Siler City aims high

By Gil Barner

From the outside it looks like any of hundreds of fading, small rural towns throughout America. This one is different. It has a comeback seed. Something already growing that offers the potential to trigger a rare comeback.

Call it what you want... reclamation, salvation, resurrection or bootstrap... The arts incubator project in Siler City may be one of the keys to saving this small, business-shy rural town. Through brutally hard work and imagination there’s the chance for it to be a vital city and even a national icon... a wonderful recovery story from a small town... the likes of which are scattered throughout our country. It’s a wonderful living story. This positive, hands-on story has the kind of impact that can resonate nationally and be a model throughout the country.

This nucleus for growth has the potential to create a strong ROI and positioning itself to be unique in the United States. There’s day care, classes in the arts, access to low commission rate galleries and newly renovated rented retail space. There is shared arts-level industrial equipment available.

SILER continued on page 4.

LAND TRANSFER TAX DEBATE: PRO & CON

Rampant growth makes the need for tax urgent

By Kitty Griffith

Chatham County has begun to reap the results of the pro-development mentality of the Bunkey Morgan era. Most of the new real estate developments passed during his reign are residential and located in the eastern part of the county. The effects of those hasty decisions, approved without consideration for the resulting infrastructure needs and costs, are now coming home to roost.

Currently, 34,000 people live in the eastern section of Chatham County. Given the large number of real estate developments slated or under construction in that part of the county, the population there will more than triple to 117,000 in the next 20 years.

Approximately 25,000 homes are currently approved and another 8,000 are in the pipeline. All this growth drives a critical need for capital improvements that will exhaust the county’s $155 million borrowing capacity in five years. These projects include a new middle school and a new high school.

In addition to these projects, Chatham’s future growth will require other drastically needed capital improvements such as a county wastewater treatment plant and sewage system, not to mention a new water treatment plant. In fact, the total cost of those necessary capital improvements above and beyond Chatham’s current $155 million debt capacity is estimated to be $500 million over the next 10 years.

“We are ill prepared to facilitate this kind of massive growth,” says Mike Cross, a member of the Chatham Board of Commissioners, who has been working on how Chatham will pay for the capital improvements that this enormous growth will bring. Noting that he doesn’t like taxes any more than the next person, Cross says that taxes are “a necessary part of the solution to address what’s coming.”

“We must find a tax solution that will generate this revenue as fairly as possible,” he emphatically states.

Here are the taxing options for raising money to pay for the capital

PRO continued on page 10.

The land transfer tax hurts, hinders homeownership

By David Sowell

The recent Convention of the Chatham County GOP and now the Fourth Congressional District Convention have passed a resolution opposing the proposed Land Transfer Tax on real estate. Let’s look at the facts surrounding these proposals and the examples of what happens when others have followed this path.

First, it is important to note that as a society we have historically encouraged homeownership. This tax increase proposal is a step in the opposite direction, increasing the cost of housing to all buyers, even those at the lowest incomes. Currently, the increased cost of the sales tax cannot be added to the mortgage amount. This will make home ownership a more difficult proposition, especially for new home buyers.

Some of our county commissioners have called this a new revenue source; but, of course, it is not. When taxes are taken from your right pocket or your left, they are still coming from the people. It is important to look at the impact of this tax on other counties. Dare County is used as an example of the effectiveness of the home tax on revenue due to their relatively low property tax rate, but a recent study showed that Dare County is the highest taxed county in North Carolina, when including all combined taxes and calculated on a per capita basis. Dare County’s tax burden is highest on the bottom line of what the family actually pays to government of any county in the state.

This tax increase proposal moves the burden of growth away from those actually impacting our infrastructure needs, on to those who already live here and may well have already paid impact fees. These fees are one time fees paid to cover the costs of the infrastructure

CON continued on page 10.
great meals have great beginnings

Poultry • Lamb • Pork • Beef • Fish • Sausage

Chorizo Sausage

CLIFF’S MEAT MARKET
942-2196
Mon–Sat 9 am – 6 pm
100 W. Main Street, Carrboro
great meals
have great
beginnings

Poultry • Lamb • Pork • Beef • Fish • Sausage

Chorizo Sausage

QUARRY PLANS LOOK DOUBTFUL

Plaintiffs in lawsuit to stop a rock quarry from being built have bought land inside the planned site of the quarry after ISP Minerals, the company that proposed the quarry, allowed its option for the land to expire. According to the Raleigh News & Observer, Bobby Branch and David Watts, have a contract to buy 115 acres the owner originally planned to sell to ISP. ISP Minerals plans call for a 1,076-acre quarry in the Mount Vernon Springs community off Old U.S. 421. The quarry would produce roofing granules.

Quarry owners have bought land inside the planned site of the quarry after ISP Minerals, the company that proposed the quarry, allowed its option for the land to expire. According to the Raleigh News & Observer, Bobby Branch and David Watts, have a contract to buy 115 acres the owner originally planned to sell to ISP. ISP Minerals plans call for a 1,076-acre quarry in the Mount Vernon Springs community off Old U.S. 421. The quarry would produce roofing granules.

Quarry owners have bought land inside the planned site of the quarry after ISP Minerals, the company that proposed the quarry, allowed its option for the land to expire. According to the Raleigh News & Observer, Bobby Branch and David Watts, have a contract to buy 115 acres the owner originally planned to sell to ISP. ISP Minerals plans call for a 1,076-acre quarry in the Mount Vernon Springs community off Old U.S. 421. The quarry would produce roofing granules.
Fidelity Bank suits Siler City’s style

By Lisa Andrews

The bank that would eventually become Fidelity opened for business in Fuquay Springs, North Carolina in 1908. Fuquay Springs is now Fuquay-Varina, and the bank has grown to more than 65 locations throughout North Carolina and Virginia. The bank approaching its 200th anniversary is focused on building long-term relationships within our city and communities. Small and mid-sized business owners turn to Fidelity because our bankers take the time to find out what’s important to them, becoming their partner in success. Families choose to bank with us because we treat them with respect, and because we offer all the products and services they need in a friendly, professional environment.

From small towns to booming suburban enclaves, our associates live and work with their customers. Walk into any Fidelity Bank location and you’ll know you’re in the right place. Generations of Fidelity customers can attest to it. People ask why we go to such lengths for our customers. We remind them we do it for our friends. Loyalty is synonymous with Fidelity, and for Fidelity Bank, loyalty is a way of life. We offer continuing opportunity for our associates and support for our customers and communities through both the best and worst of times.

Fidelity Bank has remained strong through two world wars, the Depression, the massive social changes of the Twentieth Century, and local shifts from an agricultural to a technological economy. We recognize our rich history and eagerly anticipate the future.

The bank could not be more supportive of our communities; it encourages our personal involvement through any avenue of service local associates may wish to take. A dams is actively involved with local government by serving on the Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners, Rotary Club, Member of the CC United Chamber of Commerce and past years of service for the county’s EDC Board.

