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CROSSROADS

Volume 2, Issue 2

"Where all voices are heard"

April/May 2000

Mi vida... my life (To 3rd Grade)

My name is Chris. I'm 13, and I am originally from Mexico. I wrote this story because I wanted to let people know how my life is so they can relate to it and know there are others like me. Also because other ethnic groups have had similar experiences and have gone through many of the same things I went through. I have been in the United States since I was five. I enjoy playing soccer and basketball.

POR/BY CHRIS PACHECO

Yo me siento aquí en México, en la silla en la esquina, mirando a la pared. Estoy pensando de lo que le he hecho al niño que me llamo mal. Estoy pensando que le esta haciendo el Director ahorita? Porque el esta llorando con sus ojos? No creo que le gustó le llame un estúpido. Ya que pienso de esto me siento mal y me quiero perdonar con el. Pero no puedo porque hoy me voy a los Estados Unidos, ¡a California!



PACHECO

(I sit here, in Mexico, on a chair in the corner, looking at the wall. I am thinking, what have I done to the boy who called me a name. I am also thinking about what the Principal is doing to him now. Why is he crying his eyes out? I don't think he liked that I also called him stupid. I want to ask his forgiveness, but I can't because today I leave for the United States, to California!)

I was picked up from school by a cab. I then waited at the airport with my parents, Christina and Francisco, and my brother Christian. We waited three hours since the plane was delayed.

When we got on the plane, there were babies crying and eventually people snoring. We got off the plane two hours later. I was glad because my legs kept cramping in the small seats. I was happy when we got to California. I wanted to make new friends and learn a new language. I know my parents were happy too. They wanted to get away from all the crime. They didn't want to be scared anymore that something would happen.

I hope all the kids like me. I want it to be fun. I also want to learn English. I hope I have fun!

It wasn't long until I started kindergarden in America. It would be my second time. I wasn't dumb, I was just too young and needed to learn English. I sat in my new chair and desk staring at the front of the room, listening to the teacher talk about the "ABC's." I was trying to learn this new language.

I hope the kids like me when we go outside to play.

(Por favor que me quieran los que juegan conmigo.)

As I sat and waited to be picked to play soccer with the other kids, I was worried. I wasn't picked. I was so sad I ran to the bathroom and started to cry my eyes out. I wanted to go back to Mexico, at least I have friends there who pick me to play soccer.

See VIDA, Page 5

Who will you choose?



ATWATER

As national races cool down, local ones are heating up. Check out our "Letters from the candidates" center spread and make an informed vote May 2.

Meet the candidates at local forums. See page 10 for details.



SOLOMON



BURKE



COOPER



DARK



ELLISON



GALIN



HOLLAND



POLLARD

Retaining our best:

Chatham faces losing more than 50 percent of its teachers

BY PHILLIP K. CATES
Chatham Education Foundation

Over the past several years there have been a thousand quiet conversations about why teachers are leaving Chatham Schools and even the teaching profession. In public forums and when reporting to the County Commissioners, the superintendent and members of the Board of Education have referred to a growing annual loss of certified teachers. Yet, conversations in teacher's lounges, PTA gatherings and minutes from Board meetings have not been sufficient to substantiate and bring this issue to the forefront of public consciousness.

In late February the Chatham Education Foundation authorized a "snap shot" survey of Chatham County teachers to clarify

the retention issue. Superintendent Dr. Larry Mabe and Human Resources Director Ernest Alston granted approval without any revisions to our short survey. We felt that CEF would ensure a positive response, and it did. We at CEF were very pleased with teacher response to the survey: a stunning 79%.

At this point it is important for me to make this important disclaimer: The survey concerns teacher retention, not the reasons why teachers have chosen their profession and how they feel about teaching. The Chatham Education Foundation believes that public education is Chatham's most important investment and teachers are the key to quality public education. The survey's results reflect teachers being honest

and forthright about working in or leaving Chatham County Schools.

The primary reason why our teachers are considering leaving and, at the same time, why they would remain is better pay. The Foundation's report includes a comparison of school system supplements in the region. It would seem that Chatham's \$1,200 supplement is in the middle range. Many consider the middle to be "average" and that's not too bad.

I have to urge you to consider that most school systems paying a greater teacher's supplement than Chatham County have progressive supplement compensation based on years of experience and specialty. Yes, a certified teacher beginning their

See TEACHERS, Page 7

Pittsboro opens its arms to children and adults with autism



See stories, starting on page 6.



Grab a hold! Farm Tour arrives.

See page 4.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
CAROLINA FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

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CHATHAM CROSSROADS

"Where all voices are heard"

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Pittsboro, NC 27312

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www.chathamcrossroads.org

Chatham Crossroads is a volunteer-created community newspaper supporting informed and inclusive dialogue on issues of concern to Chatham County, NC residents. In addition to providing balanced, accurate and thorough spotlights on community issues, we strive to build bridges of understanding among Chatham's diverse residents, promote opportunities for people to come together, and celebrate our many cultural and natural treasures.

