

## To the Editor

It is sad to yet again write regarding the petty activities of a few that try to intimidate fellow Chathamites. Yes I did say "intimidate". We came to the poll in Siler City to set up the Democratic Party Booth on Saturday, October 20 only to find hand-staked signs with no identification of where they came from that sort of set out the rules of who could vote.

I say "sort of" because they indicated what would stop someone from voting without finishing the sentence on how one could redeem the situation. It left one wondering what was needed to do to "fix" one's ability to vote.

One of the signs was staked in front of our tent. Based on the evidence, it appeared that the mysterious signs were installed during the night or early Saturday morning. I realized that the signs were not official with the apparent purpose of being misleading and intimidating to some of the potential voters in our area. A few quick calls revealed that these signs were installed only at the early voting site in Siler City and not at the sites in Pittsboro or Chatham Downs. I credit the quick reaction of the Board of Elections who had the signs removed in less than an hour after notification.

## To the Editor

The recent announcement by the County Commissioners that they had been nominated by the Board of Education to compete for the Commissioners of the Year Award by the North Carolina School Boards Association appears to be election political posturing not based on the facts.

Commissioner candidate Bill Crawford demonstrated this when he went off script at the League of Women's debate on Saturday, October, 20. He acknowledged there has been a more contentious relationship between these two boards in the last two years because the current board questioned and challenged school budget requests, unlike the previous board that he alleged rubber stamped those requests. That doesn't sound like the hunky-dory boards relationship that this "nomination" implied.

What are the facts? First, the previous board was more questioning and skeptical of budget requests from the manager, departments, the school board and non-profits than this current GOP led board. The current board eliminated several days of budget work sessions, which previous boards had used to review these budget requests in detail, seeking savings and operational efficiencies.

Secondly, this was clearly an aspirational nomination, with the school board hoping they would receive more respect and

This is my first election as a campaign coordinator, but it was very clear to me that these signs were aimed at the large and diverse population coming to vote early in Siler City. Many are new citizens and/or new residents in Chatham County.

The world is changing and Chatham is growing and prospering where change has occurred. I am proud to be in a party that represents all Americans and stands up for their "Right" to vote.

This incident inspired me to print out the original copy of the hand-written 15th amendment which states: "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

And as a women I take great interest in the 19th amendment which states that "...the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Women, minorities, and new citizens may determine the outcome of this election and it is our "right" to vote.

This is what we fight for and this is what we defend. When the rights of any of us are denied and/or abridged than the rights of all of us are diminished. I urge everyone to vote and express the most important right we have to be heard in our democracy.

*Elizabeth Cox, Silk Hope, CCDP Campaign Coordinator*

greater support in the future. For example, during this year board retreat, Bock proposed requiring school appropriations by purpose and function as opposed to the standard lump sum approach, saying he did not trust the school board. And the previous year when the school board was being pressured to ask for an additional \$500,000 to essentially receive the same budget as the previous year (e.g. adjusting for increased student enrollment), Bock threatened school board members that he would impose a line-item budget if they made this request.

Finally, this announcement was made in connection with two disturbing developments. First, the motion for this nomination made by School Board chair David Hamm came following regular secret closed door meetings that have been taking place between Hamm, Bock and Superintendent Robert Logan. This seems to be a clear violation of the spirit of the open meeting laws and transparent government. Fellow county commissioners or school board members have not been provided summaries of these meetings. Nor has the public. Secondly, the county press release coincidentally came during a heated partisan election. The previous Democratic board waited until after they had actually received the award before their press release.

I will expect that Bock will also issue a press release when it is announced that his board did not actually receive this award.

*Lou Forrissi, Siler City*

## A Tribute to George McGovern

by John Heuer

Imagine a history professor running for the office of President of the United States! WW II veteran and South Dakota Senator George McGovern did just that, proposing to end the Viet Nam War, and went down to resounding defeat (49 states to one) to incumbent Republican President Richard Nixon. Two years later, Nixon resigned the presidency in disgrace, while George McGovern continued a lifetime of honorable service, building on his experience as our nation's first director of the Food for Peace Program during the Kennedy Administration.

George McGovern died Sunday, October 21, at the age of 90. He was scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the 2011 Lake Junaluska Peace Conference. He had to cancel his appointment at Lake Junaluska due to illness. But even after his death, he speaks to us today with the words from his 1972 presidential campaign:

"Needless wars and military waste contribute to the economic crisis... by the dissipation of labor and resources and in non-productive enterprises. For too long the taxes of citizens and revenues desperately needed by our cities and states have been drawn to Washington and wasted in senseless wars and unnecessary military gadgets.

"A major test of our time is the conversion of our economy from the excesses of war to works for peace. I urgently call for conversion planning to utilize the talents and resources... for modernizing our industrial plants and meeting human needs."

Forty years after George McGovern spoke those words, North Carolina Peace Action is working to Bring the War Dollars Home in Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, Burlington, Asheville, Chapel Hill and Washington DC.