“The bank supports our local associates in their personal endeavors in service to our community, churches, and charities and to the county as a whole. I know and the bank knows that we are a part of this community and will remain supportive and involved in it’s future for generations to come,” Dams said.

Lisa Andrews is Assistant Vice President of Fidelity Bank in Siler City.
Combating hurry sickness

By Jeff Davidson

Bob W., age 38, works for an accounting firm of off Route 421 just north of Siler City. He is friendly, successful, and always in a rush. He talks fast, moves fast, and eats fast, and never lets up. Bob is hooked on being in a hurry. Many professionals, particularly executive-types and career climbers, suffer from what Dr. Bruce A. Baldwin calls “hurry sickness.”

Though you may be relatively comfortable in your position, do you hurry to get to the next meeting, hurry to stay on top of the next project, hurry to conduct the affairs of your day?

A pervasive sense of urgency

The misdirected sense of urgency stems from far too many responsibilities and tasks as well as information and communication overload. Baldwin says, “hurry sickness is a pervasive sense of urgency that is concerned solely with completing tasks, without regard to other aspects of experience.” If you supervise others and they always seem to be in a rush, maybe it is because you are. At times it is appropriate and fitting to be in a rush. It is a problem, however, when it becomes a standard operating procedure. No one works best at break neck speed. Worse, it is easy to lose sight of what you want to do with your life if you are always in a state of constant frenzy.

Notice and Act

If you find yourself falling into “hurry sickness” type patterns try these remedies:

1. Take a 15-minute break, once during the morning and once during the afternoon.
2. Don’t eat at your desk — get away so that you can recharge your battery.
3. Invest in time saving technology that offers you a significant return, i.e. pays for itself within one year or less, and saves at least two hours a week of your time.
4. Never be in a hurry while driving, especially on company business. Trying to make up for lost time in your car is a loser’s game.
5. A range regular meetings with co-worker to discuss how everyone can be more efficient without rushing. Continually focus on the big picture of what you’re trying to accomplish. Often, new solutions to old problems will emerge and activities that seem urgent can be viewed from a broader perspective.
6. Furnish your offices with plants, pictures, and art or decorations that inspire creativity and hold brain thinking.

Jeff Davidson is the work/life balance expert for our time-pressed generations. He wrote “Breathing Space” and the “60 Second Productivity” series. Visit www.BreathingSpace.com or call 800.735.1994 for more on Jeff’s keynote speeches and seminars including “Managing Information and Communication Overload” and “Prospering in a World of Rapid Change.”
Siler City’s transfer from stagecoach to iron horse

Some time around 1750 a German immigrant couple, Pickard Destrick Siler and Elizabeth Hartsoe Siler made their way down from Philadelphia, through Virginia, and finally settled about four miles north of the present location of Siler City. They had a son, John Siler, who in 1794 purchased land nearby. By 1805 John had established a farm and house on that land, which is where the Siler City Post Office is now located. The house can be seen in a mural painted in the Post Office as a WPA project during the great depression.

John Siler’s house was said to be the second one in all of Chatham to have glass windows, the first being the house of John Brooks. A description in “Chatham County 1771-1971,” published by the Chatham County Historical Association, claims that the space between the inner and outer walls of John Siler’s house was filled with brick, rock and gravel as protection against rifle fire.

After John Siler’s death, his house and farm were purchased by William Matthews. Two of the primitive regional roads traversing Chatham crossed near the house, one an east-west route from Raleigh and Randolph County and the other a north-south route from Fayetteville to Greensboro. Travelers on these roads were provided with food and lodging at the Matthews’ house and the intersection soon became known as Matthews’ Crossroads. A small community developed nearby to serve the travelers and local farmers. Until 1880 the only buildings beside the Matthews house were a store operated by Samuel Siler and his son Cincinnatus, a blacksmith shop and a small grist mill. The house, located at the crossroads, became the focal point of the surrounding area. People came there to vote and the sheriff came there to collect taxes. When local volunteer regiments were organized to fight in the Civil War, “The Chatham Boys” drilled in William Matthews’ front yard.

In 1880 Cincinnatus Siler became the first Postmaster, but for some reason the Post Office was named “Energy” rather than Matthews’ Crossroads. Its name was soon changed to Siler Station in 1884 and then to Siler City in 1886. In spite of the post office’s name change, the community did receive renewed energy in 1884 when the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad line was built between Sanford and Greensboro. Samuel Siler, recognizing the potential benefits to the community, donated part of a cotton field for the depot, and the area became known as Siler Station. The import of supplies and the export of regional produce and products to out of town markets no longer had to rely on the slow and sometimes impassable dirt roads. Other men who would build Siler Station’s business community soon moved to the area, including Daniel G. Fox, Joseph B. Guthrie, L.L. Hudson, E.R. McLean, W. F. Womble, James C. Wrenn, Robert Wrenn and Dr. Joseph A. Turner. During 1884 these newcomers opened three general stores, and town lots and streets were laid out. A tobacco warehouse and market called the “Chatham Warehouse Company” was erected in 1885 and its large building was also the scene of public meetings, agricultural fairs, and religious services.

The town was incorporated in March 1887 covering one square mile with the depot at the center. The charter also called for an election to consider banning the sale of alcohol in the city limits, and the ensuing vote saw prohibition winning 44-2.

The same year the Thompson School was established in a two-story, fourteen room building, and served as a private college preparatory school for 162 pupils (70 local and 92 boarders at local residences). A fire in 1897 it was absorbed into the public school system.

Some notable early businesses were H. Adley, Peoples & Company, sellers of general merchandise and produce, H. Point Bending and Chair Co., Oval Oak Washboard Co., and H. Adley-People Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill. Tod R. Edwards, an African-American, opened a barber shop in 1895, which business was expanded into photography, jewelry sales, and watch repair. His watch repair skills in particular caused him to be highly respected by the entire community.

Siler City’s growth was explosive. Its 1890 population of 400 people represented a 75 percent increase over the previous decade. By 1910 the population numbered 895 and by 1930 it reached 1,730, passing Pittsboro.

A public telephone line had connected Siler City and Pittsboro by 1902. In 1897 the traveling salesmen stopping in Siler City must have thought they had found paradise in the new Hadley Hotel. It had 30 rooms, gas lights, a central heating system and running water in each room. Listed on the National Register, the building still stands and is occupied by business enterprises.

By 1913 Siler City had electric power, generated by a small hydro-electric facility on the Rocky River.

The Farmers Alliance Store, established in 1888 is still open for business and sells everything from clothing, footwear, house wares, seeds and plants, foods and souvenirs. A mural on the outside wall of the building shows the neighborhood as it used to look.

