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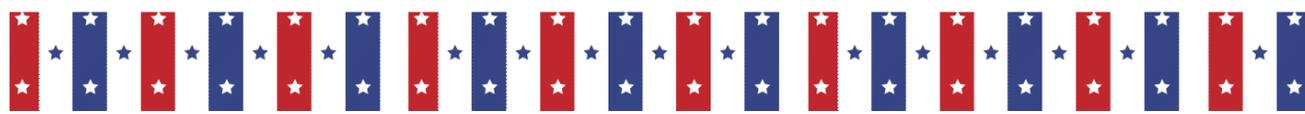
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Vol. 16, Issue 9

FREE ~ GRATIS

November 2018



## Democrats prevail in Chatham County; topping NC with highest voter turnout

by Randy Voller

The voters spoke with clarity on November 6th. Democrats won up and down the ballot in Chatham County. Once again the County was the leader in voter turnout across the state with over 66.35 percent of registered voters in Chatham casting a ballot in the 2018 midterm election.

Without U.S. Senate, Presidential, or Gubernatorial races on the ballot, 2018 was the first “blue moon” election in North Carolina since 2006. Chatham County exceeded its turnout from 2006 by over 18 percent with 35,963 ballots cast out of 54,199 registered voters. (In 2006 17,877 Chatham voters cast ballots out of 37,601 registered voters.)

Chatham County — which like Durham, Orange and Wake tilted heavily blue — favored Congressional challenger Ryan Watts. Had he won the district, Watts would have been the youngest new Congressman in the country. Watts received nearly 57 percent of the vote in Chatham County which was nearly a mirror image of the entire sixth congressional district where Congressman Walker was re-elected with almost 57 percent of the vote.

In the statewide judicial races, Chatham was in line with the rest of the state when Anita Earls was elected to the NC Supreme Court and John Arrowood, Allegra Collins and Tobias Hampson were all elected to the NC Appellate Court.

Chatham County voters also defeated all six proposed amendments. Of note, over 70 percent of the voters opposed the General Assembly’s attempt to monkey with the State Board of Ethics and Elections and pull control of the ability to fill judicial vacancies away from the Governor’s office. Chatham’s outcome on

the amendments was different from the rest of the state as voters in NC added four new amendments to the state constitution. The final language for the amendments will be written by the General Assembly.

Since the Sheriff’s race was settled in the Democratic Party’s May primary, the local races receiving the most attention were for Districts 3 and 4 of the County Board of Commissioners. Incumbents Diana Hales (D) and Jim Crawford (D) were challenged and pushed by a spirited, robust, and well-financed campaign. In the end a strong Democratic turnout in Siler City, Pittsboro, Bynum, Mann’s Chapel, West Williams and North Williams precincts was too much to overcome as the incumbents prevailed in the race by nearly a 56 percent to 44 percent margin.

Upon re-election Commissioner Crawford had this to say,

“I am proud to serve Chatham County for four more years. My opponent, Neill Lindley, sent me a message of congratulations. I salute him and his supporters on an energetic campaign of which they can be proud.”

Commissioner Hales was also pleased to be re-elected after a long campaign and thankful of the support she received,

“I appreciate the voters who chose me for the work we have done and the promise to follow through on issues of environmental protection, supporting and funding public education, building the infrastructure that we need, and attracting the businesses that will grow our economy.”

Crawford was also eager to begin his second term and lean forward into 2019 with what he referred to on the campaign trail as

the “Chatham Promise”, “My political views are founded upon a commitment to solve the people’s problems in as timely fashion as I can manage. Right now I am pushing to get two years of community college for all high school graduates for free. I have bi-partisan support for a common sense policy that can reach all families and will provide economic and social benefits to the rising generation.”

When pressed on the idea Crawford continued,

“Lee County has started the program. CCCC has proposed that we, too, implement the Chatham Promise. I hope that my colleagues on the BOC and the Board of Education can approve it in time to prepare for students in 2019. The clock is running.”