Crossroads will be published every other month until we have the resource to print monthly. *Crossroads* is available for free at sites across the county. We are incorporated as a nonprofit in North Carolina and are currently applying for federal nonprofit status. Our current fiscal sponsor, which already has its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, is the Fund for Investigative Reporting in Asheville, NC.

Crossroads is by and for Chatham residents and welcomes input and volunteer contributions of many kinds. Please contact us if you would like to lend your support or place an advertisement.

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Crossroads is made possible by grants from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the North Carolina Arts Council

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Chatham Briefs and Announcements

Farmers markets open again, rejoice!

It is time to revel in the senses of the season: both Chatham County farmers markets are now open for business. The Fearington Farmers Market at Fearington Village (on U.S. 15-501 between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill) just began its tenth season. It is open Tuesdays from 4 pm until dusk. The Pittsboro Farmers Market, held at the Chatham County Fair Grounds in Pittsboro, runs from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. on Thursday. Call 919-542-3813 for more information.

Continuing a 25-year tradition of pottery

The annual Resnik Kiln opening is Sunday, April 16 from 1pm to 6 pm. Janet Resnik and her daughter, Sally, invite you to come to their Chatham farm studio and see what they've been busy making over the winter. For information call 919-929-3324.

Household hazardous waste collection and mulch sales begin

You've been waiting all winter and now it's finally here: spring cleaning. Chatham County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection takes place on the third Saturday of each month through November from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at the County Waste Management Facility. The facility is located on County Landfill Road off of Highway 64 between Pittsboro and Siler City. Motor oil, antifreeze, cleaning chemicals, solvents and degreasers, batteries, latex and oil-based paint, paint thinner, swimming pool chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can be toxic, so cart 'em on in. When bringing materials to the dump, they should be labeled in their original containers and placed inside a cardboard box lined with newspaper. If you have questions about whether or not a material is hazardous please call before coming. Also, mulch is for sale at the Management Facility each Saturday from 7:30 am-12:00 noon as long as supplies last. The cost is \$7.00 per cubic yard and the mulch will be loaded for you! Questions! Visit www.chathamrecycles.com or call 919-542-5516.



They're roaring with delight

The Carnivore Preservation Trust (CPT) in Pittsboro, has announced the hiring of a new

executive director, Margaret E. Tunstall. She has been hired to fill the void left by founder Dr. Michael Alan Bleyman's death in 1996. As always, CPT welcomes volunteers for a variety of tasks, including helping to finish the inside of their new Veterinary and Education Center. Call 919-542-4684.

The Return of Astoria?

A hearing will take place April 27 to determine what impact on streams and wetlands may occur in order to construct a golf course/residential community on the Harris tract on Big Woods Rd. (property formerly known as the Astoria development project). The hearing was called for by the Haw River Assembly because of concerns about the development's impact on Jordan Lake. This is a public hearing by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality on the Blue Green Corporation's application for 401 Water Quality Certification. It will take place at 7 pm in the Chatham County District Courtroom (Annex, 2nd floor) in Pittsboro.

The same government body is holding another meeting in Pittsboro about water quality. It's one of four public meetings to hear public comments on the new Cape Fear River Basin Water Quality plan. The Pittsboro meeting will cover local tributaries of the upper Cape Fear including the Haw, Rocky and Deep rivers. Call DWQ, 733-5083 ext. 360 to get a copy of the plan ahead of time. It will take place April 25 at 7 pm in the Agricultural Building, 45 South St. in Pittsboro.

Come get lost in another century

The House in the Horseshoe is having its Spring Living History Day, April 30 from noon until 5 pm. There will be 18th century living history demonstrations of pottery, blacksmithing, brick-making, chair-making, woodworking, leather craft and more. A spinner and weaver will also be on site. Militia demonstrations and tours of the house will be offered throughout the day. Admission is free. Allen & Son Barbecue will have refreshments for sale during the day. This State Historic Site is located 10 miles north of Carthage on the Caribton-Carthage Road, or you can drive 11 miles west of Sanford on NC 42 and turn south on SR 1621 at Caribton. For more information call Bill Thompson at 910-947-2051.

Calling for historical mementos and memories

The Chatham County Historical Association Museum in the Court House at Pittsboro is currently showing a display of old hand-forged farm implements and tools, along with some early

cobbler's tools. The items were loaned by T.L. "Snuffy" Smith of Pittsboro, who has collected them from various farms around Chatham County. The Museum is open Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm. The Association is anxious to preserve the heritage and history of Chatham County. They would sincerely appreciate hearing from anyone with old photos, articles, or memories to share with them.