Siler City became a major shipping point for local natural and farm products, including: eggs, poultry, onions, wool, crockeries and the famous “Chatham Rabbit.”

The latter indigenous local cottontail was a popular food item in fine northern restaurants. During the 1911-12 season, 26,060 rabbits were shipped north by local dealers.

The improvement of roads after World War II, the resulting decline of railroad service, and the development of mills and businesses on the outskirts of the town have presented Siler City with some serious challenges. I will leave the reporting and discussion of these to the current media. Two publications, “Siler City, North Carolina 1887-1987” and “Historical Buildings of the Central Business District, Siler City, are available from the Chatham County Historical Association or the Pittsboro and Wrenn Memorial Libraries.

Fred J. Vatter is past president of Chatham County Historical Association and a board member.

---

GOT PAIN?
GET NEURAL DEPOLARIZATION™

This gentle immune enhancing therapy is highly effective approach for those seeking relief from chronic pain, illness or depression.

- Neurological Disease • Motor Dysfunction • Immune Disorders

Call today for more information. It may be the most important step you’ll ever take toward Achieving Optimum Health!

Carole Hoffman, CSPP, CNDP
Certified Neural Depolarization™ Practitioner
919-728-7028
www.AchievingOptimumHealth.com
Member American Holistic Health Association

Heartwood Realty
Your Open Door to Chatham County

Heartwood is pleased to announce the EcoBroker Certification of Julie Cummins and Martha Pearson, two of only five in North Carolina. Our focus is on our client’s needs, with an underlying commitment to conscience and conservation. Heartwood agents are trained, aware, and energetic ... ready to show you around the county and help you find the right property for you. We are also a member of the Triangle-wide Multiple Listing Service. Give Heartwood a call for all your real estate needs.

Office (919) 542-6555
184 US 64 East, Pittsboro
www.heartwoodrealty.com
Stealing spring

By Ginny Gregory

Family was arriving to share a spring moment at Blue Moon. O rangina, the tractor came out to do a quick drive around.... load and unload a few things and then retire for the day. We stood on the deck and enjoyed all the wonderful soft colors in the garden below. The Hydrangea trees... really a viburnum were huge white cloud-like blooms glowing as the day slipped away. As we walked the garden in the early evening, the fragrance of the deciduous azalea lifted us up for a brief moment. Its essence was so remarkable. I wait for this exquisite moment each year. The spring stage was set once this Pinkster azalea blooms. Nestled in the corner of the deck, the burgundy leaf flowering cherry was covered with fluffy pink blooms that made me think of ballerina skirts. The Forest Pansy redbud was unfurling its heart shaped leaves pulling together the wine color dance in the garden. It's always fun to share your pleasures with others. The crisp air made even the pollen seem bearable. The joys of spring were evident to all. The stars were beginning to twinkle reminding us that we were indeed in the country. I think it is one of the reasons that Blue Moon is so loved by friends and family. We are surrounded by nature. As the chill set in, we retreated to Merlion in Southern Village for a great meal together. We settled in at home with Latte and cookies. I realized this year that the girls, who are teenagers, are quickly evolving with lives of their own. The next youngest seems to love checking out cookies. The Forest Pansy redbud was so remarkable. I wait for this exquisite moment each year. The next morning, as I was brewing coffee and steaming milk, I glanced out the window. It was crushing! I was stunned! I felt cheated! It crept in so quietly I barely felt it coming. There was a sudden hush. Stillness filled the air. Frost had stolen spring! Like the Grinch, Frost had stolen spring as we slept. It was so hard to believe. With the dip of the thermometer, spring jewels stopped shining and turned into black liquid that seemed to drip off the shrubs. All blooms were suddenly brown and drooping. At a glance, they seemed to be de-wrinkled. The big fascination. I can't wait to see how their lives unfold. Like a garden... you never know what next season will be like. The next morning, as I was brewing coffee and steaming milk, I glanced out the window. It was crushing! I was stunned! I felt cheated! It crept in so quietly I barely felt it coming. There was a sudden hush. Stillness filled the air. Frost had stolen spring! Like the Grinch, Frost had stolen spring as we slept. It was so hard to believe. With the dip of the thermometer, spring jewels stopped shining and turned into black liquid that seemed to drip off the shrubs. All blooms were suddenly brown and drooping. At a glance, they seemed to be weeping. In an instant, the world was changed. It was still spring at Blue Moon, but the backdrop had a different wash on it. Birds still sang, the air was clear and sharp, the sky was clear blue, but a change had occurred that was not reversible.

We had our coffee. We dismayed together and life resumed. I'm now hungry for the vibrant colors of summer that are soon on the way. Seize the moment. You never know when there will be a sudden frost. Happy gardening. Never lose heart!

Ginny Gregory is the owner and creative energy behind "Beyond The Pail...Creating Gardens and Beyond". For more information, please check www.beyondtheypail.net
Siler City weathers economic change

By Julian Sereno

Siler City is hurting. Thirty years ago it was a prosperous town with enough charm that Francis Bavier, the actress who portrayed Aunt Bee on the Andy Griffith Show, chose to retire there. But economic forces have pushed its average per capita income to a little more than half of that for the Northeast part of the county. Property values are similarly skewed.

Talk to some of those who have spent their lives downtown and you can hear how far it has fallen.

"Twenty years ago on Saturday morning, you'd have to look for a parking place," said Ritchie Teague, who has run the City Barber Shop on Raleigh Street for 30 years, taking over the business from his father-in-law. Back then, a haircut on Saturday morning would involve a one or two hour wait.

"People would come to downtown Siler City. It was a bustling little town. Now there is no reason to come to Siler City for much. Everything is just dying out."

Downtown Siler City, like so many downtowns in small towns across the United States, withered after four-lane highways bypassed them, and the businesses moved out to the highways. That happened with Siler City when U.S. 64 went to five lanes and U.S. 421 moved east of town and went to four lanes.

"This used to be a thriving town 40 years ago, then all the shopping centers came in and took away from downtown," said Nancy Tysor, who has worked for 40 years at the Farmers' Alliance Store, the oldest business in Chatham County.

"We've been serving the public for 118 years," said Miss Nancy. "The stores that were downtown ran to the shopping centers. We're happy to be here."

While downtown Siler City suffered from highways and strip malls, the economy of the town as a whole has been hit far beyond by globalization, i.e., the flight of manufacturing operations to cheap labor markets in Mexico and Asia.

"In Siler City, for years the industries have been depressed."

Siler City has also seen a profound demographic change with a huge influx of Latino immigrants, mostly from Mexico, over the past 15 or so years. They now perform much of the agricultural work, textiles and food processing, said Joel Browder, city manager.

"With textiles and furniture, those two industries have been depressed."

