle of the ceiling with sunlight pouring in. The room is filled with racks of prom dresses of every style, color and size. Along the perimeter of the room are beautifully decorated tables with shoes (of many styles, color, and all sizes), jewelry that gives the needed *bling* to a special occasion, and evening bags. Cosmetic bags are waiting for a few select choices from the big bowl of makeup of various types, brands and colors. Volunteers eagerly await the arrival of area high school young women.

The women volunteers have assigned roles: fairy godmothers (think personal shopper!), dress attendants, seamstresses, packaging team members, greeters, sewing assistants; women are scattered throughout this magical setting at the Triangle Training Center in Pittsboro to ensure that the young women have an unforgettable, amazing experience at the 2015 Cinderella's Closet of Chatham County. From the moment these princesses dance through the doors until they leave with a beautifully packaged prom ensemble, they are immersed in an environment of grace, love and respect.

Through the generosity of Chatham County residents, this will be the fifth annual Cinderella's Closet providing participants with a prom dress, shoes and accessories free

of charge...and theirs to keep. Participants are referred by teachers, social workers and other school personnel. Individual appointments are set during the two-day event that is created by dozens of volunteers each March. Appointments are essential so that each young woman receives the personal attention that is the hallmark of Cinderella's Closet.

This year, Chatham Community Church also hosted an evening benefit for Cinderella's Closet that featured storyteller and comedian, Cindy Raxter who lives in Bynum. The event was held on Saturday, February 7 in the Great Hall of Chatham Mills.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT CINDERELLA'S CLOSET

- Tell area juniors and seniors about the availability of Cinderella's Closet to assist them in attending prom...we would love to have *all* of our available appointment times filled. Assure them this is a classy event; we have had dresses donated that were worn to inaugural balls in DC!

- Donate gently used formal dresses, bags, shoes, and jewelry and unopened makeup (drop off locations are available in Pittsboro, Siler City, and North Chatham)

- Volunteer through online scheduling (Volunteer Spot)

- Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCountyNorthCarolinaCinderellasCloset> (you will see hundreds of pictures from our events)

- Encourage others to donate...have a get-together at your

house for neighbors and friends. Ask them to bring a donation; our volunteers are available to come and give a short "dog and pony show" about the event!

- Send emails to your neighbors and/or share a post from our Facebook page.

Questions? Contact Kathy Hotelling kathyhotelling@gmail.com.



BRIEFS



CHATHAM
ARTS
COUNCIL

Call to Artists

If you are interested in:

- connecting with other artists for the purpose of sharing knowledge and skills,
 - having an artist's page on the CAG website,
 - having access to creative business workshops, and
 - participating in the Guild Studio Tour and other exhibits around the region,
- please apply for membership in the Chatham Artists Guild.

For more information: www.chathamartistsguild.org/become-a-member

Calling all Chocolate Cake Bakers and Lovers

This year marks the 27th year of the Chatham County Council on Aging's Chocolate Cake and Cheesecake Bake Off! The Council invites you to come out on Sunday, Feb. 8th, from 3-5 p.m.

to the Eastern Senior Center in Pittsboro (365 Highway 87 N) and enjoy the winning chocolate cakes and decadent cheesecakes, while supporting programs and services for older adults. For just \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, you can sample the winners along with milk or coffee.

Two first place winners, one for cakes and one for cheesecakes, will each receive \$100. Judging will be based on taste, originality, appearance and creativity for an overall score. Four second prizes also will be awarded. After judging, whole cakes will be auctioned off.

Don't miss this tasty event!

Statewide Frack Strategy Gathering Feb 8

The Frack Free NC Alliance will hold a statewide strategy gathering south of the Triad on Sunday, February 8th, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (free, lunch included) for folks who have been involved in advocacy against fracking. If you are a member of one of our FrackFreeNC Alliance partners, or if you'd like to work with one of these organizations or help start a new group in your area, please contact info@frackfreenc.org.



Love & Justice Moral March on Raleigh

Saturday, February 14, Raleigh, across from Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 2 East South St. Raleigh. Meet at 9 a.m. March begins at 10 a.m.

On this Valentine's Day, bring your sweet-heart to Raleigh and join the largest love and justice movement since Selma! We will show our love for justice! We love justice in education; we love economic sustainability; we love workers and workers' rights and livable wages; we love health care for all, including Medicaid expansion; we love our environment; we love equal protection under the law, without regard to creed, race, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation; we love voting rights for all; we love criminal justice.

We love the most vulnerable within our state and nation; we love the power and beauty of diversity within our state and nation; we love our neighbors; we are in this love and we are determined to go "Forward together, not one step back!"

For the past nine years, a fusion movement has been growing in North Carolina. In 2006, the Historic Thousands on Jones St. (HKonJ) People's Assembly Coalition was formed under the leadership of Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and the North Carolina NAACP. It has grown to include over 150 coalition partners. Each year this fusion movement comes together on the second Saturday in February to hold a mass people's assembly to reaffirm its commitment to the 14 Point People's Agenda and to hold lawmakers accountable to the people

of North Carolina.

This year's annual people's assembly will be held in the wake of a powerful push back to the immoral and unconstitutional policies supported and passed by Governor Pat McCrory, Speaker Thom Tillis, Senate Leader Phil Berger, former Budget Director Art Pope and other extremists in the NC General Assembly during the 2013 and 2014 Session.

If you believe that an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, if you understand that what happens in North Carolina has implications for the future of the nation, if you believe that we can build a moral movement together to save the soul of our state and country, then join us.

For more info, www.hkonj.com/moral_march_on_raleigh



Tax preparation help

The Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County/El Vínculo Hispano is hosting FREE tax clinics at our Siler City office. We will have bilingual volunteers, so please help us spread the word about this opportunity. Limited space for walk-ins.

- Saturday Feb 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday Feb 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ayuda con la preparación de impuestos

El Vínculo Hispano tendrá clínicas gratuitas para la preparación de impuestos en nuestra oficina de Siler City. Tendremos voluntarios bilingües, así que por favor ayúdanos a informar a la comunidad acerca de esta oportunidad. Tenemos espacios limitados sin cita

- sábado 14 de febrero 10:00am-3:00pm
 - sábado 28 de febrero 10:00am-3:00pm
- Llámanos para obtener una cita 919.742.1448

CHATHAM
County Line
"where all voices are heard"

ESTABLISHED IN 1999

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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.

Editor and Publisher: Julian Sereno

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Hart Palmer Design, hpalmer@mebtel.net

Website Design: UniqueOrn.com

Social Media Editor: Chris Bouton

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

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