Elevate yourself

Registration for Spring 2000 Continuing Education Classes for the Chatham campus of Central Carolina Community College is available. For more information call 919-542-6495.

Sing in praise of Deep River Park

The Deep River Park Association invites folks to two spring events. On April 30, there will be The Community Sing on the Camelback Bridge at Deep River Park at 7 pm. Each group or individual sings one or two songs. Bring comfortable yard chairs and enjoy a good old fashioned evening of old time music and singing. Directions: Highway #421 to Cumnock Road; go two miles to Bridge. Look for Camelback Bridge signs on Highway #421. And on May 6, the 6th Deep River Park Spring Celebration is from 9:30 am to 4 pm. There will be crafts, canoe rides, music, food, rope making and pony rides. For more information call 919-898-4814.



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Fore!

The Chatham Education Foundation will host the Eighth Annual Education Golf Classic on Friday, April 14 at Siler City Country Club. The proceeds will be used to enhance the quality public school education in Chatham County. A golden putter, a Buick Century (to the player making a hole-in-one) and a variety of other prizes will be awarded. Golfers of every skill level are invited to play. Player registration is a \$100 tax deductible donation. Tee and green sponsorship can be obtained for a donation of \$100 each. Registration forms and sponsorship information can be obtained by contacting the Foundation at 919-542-0024.



More briefs and announcements, pg. 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

3M railway threatens Moncure residents

Nothing is more aggravating than a solicitor calling during supper—and even more troubling is one calling to buy your land to put in a railway. That's how I was introduced to the Chatham County Commissioners' 3M Grant Proposal.

Very deceptive tactics have been used by CSX, the railroad company that operated the Pittsboro-Moncure area line, intent on rebuilding the abandoned railway to serve the 3M plant. The common sentiment of the landowners who attended a recent community meeting was against a railway on their land and they did not want to sell. Other Moncure residents felt deceived; they met a year ago with the Parks & Recreation department which was planning on using the abandoned railway in Moncure for a walking trail.

Once I reviewed a copy of the Grant Proposal, I found 3M had included \$3.2 million of their funds to create a railway—using an abandoned railway line that extends from their acreage, through our neighboring land, seven miles through Moncure to connect at a main rail line. Also in their budget was \$6 million in "contingencies," or potentially "buyout funds." (Copies of the two mandatory public notices were also in the Grant Proposal, tiny columns back in the Lien Notices section of the paper.)

I became very concerned that the railway experience Gulf had last year would re-occur in Moncure. I spent the next days pursuing the state rail division, wildlife division, attorneys to find out what we as landowners could expect and how to protect ourselves, since our local

elected officials would not.

At this point, we believe it is imperative that the state NOT fund the \$600,000 Grant Proposal submitted by the Chatham County Commissioners' Office (on behalf of 3M). In providing these funds, we believe 3M will proceed with the railway development against the protest of the landowners/residents.

The following is a list of the negative impacts we as landowners/residents/schoolchildren face with this railway proposal:

Railroad crossing arms and signal bells will need to be installed: (1) in quiet, inhabited areas where the rail line crosses Charlie Brooks Rd, Moncure-Pittsboro Rd, Gum Springs Church Rd., Jordan Dam Rd., and Old US 1 Rd.; and (2) on private land where the rail line crosses several private drives

Some dangers include:

(1) Many homes, businesses, churches, and Moncure Elementary School are within 100 feet of the railbed, posing safety and health concerns.

(2) Limited vision on these roads reduces safe stopping time at railway crossings

(3) Drastically reduced land/home values

(4) Impact will be costly to small businesses who are in the path of the abandoned railroad and would have limited access by customers or access to the roadway.

(5) Reduced classroom concentration at Moncure Elementary School: adding train whistles rumbling rock transporting in train cars, visible and audible from their classroom, will foster a poor educational setting and will further detract from a quality learning experience.

(6) Risk of fire throughout the line: sparks

thrown from railways are historical, in both Lee county and in Moncure, for starting wildfires. With no fire hydrants in the area and reduced volunteer firefighting members, the area is at risk for being burned out. Plus, the mining operation would reduce our aquifers and prevent us from using our wells to fight fires on our land.

(7) Wildlife/domestic animal endangerment: many residents have outdoor animals/farms that would be endangered by having a railway built on land that is customary for the animals to run on; also, with our high deer and turkey population, many wildlife animals that have their runs crossing across or running down the abandoned bed will be endangered if a railway is built.

(8) Increased problems with traffic flow and evacuation routes: the crossings at these highly traveled roads would have private drives/businesses blocked as vehicles wait at the crossings.