Siler City has also been affected by the Ku Klux Klan's march and as the proportion of Hispanic students growing, many white families withdrew from Siler City Elementary School. Thirty years ago it was a prosperous town with enough charm that Francis Bavier, the actress who portrayed Aunt Bee on the Andy Griffith Show, chose to retire there. But economic forces have pushed its average per capita income to a little more than half of that for the Northeast part of the county. Property values are similarly skewed.

Another more recent rancorous issue has been a proposed quarry for roofing granules off Old 421 in Siler City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. While Siler City's administration and elected officials have welcomed the quarry, through rezoning and anything else they can do on account of its 150 jobs, neighbors of the proposed quarry have risen up in opposition, on account of the noise and pollution it would create. Multiple plaintiffs have filed suit to stop the quarry. A mong those filing suit is Horizon Cellars, a winery with tens of millions of dollars invested in it, that believes it would be driven out of business by the noise and vibrations from the blast ing as well as the pollution.

As a measure of desperation, the former Chatham County Board of Commissioners offered the mining company, ISP M inerals, $3 million through the Chatham Economic Development Commission to go ahead with the quarry, as if its decision wouldn't be determined by where there are deposits of the roofing granules ISP M inerals want to mine.

ISP's choice is to build it or not, and it appears that the choice might be not. ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question.

"I don't know where we're going," said Browder, who supports it. "ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question."

"I don't know where we're going," said Browder, who supports it. "ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question."

"I don't know where we're going," said Browder, who supports it. "ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question."

As a measure of desperation, the former Chatham County Board of Commissioners offered the mining company, ISP Minerals, $3 million through the Chatham Economic Development Commission to go ahead with the quarry, as if its decision wouldn't be determined by where there are deposits of the roofing granules ISP Minerals want to mine.

ISP's choice is to build it or not, and it appears that the choice might be not. ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question.

"I don't know where we're going," said Browder, who supports it. "ISP has options on some of the land that would comprise the more than 1,000-acre quarry expire, and quarry opponents have bought it. So the quarry is a question."

As a measure of desperation, the former Chatham County Board of Commissioners offered the mining company, ISP Minerals, $3 million through the Chatham Economic Development Commission to go ahead with the quarry, as if its decision wouldn't be determined by where there are deposits of the roofing granules ISP Minerals want to mine.
Announcing Fourth Friday Films/Fishy Friday

Pittsboro Merchants Association, the group who brings you First Sunday, will now be bringing you Fourth Friday Films/Fishy Friday. That’s right — all of you who are looking for a great way to celebrate Fridays, head on down to Pittsboro for a fish sandwich and sides as well as a classic film. Films will be shown on screen outdoors in the parking lot of The Capital Bank on Hillsboro Street. Some of the films to be shown will be *Maltese Falcon*, *Treasure of Sierra Madre*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and the original *King Kong*. Check the Merchant’s website www.pittsboroshops.com.

These fine mercantile establishments and eateries will be open for your browsing, shopping pleasure and dining the night of the movie, the fourth Fridays!

- *The Bead Hive*
- *New Horizons Trading Company*
- *Chatham Marketplace • Fusions Gallery*
- *Beggars and Choosers*
- *The General Store Cafe • Chatham Arts Gallery*
- *Realty World*
- *Scoreboard Grill and Bar*
- *Old Pittsboro Antiques*
- *Model homes In Chatham Forest • Second Bloom*
- *Annie B & The Black And White Guy • Vespertine*

### Moms Love Flowers!

**Mother’s Day Flowers at Flynt’s Florist & FLYNTHILL FARM**

Come see our great selection of hanging baskets, gifts, grand house plants, flowering plants and seasonal perennial bedding plants. And the same gorgeous fresh flowers can still be delivered.

542.5308 Farm
542–3836 • 800–257–9067 Florist
www.flyntsfarm.com

### Rosemary House Bed & Breakfast

Gracious, Comfortable Guest Rooms
Afternoon Tea by Reservation

Gift Certificates Available in Historic Pittsboro, 76 West St.
888.643.2017 • 919.542.5515
www.rosemary-bb.com

### Antonella’s Salon and European Skin Care

Get pampered, refreshed and rejuvenated — because it’s all about you!

Hair Care, Facials, Waxing, Massage and Nails for Men and Women
919–542–6661
49 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro
www.AntonellaSalon.com

### CHATHAM COUNTY LINE... The Natural Choice for reaching Chatham County Shoppers

Chatham County Line readers appreciate and enjoy the fresh perspective that our local writers bring to the patchwork of news, thoughts and ideas that encompass the heart and soul of Chatham County.

Our advertisers have discovered that there is no better way to reach their target audience.

Chatham County Line Delivers:
- FREE professional marketing advice and custom ad design
- Excellent rack distribution throughout the county
- Copies mailed to Fearrington Village, Governors Club and Governors Village, Southern Village, The Preserve at Jordan Lake and a large area off Mann’s Chapel Road.
- Ad rates and sizes designed with the small business owner in mind
- Loyal readers who anticipate every issue

CALL MARY BASTIN TO PLACE YOUR AD. 548-3863
New Chevy dealer blazes new frontier

By Jana Collins

Today less than five percent of automobile dealers nationwide are female, and even fewer have worked their way from salesperson to dealer as has Chatham County native Jo Ann Beal, Pittsboro’s new Chevrolet dealer.

In 1980 Beal answered a Sanford Herald help-wanted ad for an automobile salesperson. Her parents expected her to put to work her recent associate degree in office administration from Central Carolina Community College, but Beal recognized the business opportunity and knew she was capable of a sales position. The sales manager was skeptical. Women’s roles in an automobile dealership at that time were limited to office administration, secretarial, and receptionist. Beal persisted until the sales manager agreed to a 30-day trial period. That month Beal was top salesperson.

Through persistence and hard work Beal moved up the management ladder in sales to sales manager, general manager, and then executive manager of dealerships in Sanford and Southern Pines. She opened her own pre-owned automobile business in Garner with her son, Joe Allen, and then purchased Pittsboro Chevrolet with business partner, Glyn Collins.

Beal’s success has been defined by her work ethic, but also by her ability to establish and maintain personal relationships with her customers, colleagues, and employees. “I am passionate about my business. My whole heart is in it, and I try to operate in a way that is true to my heart and true to the values of respect and compassion for others,” she said.

Beal grew up in Gulf near the Deep River in Chatham County and graduated from Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek where she currently resides with her husband, Mike Wall. Beal and Collins purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Pittsboro in August, 2006. They renovated, re-furnished, and upgraded the facility. Beal has assembled a well-trained and highly-motivated staff, some of whom have been with her for many years, and who share her philosophy of developing good relationships with customers in sales and service.

Computer technology plays an important role in all facets of dealership sales and service. The service department is equipped with the latest computer diagnostic equipment enabling technicians to work on almost all makes and models of vehicles. Pre-owned vehicle sales are driving the marketplace, and the internet has played a huge role in the success of Pittsboro Chevrolet. Through its website www.pittsborochevrolet.com more people have immediate access to one of the largest used car inventories in the internet marketing area.

