

## In a Manner of Speaking...

by Gaines Steer

Congratulations to Julian and Randy! The evident new venue (of *Chatham County Line*) is simply wonderful. I read every word in a diverse edition that was entertaining and educational. The content and presentation elicited a sense of pride and appreciation for our Chatham County and surrounds. Count me in.

What I offer to bring to the table is a light and breezy pen that highlights some of our less well known "treasures." Venues and assets known to many residents, yet a bit off-the-beaten-path, so to speak.



GAINES STEER

For example, have you discovered the *Antique Tool Store*, just around the corner from Hillsboro Street on Salisbury, up the stairs directly across the aisle from the Vino!! Wine Shop. Ed, the owner, displays for the patron visitor a wondrous collection of antique tools. A virtual museum for sale. Very special!

Our *Kiwanis Park* on Fayetteville Street is world class. Just watch young children and their parents or grandparents at play... kudos to the Kiwanis Club and sponsors, named via signage there.

The *Community Lunch* sponsored by St. Bart's Episcopal Church, one block from downtown, is an institution. Now in its 10th year, a free lunch every Thursday (12-1 p.m.) is enjoyed by 75-100 folks from every "walk of life." A great way to enjoy a wholesome meal and meet and greet local folks. 5 stars!

Did you notice the free *Library Book Box* on the front deck of the Small Café? You might have missed it, overwhelmed by great food and ambiance among the displays of folk art. Meet the owners, I suggest.

Activist Cynthia Crossen and local musician friends offer **four free CDs** to visitors and participants at the magical *Joy of Movement* studio in Chatham Mills. Featuring dance, yoga, music and meditation. Wow!

You must experience the masterful art work of our own artist, ONICUS, currently on display at the *Blue Dot Coffee* downtown Pittsboro. When he becomes famous (soon enough), we knew him when...

Two weekly *Farmers Markets* must not be taken for granted. Fresh vegetables, entertainment and rural ambiance Chatham style. Guaranteed! Saturday morns at Chatham Mills; Thursdays 2-6 p.m. on East Street.

A bevy of creative downtown store owners (Pittsboro Business Assn.) who "walk the talk," including legends *Tommy Edwards* and *Mariah Wheeler*. Others will be noted when recommended by readers...

Honorable mention to *Ron Tuttle*, our man downtown who knows everybody and hangs out near the Pittsboro Roadhouse. Ron's advice is free. He is an authentic icon and one of us to be proud of. Yea!

*Gaines Steer, a Chatham resident, is a Community Organizer, creative writer and former Outreach Editor, CCL.*



Sculpture at Kiwanis Park, donated by Chatham artist Richard Seed.

**WAKE UP WEDNESDAYS**

**LOOKING FOR NEW BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS?**

Come network with a variety of local businesses and organizations. Wake-up Wednesday meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at **Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro.** Admission: \$5; includes breakfast!

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# A Marriage of Nature and Technology

## Chatham Park's State-of-the-Art Water Treatment Facility

In the Summer of 2018 Chatham Park broke ground on a water treatment facility that is unlike any other in the Triangle region. While water treatment may not sound like an exciting endeavor, this facility will likely change your mind - you may even want to take a tour (yes, that will be possible!) In a recent interview with Tim Baldwin of McKim+Creed, who is overseeing the project, Tim explains why this facility is so impressive:



Above: Chatham Park Water Treatment Facility Site Plan off Tower Road.

### A Partnership with Microbiology

At its heart, wastewater treatment is harnessing nature's organisms and processes for the bulk of the treatment. Just as one man's trash is another's treasure, our waste is food for other organisms. We provide comfortable quarters for diverse microorganisms to live happy and productive lives - consuming our waste for their own metabolism and reproduction. This is a partnership with microbiology - the optimal fusion of technology and nature. By intelligently leveraging this partnership with nature, we're using fewer chemicals, less energy and generating a smaller carbon footprint.

### An Educational Resource for the Region

This facility will also offer a strong educational component: from grade-schoolers who may wonder what happens to poop water when it disappears, to researchers who want to learn more about advanced treatment technologies or advance their development and application. We are building something for everyone, from the users of the system to users of concepts and technologies to come.

### The Benefits of Recycling and Reclaiming Water

We are in an area that is stressed by finite water resources and absorption capacity. This facility will save water at both ends of the recycling system: reclaiming the water for non-potable uses saves raw water sources, and reusing the water (for toilet flushing and irrigation), keeps groundwater and aquifers recharged and minimizes impurities making it to our surface waters.

And let's not forget the economic benefits. Over time it becomes more cost-effective to reuse something, rather than manufacture something new. It has and will become increasingly more expensive to treat raw water for potable uses, so it will be economically beneficial to use reclaimed water for non-potable purposes.

Finally, there's the satisfaction of doing the right thing. Chatham Park is a technologically advanced community that values and promotes sustainability, stewardship and collective identity. By protecting and reclaiming resources, the Chatham Park water reclamation facility reflects and aligns with those values.



Visit us at [ChathamPark.com](http://ChathamPark.com)