(9) Noise pollution levels increased: in a rural area as ours, we don't consider this industrial noise to be a "neighborly" way to conduct business. The noise levels would impact residents, tourists, and animals/livestock that currently exist in our area.

We are including a list of signatures from area residents/schoolchildren who are opposing this railway proposal and delivering this message to the Department of Environment, Health, Natural Resources who are now in the 30-day review process of the proposal. Time is critical—please contact them at 919-733-3833 and express your concerns.

Patti Dukes
Moncure

VOICE YOUR OPINION!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: EDITOR, PO Box 1685, PITTSBORO, NC 27312, OR YOU MAY EMAIL THEM TO: EDITORS@CHATHAMCROSSROADS.ORG.

LETTERS MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER IN ORDER TO BE PUBLISHED.

In each of us are words for the stage

By DEBORAH R. MEYER

Something dramatic is afoot.

A national theater company, StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance, is creating a play with Chatham County residents that will be performed on April 30 at 2 pm at the Senior Center in Pittsboro.

Creating a play? Doesn't one rehearse a play that someone else has written? Ordinarily, but there is nothing ordinary about this project or the theater artists who are producing it.

The play, "Wave When You Pass," which centers on notions of home, is being created from the stories and movements of the Chatham County residents drawn to the project and by UNC students taking a class in Oral Traditions. Taught by StreetSigns' founder and artistic director Derek Goldman, the course specifically focuses on Chatham's history and current events. Goldman moved the eight-year-old Center to north Chatham in August of 1999 when he was hired as a professor of performance at UNC. Other members of the Center moved here as well.

StreetSigns' members were attracted to the strong cultural history of Chatham at once. Lynn Johnson, StreetSigns' institute director said, "The more we read and talked to people, the more fascinated we were by all the changes that are occurring here and how residents are handling those changes. As theater artists we are particularly interested in all the stories people have to tell, especially the community's older residents."

Soon after their arrival, StreetSigns received funding from the Carolina Center for Public Service at UNC which allowed them to start exploring the ways that performance can be used to bridge the gap between communities and initiate valuable dialogue between individuals.

But how does a new group find its way into a community and make itself and its goals and methods known?

The Center's interest in older residents of Chatham led them to contact the Chatham County Council on Aging and get its recommendation on who in the community they should contact to talk to about StreetSigns. Johnson added names to this list as she met more and more people in the community. The time was ripe. Johnson, and Peter Carpenter,

StreetSigns' resident choreographer, decided the best way to introduce themselves to the community was to throw a party. On the last Tuesday in February, they cooked up a mess of spaghetti in the Senior Center's kitchen, served up plates piled high with food and voiced their hellos. Everybody who came—

and there were young and old from Pittsboro, from Silk Hope and a few places in-between—ate, and then settled in to listen to the aforementioned UNC students read from their works-in-progress that expressed their thoughts about home and Chatham County.

Dianne Ames McLaughlin, who works for the Chatham County Council on Aging, was in the audience that night. "It was very touching as the students spoke to us about home and about Chatham County. I felt a very strong

// ...doing this has made me realize I am even more interested than I thought in people's opinions. //

— Dianne Ames McLaughlin



PHOTO BY LYNN JOHNSON

Lena Aloumari, working on movements to spell out her name, makes an L.

link. I would say they were creating for me a sense that there are a lot of people out there that share the same feelings I have. A link with humanity."

Since that StreetSigns' debut, Johnson and Carpenter have been meeting at the Senior Center every Tuesday night from 6-8 pm and working with every Chatham resident who walked through the door.

"We are up. We do a lot of movement and acting exercises and then we sit down with paper and pencil," explained Johnson. We throw out different starters. One evening we did an exercise with writing poetry. You think about your favorite object in the house and write down 10-15 words that automatically come to mind about it. Then write a poem about the object that doesn't include any of those words. Then you hopefully get some-

thing metaphoric and symbolic."

Roy Barnes, who works at Chatham Together!, a youth mentor program, has participated in these evenings with StreetSigns. "It is the most exciting thing I've seen in Chatham for kids in my 10 years here. It made me want to tell kids about it," said Barnes who during one acting exercise became a radio, replete with dials on his chest.

One kid who doesn't have to be told about it is Lena Aloumari, 9, of Pittsboro. Being a part of the project has taught her a lot about expressing her feelings. "When you think about your feelings then you can know what is right," said Aloumari. She said she has also learned how to have a big voice in front of crowds and not to be shy—a great experience for a girl who already knows her life's work

See PLAY, Page 7

When the rabbit rescued Chatham

Fred J. Vatter has joined Chatham Crossroads as a contributor and will be writing regularly about the rich history of Chatham County.

Many folks who read about Crystal Williams' rabbit farm in the last issue of Chatham Crossroads may not realize that it is an example of history moving in a complete circle.