Since Pittsboro Chevrolet opened last August, it has grown from a small town dealership to the largest used car inventory and sales in a three-county region. “In six months we have become the largest volume pre-owned dealership in Chatham, Orange and Lee Counties,” said Beal.

But according to Beal, success always comes back to the way you treat people who come to your business. “Customers expect a fair price, and in return for it they give you their business and support,” says Beal. “That is why at Pittsboro Chevrolet we have adopted the motto ‘Price sells cars, and we know it!’ I consider my employees family, our customers friends.”

Last month, General Motors presented Beal with its Spirit of Leadership Award, given to women who have reached the milestone of achieving GM dealer ownership. This spring, Beal will open a second dealership in Siler City.

Beal Collins is Communications Director for Beal Collins Auto Group and can be reached at www.pittsborochevrolet.com.

The following FREE activities will be offered:
- Fitness class demonstrations
- Wellness screenings
- Health and fitness education
- Chipping contest
- Mini-massages
- Fun games
- Door prizes
- Refreshments
- And much more!

We look forward to seeing you!
PRO continued from page 1.

improvements and infrastructure needs in Chatham County:

- Sales Tax
- Property Tax
- School Impact Tax
- A dequate Public Facilities Tax
- 1% Land Transfer Tax
- Moratorium

Suffice it to say that an additional 1 percent sales tax will only generate about $3.99 million, because most taxable purchases are made outside the county. Property taxes, already more than many moderate-income people can afford, would have to increase to $1.389 from the current rate of $5.99 just to pay for the debt service on the $500 million the county must borrow in the next five years. Property taxes are due annually and may rise as the tax rate or property valuation increase.

The School Impact Tax is a set amount – the same for a brand new doublewide as for a sparkling new McMansion. Currently it’s set at $2,900. As it is now set, the Impact Tax is estimated to bring $1.5 million, hardly enough to do the job.

The School Impact Tax is clearly a regressive tax that most hurts lower-income residents, many of whom inherited large tracts of land from their families. Because of the Impact Tax, many of these landowners can’t afford to build a new modular home for themselves or their families.

Chatham’s other current sources of income are the Education Lottery, which brings in $600,000; Deed Excise Tax, $672,000; Occupancy Tax, $304,000; Building Permits, $1.5 million; and Environmental Health Permits, $470,000.

Combined, all these revenue streams cannot provide the resources Chatham needs to meet enormous growth estimates.

The A dequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) is another tax option under consideration. These ordinances are designed to assure that a county’s public facilities are adequate to meet the service demands caused by new development in that county. Estimates for this tax in Chatham range from $8,000 to $30,000 per new house. At least 12 other North Carolina counties have some form of this tax.

Chatham’s Land Transfer Tax is a proposed 1 percent county tax that would apply to all real property sales, property exchanges and certain deeds such as timber. This tax would not apply to deeds of gift or most leases. If it is passed, the School Impact Fee will be eliminated.

The 1 percent Land Transfer Tax, compared to other current income sources, is a cash cow, estimated to bring in $7.08 million in the current fiscal year. That amount will increase as more and more houses are sold. That’s the kind of money that’s needed to fund the infrastructure that’s going to be required in the next 20 years.

The group also claims that the tax is regressive and hurts lower-income homesellers. But, building the School Impact Tax, which is calculated as a percentage of the sales price of the property sold, it stands to reason that lower- and moderate-income sellers whose homes sell for less will pay less tax than a person who sells a $1 million chateau in Governor’s Club.

That’s why the 1 percent Transfer Tax needs to be addressed as the School Impact Tax, which is a fixed fee — currently $2,900 — for every new dwelling place, no matter how modest or luxurious. With the Impact Tax, the rich and the poor pay the same fixed amount, often creating an impossible hurdle for many moderate- to lower-income homesellers.

In spite of the reaper’s expensive public relations campaign against the Land Transfer Tax, North Carolina’s General Assembly Speaker Joe Hackney, who represents Chatham, said recently that most of his mail has been positive about the Transfer Tax.

But before a Transfer Tax can be enacted in Chatham, it must pass both houses of the state legislature and probably a countywide referendum. While many local option tax bills have been filed in the General Assembly this year, all will require a countywide referendum to implement.

Favored by many is the Local Options Tax M enu bill, H.B. 357, which would apply statewide and therefore may not require a countywide referendum to implement.

If you understand the need for a Transfer Tax in Chatham County, then let your voice be heard in Raleigh. Send emails and letters to your representatives and members of the legislature’s finance committees. For email and street addresses of General Assembly members and more go to www.ncleg.net.

“In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes,” said our wisest founding father, Benjamin Franklin. Yes, it is true that you can’t avoid either.

Kitty Griffith is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. A Fearrington Village resident, she is active in Democratic causes.

CON continued from page 1.

necessary to support new development. Seventy percent of homes sold each year in this county are not new homes, but existing homes, which do not increase the impact on infrastructure. This new sales tax, which is expected to start out at 1 percent, will be collected on all homes sold.

This creates a situation where people are paying taxes on the income they use to buy the home, then paying property taxes each year, then paying taxes again when they sell their home. This contributes to the overall tax rate actually paid per person, which is what matters to the family’s bottom line.

When this new tax was proposed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, they hoped that this revenue was coming to the county. Now the politicians in Raleigh think this new tax should be spent in Raleigh. The GOP believes that this money should be left with our families to save or spend as they see fit, rather than go to taxes at all.

County government has other options for raising revenues, without increasing tax rates. We desperately need jobs in the county, with some 60 percent of us traveling outside the county to find work. Encouraging new business, by maintaining low tax rates, will increase revenue. Solving the leakage problem with some 60 percent of our citizens paying sales taxes in other counties would raise up to 14 million dollars.

We would encourage the BOC to retain the growth in government spending and consider the amount of money actually coming in. We were assured that the last property tax increase was being set aside to pay for the new schools, new government buildings, and renovations of older government buildings. The projected growth will already add $53,000,000 in impact fees to the county treasury to pay for infrastructure, not to mention the property tax revenues from these upscale properties being built or the resulting increase in real estate tax revenues. This is a huge pool of money with a relatively low strain from the new growth, which is already coming in far below what was projected. Governors Club has an actual student rate of .09 students per home. Since schools are a major portion of the budget, this is good news indeed.

The GOP thinks you are taxed too much. Tell your elected officials you agree with us, or be prepared to pay a lot more in taxes.

David Swell is assistant secretary of the Chatham County Republican Party.