CCCC has indeed launched a program in Lee County. With less than six weeks to market the initial program and enroll students, the college still placed 81 students in the program. According to the latest revised projections for the Chatham Promise/K-14 program, the Community College believes that with a reasonable lead time to promote the program and attract students, the Chatham Promise will exceed the participation in Lee County and ultimately be a prudent investment in its young people and for the community.

Commissioners Crawford and Hales with Republican incumbent Walter Petty, will be sworn in at the first Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting in December and will elect its leadership for 2019.

Randy Voller, former mayor of Pittsboro, is the Business Manager of Chatham County Line.



## Skilled White-water Paddlers a Great Resource

by Joe Jacob

Many years ago I had a supervisor that I did not respect. It all started one day when he told me, “do as I say, not as I do”. He had a gift for “passing the buck” if it made him look bad and talking the credit for something he did not do when it made him look good. I did, however, learn a very important lesson from him. I do not remember exactly what I did, but I must have assumed something that I did was alright because he said to me “every time you assume something, look at the way the word assume is spelled because when you assume something, you make an “ass” out of “u” and “me”.

I mention what I learned that day because I am about to risk making an assumption about those that are trying to save us from ourselves. In this case, I do respect them very much because they have a very difficult job; however, they are assuming that all paddlers are alike and that simply is not true. Being in the paddlesports business, we have gotten a lot of complaints lately from very talented white-water paddlers who love to play on the Haw River when it is at or above flood stage. Their main complaint is that the public accesses have been closed off at flood times, and they have not been able to get on the river without trespassing. Their skill at what they can do is simply not appreciated or acknowledged.

Let me tell you a story to illustrate my point. Over 10 years ago it is February, and I am in bed with the flu and a very high temperature. The river is at flood stage. I get a call from a friend who lives on the river who tells me that someone has turned over and can I come help. I grab my bag of paddling gear which included my life jacket and a wet suit. I happened to have a canoe on top of my jeep and drive to the river. One kayaker and two tandem canoes put on at Chicken Bridge at 4 p.m. Both canoes had turned over. The paddlers in one of the canoes managed to get to shore. Two young ladies in cotton warm ups are standing on a rock in ankle deep water

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## The Monument, Part 2: *The Event*

by Will Sexton

*Editor’s Note: This is the story of the Confederate monument in Pittsboro, the second of three parts.*

[The following account is based except where noted on the August 15, 22, and 29 issues of the *Chatham RECORD*, 1907.]

Clouds covered the sun all day on August 23, but it didn’t rain like the day before. By 10 o’clock that cool morning, thousands had arrived in Pittsboro by rail and wagon to view the unveiling of the Confederate monument. They streamed past houses decorated with Confederate flags and red-and-white bunting, and filled the town square on the north side of the courthouse, where chairs sat waiting for the ceremonies. In the hour leading up to the event, a brass band played from the portico of the courthouse.

The home of Henry A. London, a block-and-a-half from the courthouse, would have stood out among the houses trimmed for the occasion. London, *Chatham RECORD* editor and former courier with the Confederate army, would serve as master of ceremonies, and his wife, Bettie, dedicate the monument as president of the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In the window of the store owned by London’s brother William a dummy stood garbed in the shopkeeper’s old Confederate uniform; a hole in the front showed where a bullet passed through William’s body at Winchester, September 1864. Some 300 veterans milled among the crowd of 6000, and doubtless many of them could give evidence of the wounds that war left them.

The veterans gathered on the south side of the courthouse at



PHOTO BY LESLEY LANDIS

10:30 and began marching behind John R. Lane, “the last colonel of the famous 26th North Carolina regiment,” who rode on horseback. The 6-year-old grandson of William London followed Lane on a “Shetland pony not much larger than a Newfoundland dog.” The procession headed northward up Hillsboro Street to the London home and there emitted a “rebel yell” for the day’s guest orator, the

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