From the 1880s through the early 1920s the shipment of dressed wild rabbits for human



FRED VATTER

consumption occupied an important place in Chatham County's economy. After the Civil War and Reconstruction, farmers, tenants and sharecroppers alike, suffered from a shortage of money, low prices for produce, high taxes, decreasing land values, and exhausted soil. During 1889 the Chatham County Farmer's Alliance told the North Carolina General Assembly that almost every farmer was depressed, many were disheartened, labor was unremunerative, land values were depreciating, and that there was a growing disposition among farmers to abandon the farm and seek other employment.

A big break came in 1884 when the railroad came through western Chatham County. Now instead of dining on rabbits and selling skins for three cents each, local folks could ship dressed rabbits from stations along the railroad to markets as far away as Baltimore and New York. In some instances, trapping rabbits became a way for young farm boys to supplement their families' meager income. Some New York restaurants proudly featured "Chatham Rabbit" on their menus.

The rabbits were dressed by removing the internal organs and packing them in wooden barrels for shipment. These shipments were seasonal, from early November through January, and the only refrigeration was provided by Mother Nature.

Siler City soon became the major shipping point for rabbits within both Chatham County and the state. There were five dealers in town, the most important appears to have been W.J. Durham, who established his business in 1895 on the west side of South Chatham Avenue. In the fall of 1914 Mr. Durham advertised in the Siler City Grit as follows:

"Dear Boys:
The rabbit season is here again and I am ready to buy. I want your rabbits and

Chatham's Historical Heritage

BY FRED J. VATTER

will pay you every cent for them that I can afford to pay. I have a nice present for every boy who sells me his rabbits. Bring them along and I will treat you right."

The likeness of a rabbit appeared at the top of his advertisement.

Wade H. Hadley, Jr. has reported that newspaper records indicate that by the end of the 1904-05 season, about 40,000 rabbits had been sold at Siler City at an average price of eight cents each. This figure does not include thousands of rabbits shipped from four other stations in western Chatham. By the 1911-12 season, the Siler City Grit reported that these west-

Can you help the Chatham County Historical Association identify this iron item?

It is roughly the size of a large steamer trunk and was acquired by T.L. "Snuffy" Smith at a local farm auction. The massive item may have been used at one of the region's early iron works or mills.

indirectly made an even bigger contribution to the county than the good sheriff could have imagined. Just as the white rabbit led Alice to Wonderland, the Chatham rabbit may have led a major employer to Pittsboro.

In the autumn of 1919, a New York businessman named A.C. Kluge, who was engaged in the manufacturing of garment labels, asked the publishers of "Outing," a sportsman's magazine, for a location in the south where he could find good quail and rabbit shooting. Consequently, he was put in touch with the Chatham County game warden, Walker Hanks, and was invited to visit Chatham. Kluge came and was hosted by Squire R.H. Burns in Pittsboro, and he hunted in the area for several reasons. When an associate expressed the idea of opening a plant in the south, Mr. Kluge indicated that it be located in Pittsboro.

The mill opened in Pittsboro in 1925, and produced silk and cotton woven labels for most major garment manufacturers. Eventually, the mill employed 215 people and was once described as the world's largest woven label factory. Operations continued until the 1990s



ern Chatham sources accounted for about 39,800 rabbits.

The emergence of the lowly rabbit as a major commodity of Chatham was cause for considerable humor in other parts of the state. The Chatham Record of February 14, 1884 reported that a prominent Raleigh merchant had been engaged in a friendly conversation with a country man. After they parted, his associates inquired about the identity of his companion. He replied that he didn't know the man's name but knew the fellow was from Chatham because "his breath smelt of fried rabbit and corn whiskey."

In the fall of 1907 the Chatham Record quoted Sheriff Miliken as saying, "People treat our rabbits as a joke, but really the cottontail forms a big item in the economy of our county."

A dozen years later, the rabbit may have

when changing technology and overseas competition forced management to close the mill. The buildings now serve as a business park.

Meanwhile, our native Chatham cottontails now munch contentedly on my flower garden while their domesticated cousins have replaced them in the restaurant trade.

Fred J. Vatter is President of the Chatham County Historical Association, an organization for which he is also a board member and museum curator. He co-authored the script for the Association's video, "The Land Beneath the Waters." It tells the story of life in the New Hope Valley before the lake was formed in the 1980s. He also contributed to the writing of the Association's pamphlet "Historic Chatham County."



"Snuffy" Smith of Pittsboro holds some hand-forged hinges which are part of his collection of old farm implements and tools currently displayed at the Chatham County Historical Association's Museum in the Pittsboro Court House.

Please recycle this newspaper



Fifth annual Farm Tour

The Piedmont tour features 25 farms in Chatham and Orange Counties including 12 new sites this year. The tours are self-guided. You pick your route. All proceeds support the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's work to promote sustainable farming, marketing, and consuming in the Carolinas.