Carrboro Family Medicine

- Now accepting new patients
- Most major insurance plans accepted
- Sports injuries, acute trauma
- Workers compensation
- X-ray and lab on site
- Same day or walk-ins welcome
- Sport and camp physicals

929.1747
www.carrborofamilymedicine.com
Willow Creek Professional Center at 610 Jones Ferry Road

Playful Portraits Photography

- We Bring the Studio to You!
- Exceptional location-based photography

Chris Elam, Owner-Photographer
919.672.1798
www.PlayfulPortraits.com
Is “The Secret” really a secret?

Quite a few Chatham residents have asked me to comment on the film/DVD/book entitled “The Secret” developed by Rhonda Byrne. There appears to be almost a cult-like movement generated by one year of advertising hype since the premiere in March 2006. If you look on Google you will find 230,000,000 references to “The Secret.” The official website is www.BettyPhillipsPsychology.com, full of superlatives about “The Great Secret of the universe. It has been passed throughout the ages, traveling through centuries... to reach you and humankind. This is The Secret to everything — the secret to unlimited joy, health, happiness, relationships, love, everything you have ever wanted. Whoa!!!

The great secret, described as “the law of attraction”, basically means that your mind sends out vibrations that will attract like vibrations in the universe around you. In other words, positive thoughts and feelings will cause those positive events to actually be realized in your life. This law is described scientifically with proof that our thoughts affect the “frequencies that we radiate into the world” and that “thoughts become things” when they attract “things radiating the same frequencies.” The work quotes great thinkers of the past such as Aristotle and Einstein as “past secret teachers” and implies that there has been some sort of conspiracy to keep this law of attraction hidden from the public. “Living secret teachers” such as Jack Canfield have lent support to this movement and are featured prominently on the website which sells their own works as well as “The Secret information. If you look at an online book seller such as Amazon, many readers provided glowing testimonials to the power of this concept in changing their own lives.

Should you run and buy “The Secret” for yourself? In my opinion: No. The Secret has and will continue to provide unlimited money etc. to the promoters but is really just a promotional/motivational treatise, not even a self-help book. Careful reviewers will realize that the book really does not tell anyone what to do except sit around and try to change their thoughts in a more positive or less negative direction.

Really, there is no secret. The power of optimism over pessimism and positive over negative thinking has been well documented and is the subject of many thoughtful books with real how-to suggestions. These works describe the psychological underpinnings and research basis of cognitive-behavioral principles without resorting to a pseudoscience of cosmic vibrations. Our brains are not magnets but can be used as tools to study, understand and apply these principles. Effort is required including making real changes in our thought patterns and behaviors which will often lead to positive results. However, there are no guarantees or panaceas as appear to be promised in “The Secret.”

If you want to learn to develop optimism and positive thinking, I would suggest books written by Martin Seligman, Ph.D. psychologist, “Learned Optimism” (Knopf, 1991) and “Authentic Happiness” (Free Press, 2002.) If you are struggling with negative thoughts causing low self-esteem, depression or anxiety, I would suggest “Self-Esteem” by M. attew M.ckay and Patrick Fanning (Third Edition, New Harbin, 2000.) Before you go and purchase these books you can access the Reading Room of my website, www.BettyPhillipsPsychology.com, which provides a great deal of information on these topics as well as reviews or references to these books and authors.

Yes, there is power in positive thinking! It’s just not a secret.
Antonella’s Salon wins and wows Chatham

By Antonella Kundig

Antonella’s Salon celebrates its second year in business and is proud to be voted the best Salon in Chatham County.

When I first moved to North Carolina in the year 2000 I fell in love with the small town of Pittsboro. There is a strong sense of community, which was very appealing to me. Although I was mostly raised in NYC I always dreamed of moving to a place like this. I had to start working so I decided to get a job in Chapel Hill at a well-known Salon. I worked there for 5 years and waited patiently until I was able to open my very own Salon in Pittsboro. Now I am part of this wonderful community that is filled with many great people. I have donated many gift certificates to such wonderful causes like the Relay for Life, H.ea.d Up Riding program and C.A.R.E along with the Pittsboro Family Rape and Crises Center. Being able to provide to the town that I’ve come to love is a blessing.

Knowing that I’ve put a smile on someone’s face is as heartwarming as it gets.

Antonella’s salon offers all different hair services, facials, waxing, make-up applications, massage and nails for both men and women. Presently, Antonella’s Salon has Amanda Wood and Steve Locklear as hair stylists. A manda has been with Antonella’s since the first day and has been voted the best hair stylist in Chatham County. Steve who joined Antonella’s Salon in December brings with him 20 years experience in the hair industry.

Antonella’s is located at 49 Hillsboro Street, in Downtown Pittsboro across from the courthouse. Please visit our website at www.antonellasalon.com for an explanation of all our services as well as pricing.

Antonella Kundig is a Licensed Esthetician and has practiced her craft in NYC and apprenticed in Europe. She has over 14 years experience in the skin care field and over 20 years as a make-up artist.
Bird counts draw many to joys of birding

By Deborah R. Meyer

Barbara Roth, Norman Budnitz, and Will Cook make me want to be a better birder. Roth, a retired organic chemist who lives at Carolina Meadows and hails from Wisconsin, has been a lifelong birder. “My father taught me to love nature and birds, I think. When I was 10 I started a little nature club, and we painted watercolors of various birds,” Roth said.

Not long after her arrival in Chapel Hill in the mid-70s, Roth started the New Hope Audubon Society (www.newhopeaudubon.org), a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, all of which being involved in the Chapel Hill Bird Club (chbc.carolinanature.com). The Chapel Hill Bird Club participated in the National Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Count of birds and Roth decided that the New Hope Audubon Society needed to do its own bird count and went into Chatham County to select an area, the dimensions of which needed to be a circle with a diameter of 15 miles to meet set standards.

The middle of the site chosen for the circle was in the future Jordan Lake (see map). Roth explored the land, getting to know it intimately so she could assign places for people to count. She talked to the farmers whose land was part of the circle to get permission for people to count on their property. On one of these treks, Roth found a dumped puppy, which she thinks was part hound, part German shepherd. “I named him Jody and took him birthing with me. He lived until he was 36. His ashes were spread in the lake area. He was as smart as a whip,” said Roth.

Roth was in charge of the count for the first 20 years, assigning areas to counters, compiling and analyzing the results, which she then transmitted to the Association area (North America) national count, Roth said. O ne wonderful result that Roth shared with me is that we have a lot of bluebirds in the area. “This is important. At one point they almost died out. They are tree nesters and have a sitting height of 15 feet. When they are increased tremendously. We could document that with our reading guides. The two he uses most is the Audubon Society’s guide, Sibley’s Guide to Birds. “The other extreme is when all of the birds have gone and you see the same old friends. They are sort of old friends. You see them singing. They are tree nesters and have a sitting height of 15 feet. “Some people listen to bird songs as it gives you hooks to the birds,” Roth said.