NC Peace Action and Veterans For Peace salute the life and work of George McGovern.

For information on the 2012 Lake Junaluska Peace Conference "Love In Action—The Transformative Power of Nonviolence" see [www.lakejunaluska.com/peace/](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/peace/).

*John Heuer is chair of NC Peace Action.*

## STUDIO TOUR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program was tailored for those who wished to follow the great artists of the world — that would come later. She married, had four children, went to Hofstra University for her graduate degree in Psychology and eventually headed up the Psychological Center. A subsequent clinical practice followed. For five years she and her husband Larry lived on their 57 foot boat in Huntington Harbor.

It wasn't until she retired to Fearington Village that Spina rediscovered her knack for creating art. She began meeting with a small group of practicing Fearington artists called The Collection — Carol Owen, Vidabeth Bensen, Fran Schulzberg, Jackie Hammer and Claire Levitt. They supported one another in creating art, and became the nucleus of artists that would evolve into the Chatham Studio Tour.

"Those Fearington artists were a great help to me," says Cathy Holt, founder of the Chatham Tour. Holt had been a successful jewelry maker for 10 years when she moved to Chatham County just over 20 years ago. "I had heard that there were artists up every country road, and I wanted to meet them," she said. Holt took on the job of Executive Director of the Chatham Arts Council (now called ChathamArts) with the idea of fostering a vibrant artist community. She drew inspiration from an artists' collective she had visited just outside of DC, and an antiques center in Cameron, North Carolina. She envisioned a tour of artist studios as a mechanism for building community among local artists.

Holt proposed the idea to the Arts Council Board of Directors. "They said there were no funds available, but, if I would raise the funds myself, they would be supportive" she recalls. She secured some starter funding from Central Carolina Community College, and began to talk to businesses. "I pointed out that artists are small business people, who attract visitors to other local business," Holt emphasizes. "On my own time, I began meeting with artists, to describe the idea of a tour, and get them involved." In 1992, the first Chatham Studio Tour launched with 30 artists.

"Then, most of the artists had full time jobs and created works as a vocation," Holt notes. "What makes me most happy is that the Tour helped many artists to pursue their art full time."

The Chatham Tour became a model for other arts groups. The next year, fellow jewelry maker Monnda Welch, who then lived and worked in Orange County, patterned a studio tour there on the Chatham plan.

Over the years, the Tour flourished as a program of ChathamArts, and in 2007 Tour artists formed the Chatham Artists Guild. It has now grown to over 50 artists. Ten new artists join the Tour this year: potter Trish Welsh; quilter Suzanna Stewart; pastel artist Carolyn Schrock; fiber artist Christie Minchew; jewelry maker Lynell Dodge; basket weaver Jan Dunn; mixed media sculptor Nate Shaeffer; photographer Len Jacobs; and furniture maker Erik Wolken.

The Chatham Studio Tour is a holiday tradition, and an opportunity to see and purchase unique original art. Visitors from all around enjoy Chatham's rural beauty and share with the members of the Chatham Artists Guild in the creative process. "Our Tour is an important economic engine," said Guild President Julia Kennedy. Last year, Tour visitors came from counties all around North Carolina, and as far away as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona and California. "As they travel around Chatham, they stop at restaurants, gas stations and all kinds of local businesses," Kennedy continues.

A free self-guided brochure and tour map can be found in numerous locations throughout the area, including: FRANK Gallery in Chapel Hill, Saxaphaw Artists Gallery, McIntyres Fine Books in Fearington Village, PAF Gallery in Siler City and The Joyful Jewel in Pittsboro. An online gallery of selected Tour art, information about participating artists, and a tour map and guide can be found on the Chatham Artists Guild website at: <http://www.chathamartistsguild.org>.

*Forrest C. Greenslade, PhD is a Chatham County writer, sculptor and painter. He is a member of the Chatham Artists Guild, and will participate in this year's Tour.*

**December 1, 2  
and December 8, 9**

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please join us for the

**Chatham  
20th Studio Tour**

**Receptions with the Artists:**

**November 29: 7 pm – 9 pm**

FRANK Gallery, Chapel Hill

**November 30: 7 pm – 9 pm**

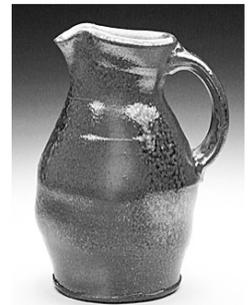
Central Carolina Community College Campus, Pittsboro



Chrissy Jahnes, Jewelry



Christie Minchew, Fabric

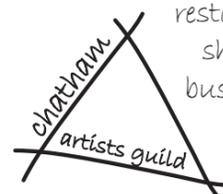


Doug Dotson, Pottery



Jane Eckenrode, Painting

Full color Map Brochure  
available at local  
restaurants,  
shops and  
businesses.



Visit our website for map, artist details and more!  
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