Date: April 29-30

Time: 1-5 pm

Sponsors: Weaver Street Market, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, The Independent Weekly, and Body Billboards.

Advanced Button Sales: (Buttons are \$20 if bought in advance and are for the carload you are bringing. If you are only

going to visit a few farms, you can pay \$5 per farm.) Weaver Street Market, CFSA office (13 Hillsboro St., Suites 5 & 8), Pittsboro General Store Café, Hillsborough Market, and Harmony Farms through April 23. Buttons and maps can be bought the two days of the tour at any participating farm.

Pick-up maps: CFSA, Carrboro and area farmers' markets, Harmony Farms, Carolina Inn, Wellspring Groceries, Weaver Street Market, Durham Food Co-op, Acme Restaurant, Grassroots Press, and Remy's Market.

For more information: Tony Kleese, 919-542-2402.

I can smell the earth on the tomatoes!

Farm Tour offers chance to learn where your food was born

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Tulips bursting open in brilliant shades of red and yellow. Pleasant smells wafting about fresh parsley and rosemary. Wholesome fruits and vegetables overflowing from wooden crates. Ahh, the sights, smells, and tastes that spring and summer

bring. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you knew exactly where these wonderful sights and smells came from? With so many supermarkets and express lanes we tend to forget that fresh produce, flowers, meat and dairy products don't magically appear in our grocery carts.

A great way to learn about local agriculture is to participate in the 5th Annual Piedmont Farm Tour on April 29th and 30th from 1 to 5 pm. Leah Cook, of Maple Spring Gardens in Chatham County, said the Farm Tour has served as a link between the people and the land. "I think it is very important for people to understand where their food is coming from, and the amount of time and effort that farmers put into growing the food," she said.

What many people don't understand is that farming is not just a job or a hobby, but a way of life. Two people who can certainly account for that are Fleming and Britt Pfann, who own the Celebrity Dairy just outside of

Siler City. "We have over 80 goats, that makes it pretty hard to just pick up and leave for a weekend," said Britt.

After spending some time with Britt, it wasn't hard to see that running a farm, like taking care of a baby, is a never-ending task, but nevertheless extremely fulfilling. At 6:00 pm Britt prepares to milk the goats. First, he makes his way over to the freezer where he loads up about eight, six-gallon containers of goat's milk onto a rolling cart. The cart is

then rolled over to a large, silver basin that stands about four feet tall. This is the pasteurizer. After pouring almost 50 gallons of goat's milk into the basin, Britt then prepares milk and feed for about 40 baby goats. Once the young ones are feeding, Britt gets the equipment ready to milk about 20 goats. It is now close to 7:00 and the milking hasn't even begun. By the time everything is cleaned up it will probably be after

9:00 pm. Fleming, Britt's wife, will be up with the next morning's sun in order to set up her stand at the Carrboro Farmer's Market, where she will sell an assortment of fresh, young goat cheese. Since it was Britt's turn to stay up late milking the goats, he gets to sleep until 6:30 am, if he's lucky.

The Celebrity Dairy is one of the 25 farms being featured on the Farm Tour. Britt feels that the Farm Tour has done an excellent job of making people aware of the local farmers in the community. He said it also serves as an



Everyone makes friends on the farm tour!



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF CAROLINA FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Discover Chatham County farms and the bounty they have to offer you.

opportunity to educate people on ways they can support the farming community and preserve farm land.

Farmer's markets are a great way to support local agriculture. Chatham County has markets in Pittsboro and Fearington Village, and the Carrboro Farmer's Market is infused with many Chatham County goods. These markets offer a wealth of produce, herbs, flowers, baked goods, and much more, all locally grown and prepared.

I recently made a visit to the Carrboro Farmer's Market. The morning was perfect. The sun was shining, and a cool breeze was blowing. As I strolled through the market, I couldn't help stopping at each stand to take a peak at the treasures it held—fresh blueberry muffins, bunches of daffodils, wide varieties of leafy lettuce, plump tomatoes, and hand-carved bird feeders. People of all ages were making their way through the market. There was a sense of warm fellowship, as the farmers greeted their regulars by name and the newcomers with a friendly smile and hello.

Wilma Hanton, of Hanton's Gardens in North Hillsborough, has been setting up her stand at the market since it first started. She brings fresh herbs and sometimes wildflowers into Carrboro every Saturday morning.

Wilma thinks that the difference between the produce sold at the Farmer's Market and the produce at grocery stores is the variety and freshness. She said, "Here you have a much better selection, and it's all freshly picked the day before, unlike at the grocery store, where some of the produce has been on the shelf for more than a day, rotting from the excessive amounts of water they use."