Since Roth began the Jordan Lake bird count, Norman Budnitz has been involved as a counter. He is now the compiler for the Christmas count, and the spring count that the New Hope Audubon Society also does, though the national group does not. Carol Williamson is the co-organizer for the count and anyone that wants to get involved should contact her at cbcbird@yahoo.com or at 383.2364. The spring count takes place May 6.

During the counts, Budnitz can be found down around the east side of the Jordan Lake Dam. “What has made it fun for me for so many years is getting to know a place pretty well, going to the same places and seeing such a bird that has been breeding here for years. You see the offspring of the offspring of the offspring. They are sort of old friends. The other extreme is when all of the sudden something weird shows up—a stray bird that might be the first or second or fifth sighting ever recorded in North Carolina. It is thrilling,” said Budnitz, who was a primate biologist, studying lemurs and now instructs teachers on how to teach science.

Budnitz recently returned from a two week trip to Alaska, during which he was able to see a McKay’s Bunting, a sparrow-like bird that only breeds on a couple of islands off the Alaskan coast. “I asked him how he learned to be such an excellent birder. ‘A lot of it is just experience. I’ve been doing it constantly for 50 years,’” Budnitz said. He said going out with experienced birders to learn from them is key, as is reading guides. The two he uses most for North American birds are “National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America,” and “The Sibley Guide to Birds.” “The other thing is that learning how to use binoculars is not a trivial thing. It takes a while to learn to use them to get on the bird. You fumble around and by the time you look the birds are gone. There is skill involved in that. Really, a lot of it is being interested, practicing, and making experience,” Budnitz said.

His experience is so honed that now he is able to identify birds often without a visual sight of them by hearing their song. “Some people have an ear for it, some don’t. The way I have learned is to see them and watch them singing. Then I connect the face to the sound. That helps to imprint it on my brain,” Budnitz said.

Will Cook, a researcher in the Biology Department at Duke University, participates in the Jordan Lake counts, usually covering the Harris Lake part of the count circle, which includes covering Harris Lake (in Wake County) and adjacent Chatham areas. A few years after he graduated from college, Cook’s mother invited him on a trip to the Jordan Lake mudflats with the Chapel Hill Bird Club and that same year, participated in the Christmas count. But it was looking at exotic birds in Hawaii that sent Cook’s hobby to soaring heights. I asked him where some of the best places in Chatham County are to watch birds. “Ebenezer Point and Vista Point are great if you have a spotting scope, since you have a commanding view of the heart of Jordan Lake. They’re great spots for looking for diving ducks, loons, grebes and gulls, which are all common during the winter. In addition, many rare sea- and shorebirds have been seen here after hurricanes, such as Audubon’s Shearwater, Bridled Terns, and Black Skimmer. Ebenezer is also the best place to hope for finding a rare vagrant — North Carolina’s first Long-billed Curlew put in an appearance here in December 1994. In addition, Ebenezer and Vista are both good spots for seeing migrating warblers in the deciduous trees, and local birds like Brown-headed Nuthatch can be seen there,” Cook said. Check out a write-up about this at Cook’s website at www.tbg.carolinanature.com/ebenezer.html. If you’ve never seen a Bald Eagle, Cook said there is none that puts on a better show of the best places in the state to see one. Like most birders, Cook keeps a life list of all the birds he has ever seen but he also keeps life lists for different geographical regions, and what he calls “year lists,” where he documents all the birds he’s seen each year in the world, in the American Birding Association area (North America north of M eico), North Carolina, other states, local counties, and his backyard. Cook said that The Birding by Ears series is a great way to learn bird songs as it gives you hooks to remembering them. The Chapel Hill Bird Club and the New Hope Audubon Society welcome birders of all levels and if you are like me and can only identify a robin with certainty but long to hone your birding skills, there are wonderful people who will be most happy to help you soar.

Deborah R. Meyer is a writer who lives in Chatham County. She can be contacted at 942.3252.
Mark your calendars for the Saturday, May 19, Siler City Alive Festival in downtown Siler City from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Many attractions are planned for family fun. Live music and traditional dances, great food, kid's games, Classic Car and Antique Tractor Show, Car Audio Sound Off Competition, arts and crafts as well as a 5K run and 1-mile fun run.

Bill Walden of Walden Sound and Music and his son Joey are Chair and Assistant Chair of the event. Bill’s wife, Melinda, is an honorary member of the committee. Others in the lineup are Cindy Edwards, Wendy McMillan, Marcia Espinola, Beverly Fox, Mike Kennedy and Brad Brown. With the Walden's leadership in the event, some outstanding music is to be expected and festival-goers will not be disappointed. Groups entertaining will be Blue Grass Experience, Larry G. Davis, Part Time Party Time Band and Southbound 49. In addition, there will be a special appearance by Becky Fox Baldwin.

Many North Carolina artists will be showing and selling their work and there will be plenty to eat. For more information go to www.SilerCityAlive.com — Mary Bastin

Ray’s celebration benefits community

On Saturday, March 31, Ray’s Supermarket of Moncure held its 50-year Celebration and Customer Appreciation Day. Kevin Stone, the store’s fourth owner, had decided to give any profits to the Sprott Christian Youth Center, and he is now donating $300 to the Center. Stone estimates that 500 people came by that Saturday to buy 55-cent hot dogs, drinks, and fried desserts. Barbecue sandwiches, plates, and hamburgers were also offered at low prices. Everyone enjoyed the day.

— Judy Hogan

County board to host nuclear safety talks

On April 16 at their regular evening session, the Chatham Commissioners voted unanimously to hold a public information session soon on fire safety issues at Progress Energy’s Shearon Harris Nuclear plant in Wake County. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Progress Energy will be invited to give presentations. Members of the public, including members of N.C. WARN (Waste awareness and Reduction Network), will be welcome to participate and ask questions. On March 22 N.C. WARN sponsored a public meeting at Fearrington Barn on the fire safety issue, which was led by N.C. Senators Ellie Kinnaird and Janet Cowell. Other speakers were Commissioner George Lucier, Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton, scientist David Lochbaum and Paul Gunter. All Commissioners were present as well as Pittsboro Mayor Randy Vollmer. Many citizens attended the session April 16 to appeal to the Commissioners for a public meeting, to which Progress Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been invited.

— Judy Hogan

BRIEFS continued on page 16.
he argument needs to be civil.

By Don Lein

“The argument is over.” Thus spake A. J. Wentworth in the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle and characterized the argument as a “reality check.” The argument is over. Thus spake Albert Arnold Gore, Jr. when he addressed the graduating class of Middlebury College. “Justice,” of course, meant sending the rich Duke kids to jail. Did he really buy a false alibi of one suspect, the second DNA disaster where he failed to mention three other relevant findings? 1) 71 percent consider themselves “intellectuals”, 2) 59 percent felt they “have more ability than most people” and 3) 58 percent agreed that “the world was literally created in six days” - that last one is a true “reality check” on the survey.