I left the Farmer's Market with a bouquet of tulips, some beautiful, ripe tomatoes and my mouth watering from the aroma and sights of fresh produce, herbs, and warm breads.

I encourage the people of Chatham County and the surrounding areas to load up a car full of friends and family, take the Farm Tour and discover the vast number of local farms that are ready and will-

ing to supply the community with the ultimate in quality produce. Also make it part of your weekly routine to do all or at least some of your grocery shopping at local Farmer's Markets. Not only, will you be supporting the local farming community and purchasing food grown on Piedmont soil, but it's also a magnificent way to spend time with friends and family and to simply relax.

Elizabeth Williams is a senior at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



Getting to know your local farmers.

Food doesn't grow in the supermarket

Tony Kleese, Executive Director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, on what the Farm Tour is all about:

"I think the foundation of it is that people are disconnected from their food today and it is important for people to understand where their food comes from. You know the person who fixes your teeth, the doctor who maintains your health, but not the person who provides a major factor in your life, food. People think food comes from a grocery store. Currently conventional farming (farming that uses fertilizers and pesticides) is a business that does not make you any money. Conventional farmers are going out

of business primarily because global prices on food are depressed and the safety net when prices are low have been taken away. Free market forces affect all agricultural prices. We love North Carolina partly because it has this pastoral setting to it. If we want to preserve the rural character of our state, we must support our farmers by buying local produce. The only other reason is that most of our food travels 2,000-3,000 miles minimum before it reaches us. It is a proven fact that food begins to degrade the minute it comes out of the ground, the nutritional value is less. It is important to have local supplies of food."

When I think of spring and summer vegetables, I always think of my grandmother's summer casserole recipe. This is very easy to make and it may even get children to eat squash. For this dish, the fresher the vegetables the better. When I go home, my grandmother still makes this for me.

— Elizabeth Williams

Summer Casserole

FROM THE KITCHEN OF BETTY LEWIS OF ROCKY POINT, N.C.

preheat oven to 350 degrees grease 2 qt. casserole dish

2 medium to large zucchini squash, thinly sliced
2 medium to large yellow squash, thinly sliced
1 large onion, thinly sliced (use a milder flavored onion)
2 medium to large tomatoes, thinly sliced
2 tsp. basil (2 fresh leaves chopped)
salt and pepper to taste
1/3 stick butter, melted
1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
2 cups bread crumbs

Layer sliced vegetables in the same order as written above. Sprinkle basil, salt and pepper over the vegetables. Sprinkle cheese and then top with bread crumbs. Last, drizzle the melted butter over the casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until the juices are bubbling and breadcrumbs are golden brown.

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Chatham Teens

Welcome to the first installment of the Teen Page, a new feature that we hope will become a place for local teens to share their insights, concerns and visions with each other and the rest of the Chatham community. This issue's content is brought to you by Heidi Yates, an English teacher at Northwood, and the names of her students you see on the bylines below. Though Heidi supervised the students in writing these articles, the thoughts expressed here belong to the students alone. If teachers or teens at other schools would like to contribute to future editions of the Teen Page, please call 545-9561 or email editors@chathamcrossroads.com.

Q: What is the biggest problem in this school?

A: Keith Constable, sophomore: "People going around asking stupid questions like that."

A: Jamie Snipes, senior: "On campus smoking! Teenagers have fallen victim to smoking. We need to try to stop people from smoking on campus. It's violating the rights of students who don't smoke."

A: Anonymous sophomore: "School conditions us to aim low in life. It should offer more classes that prepare us for college. There is no school spirit because we have absolutely nothing to be proud of."

A: Anonymous freshman: "Smoking and fighting. Nonsmokers can't use the bathrooms because they come out smelling like smoke. Gossip, jealousy and hatred cause all the fighting. The result is it disturbs class, we'll have less privileges and we won't have Peace-Unity Day."

A: Anonymous teacher: "Students who say that they aren't being challenged or prepared for college. School is what you make of it. Teachers are here to challenge students, but most of the students do not want to be challenged."

Q: What are some of the good things about Northwood?

A: Anita Alston and Erin Haines, sophomores: "Sports, clubs, break, and the teachers. There is always an activity that we can participate in. Plus, we appreciate that the teachers at Northwood try to help the students."

What is happening to the modern day music industry?

BY: ANDREW CARTER, 10TH GRADE

The music industry of the twentieth century is hollow. Today, record companies are only out for profit and too many people are producing records seeking only personal fame and glory – not for the love of the music or for any more important reason, but for themselves. The problem is basically this: the record companies and media are only out to make money, largely because the artists have lost their purpose, and as a result, the listener is forged into a piece of work that the powerful wish to create.