In a recent article, pro-warming advocate Scientific American reported on a survey that was commissioned earlier this year by Yale and characterized the findings as a “reality check”. One of the findings was that 63 percent felt the United States is “in as much danger from environmental hazards ... as there is from terrorists,” however, it failed to mention three other relevant findings: 1) 71 percent consider themselves “intellectuals”, 2) 59 percent felt they “have more ability than most people” and 3) 58 percent agreed that “the world was literally created in six days” - that last one is a true “reality check” on the survey.

Time Magazine in its “global warming survival guide” (April 9) indicated that a BMW is less responsible for climate change than a T-bone is like a Hummer on a diet. That’s because the world meat industry produces 18 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, more than transportation produces, i.e. “a 16 ounce T-bone is like a Hummer on a plate”. If greenies in Chatham County were current with the latest environmental knowledge they would be inveighing against those global warming-causing farms and encouraging auto use (but I suspect that they are still behind the curve). Even the Hummer is taking on a different character in advanced research. CNW Marketing Research in a report titled “Dust to Dust: The Energy Cost of New Vehicles from Concept to Disposal” finds that in “dollars per lifetime mile,” a hybrid Prius costs $3.25 compared to a Hummer H3 at $19.95. Suddenly A. J. Gore’s bete noire, the internal combustion engine, looks like a good environmental choice.

Ellen Goodman of the Boston Globe goes even further in her advocacy of global warming and compares those who are skeptical of global warming with Holocaust deniers - not just ignorant, but evil. If one questions Darwinian evolutionary theory based on the paucity of fossil evidence, you are labeled one of those right-wing nut cases who after going to church on Sunday morning make a bee-line for a N.A.S.C.A.R. race or a Bluegrass Festival. Heaven help you if you try to discuss Intelligent Design. Try to engage in a discussion about the many people who have had same sex proclivities/lifestyles who are now happily married parents and you will find yourself stonewalled and then vilified. W hile it is true that not everybody is comfortable in the vita contemplativa, we’d rather accept sound bites than be forced to think. Our society and our freedoms are based on the liberal tradition. Let me clarify, when I use the term “liberal”, I am using it in its classical sense, not today’s far left version. It is the liberalism of Locke, Montesquieu, Madison, Burke and Jefferson. It is the liberalism of Locke, Montesquieu, Madison, Burke and Jefferson.

In one of the avant-garde enviroadvocacy media where and who was involved with this argument, and from whence did Mr. Gore gain such insight into such a complex and perplexing problem? Perhaps he relies upon the media where there is more advocacy than reportage.

In a recent article, pro-warming advocate Scientific American reported on a survey that was commissioned earlier this year by Yale and characterized the findings as a “reality check”. One of the findings was that 63 percent felt the United States is “in as much danger from environmental hazards ... as there is from terrorists,” however, it failed to mention three other relevant findings: 1) 71 percent consider themselves “intellectuals”, 2) 59 percent felt they “have more ability than most people” and 3) 58 percent agreed that “the world was literally created in six days” - that last one is a true “reality check” on the survey. 

Time Magazine in its “global warming survival guide” (April 9) indicated that a BMW is less responsible for climate change than a T-bone is like a Hummer on a diet. That’s because the world meat industry produces 18 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, more than transportation produces, i.e. “a 16 ounce T-bone is like a Hummer on a plate”. If greenies in Chatham County were current with the latest environmental knowledge they would be inveighing against those global warming-causing farms and encouraging auto use (but I suspect that they are still behind the curve). Even the Hummer is taking on a different character in advanced research. CNW Marketing Research in a report titled “Dust to Dust: The Energy Cost of New Vehicles from Concept to Disposal” finds that in “dollars per lifetime mile,” a hybrid Prius costs $3.25 compared to a Hummer H3 at $19.95. Suddenly A. J. Gore’s bete noire, the internal combustion engine, looks like a good environmental choice.
By Gustavo Ocoro

While speaking with George Terll, a “legend” in Chatham Culture Line, one of Indonesia’s top contemporary painters, will be featured in a one-person show at the SideStreet Gallery, 418 East Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, beginning on Sunday, May 6, and continuing through May. Included in the show will be over sixty paintings, many of which are wide and varied style from abstractions to subtle realism showing the great diversity of his work, particularly to Indonesia. Yoes is a full time, prolific painter, working for the most part in acrylic and oils. Though Yoes lives in Jakarta, he has been taken by his frequent visits to Bali and has produced an exceptional series of paintings reflecting Balinese culture. One critic has characterized as revealing a “...humanistic and intuitive-reflective nature - showing promise for new generations of Indonesian artists. His current visit is being sponsored by Bill and Joanna Soomers of Fearrington Village and Michael Mosca of the Side Street Gallery.

Temple Theatre in Sanford will hold its Summer Youth Conservatory 2007 July 2 – 22, Monday-Friday 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 14, 2 to 6 p.m. The camp will not meet on Tuesday, July 3 or Sunday, July 1 from 3 p.m. on Honor of Independence Day. Participants must be able to attend every session and perform in order to participate. The camp will offer a variety of workshop style classes in acting, storytelling, voice, movement, technical theatre and more for youth ages 7-18. All classes are led by Temple staff and special guest instructors, who are professionals in their field. Students will utilize their new skills as they mount a production of Guys and Dolls Jr., which will run July 20-22.

The enrollment fee is $250 and payment is due at the time of registration. Registration forms for the camp are available at the Temple Theatre Box Office or by visiting our website at www.templetheos.com.

A number of literary events are planned for McIntyre’s Fine Books in Fearrington Village. Alan Tardi will visit Tuesday May 1 at 7 p.m. He was the chef/owner of a Manhattan restaurant, Folio, where his Italian dishes were embraced both by critics and a loyal following of “foodies.” That summer, he decided to close his restaurant, refocused his kitchen, and eventually moved to a tiny hilltop village in the Redmond district of Chatham County, where he wrote Remaking the Vine. This event will be attended by the author and a reading group. This is a free for attendance which will include wine, cheese, bread and the book. Please call McIntyre’s Fine Books for more details and to sign up.

Lori Verni will visit Saturday, May 5 at 11 a.m. She visits with her first nonfiction narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat. Lori Verni will visit Sunday May 6 at 2 p.m.

There is no danger in eating venomous snakes as long as you cut off the head. I think that as a non-local, I should be respectful to a lifestyle that has been going on for a very long time. That respect includes, but does not limit to, making the least impact on our environment. I think that relying on locally produced or acquired food is much safer than both products brought from the west coast, or that are grown in many other distant place with the added cost of transportation. Fortunately, there are institutions, such as CCC, that offer for study subjects organic agriculture and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Now I am enjoying the marvelous foods offered in the farmers market, the coop grocery store, and the farmers that sell direct from the farm. I am happy about it all and enjoy this marvelous county.