Record companies can be credited with most of the problem. Now more than ever, they seek only money in their pockets. They only want to support an artist who can get a quick popular single or two out on the market. They don't care about backing their artists and letting them do their job. They no longer support the diversity and creativity of music and the musician. They have truly made it an industry, where they manufacture identical little products – Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Backstreet Boys, and N'Sync. Now granted, not all of the latest mainstream records are quite so monistic. Many great albums have been produced by groups such as Korn, Limp Bizkit, Creed, and Orgy, Third Eye Blind and Matchbox 20. Also, some of the great bands of previous years such as Pearl Jam and Metallica have made good records in the mainstream. However, these groups are losing their support from record companies.

Not only record companies but also the other media groups who influence what we listen to are contributing to this problem. The radio, television, and magazines no longer support the diversity and free will of good music. MTV, the radio stations, and big magazines like Rolling Stone and Spin have unfortunately become sickly monistic. They are influenced only by the people who generate their income – the record

companies. It is this kind of unrestrained power that has caused such great destruction in the past. Now, the music industry can hardly be compared with real destruction, but in a way it is sort of what is happening – listeners are fooled into supporting only what they produce. It is a sort of musical disaster.

The modern day pop artist is the result of this change. I don't want this to be an anti-pop campaign because in the past there have been some great pop musicians who have made some truly great records (Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston). But the modern pop artist is the epitome of a self-absorbed, shallow and uncaring, trendy fame-seeker. The music being generated by the mainstream record companies (mostly pop) is really at the present mostly sterile and degenerate. We have seen too many groups or solo artists whose records are so sickeningly congruent that we have tricked ourselves into liking them. The modern artists have taken over the music industry with their fake appeal. None of the artists who have gotten famous in the last few years have really been in it for the music. They have only been lucky mediocrities who just want to be famous. The artists have been shaped and molded into moneymaking sellouts by their producers.

Some examples of these are the quickly declining Britney Spears, who after a few popular hits, seems to be just a passing thought. She can be given at least a little credibility with being the first of this new line of pathetic fame-seekers. Christina Aguilera, Mandy Moore, and Jessica Simpson have all made cheap follow-ups. So sickeningly similar are these artists it seems unreal. Then of course there are the "Boy Bands" such as Backstreet Boys, N'Sync. These

bands and their imitation groups have been for the most part extremely untalented counterfeits who let their producers make them into who they wanted them to be.

Now I appeal to you, the listener, to help stop all this tyranny. Don't just listen to what the big record companies and the media and MTV throw at you. I believe that the average person is more civilized than this, but you are letting the ones in power decide what you like for you. Stop giving the media and producers so much support. There are all kinds of better records being produced by other artists and musicians, especially in rock, alternative, and even rap and country. These are artists who are in it for the music, not the money or fame, and they have a purpose in what they do. They only need your support, so even if you somehow, actually, really do like the stuff being produced

by the big labels right now, just try out something new and you'll probably find that it is a whole lot better than the latest pop production.

Now everything isn't doomed, and I'm not really as pessimistic as I sound, but the music industry really has declined over the last few years and the problem is that we are giving them too much power and control. When they have all this power in their hands, it enables them to seek only

one purpose, money. With their sights set only on making money, they encourage their "artists" to produce only what will bring in big bucks, right then, not what the artist really wants. This in turn, has created artists who only want to get a piece of this big money, their face on a poster, and not someone who feels that they can make the music they want to make and be supported by their producer. Finally, with all this taking place, we end up with a monoculture – mainstream form of music that has really lost the purpose of music and what it is meant for. Then, after constant exposure, the listener itself becomes transformed into a fabricated product at the record companies' disposal.

Northwood: The place to (almost) be

BY: KATIE STUMPF, 10TH GRADE

Northwood students don't care. Most kids at Northwood go to sleep and say, "Wake me up when it's time for my diploma." Unfortunately, the worse off you are, the more everybody wants to hang out with you.

Yeah, that guy who sells crack on the corner? Everybody's got to hang out with him.

That girl that everybody says is "good?" Let's go talk to her.

So what if you're a good student or athlete? So what if you're the only one who doesn't turn into an airhead? I guess you're not important. The truth of the matter is, these good students and athletes will be the ones getting the good jobs. I suppose that if you go out and get drunk every weekend or do drugs at school, everyone likes you.

Northwood kids just don't care. This, I think, is one of the major problems at the

school. Student apathy prevents the kids from enjoying regular high school life. Especially if something good is going on at Northwood, like Peace-Unity Day or the basketball championship. Students see these as a waste of time. This negative attitude leads to general school-wide scorn.

Although it might sound old-fashioned, Northwood is definitely not the place to be simply because the students won't let it be.

Talking About Teens group

meets at the Pittsboro Presbyterian Church on the First and Third Mondays of the month. Facilitated by Katharine Leslie this is an informal group where parents can discuss and share information about adolescent develop-

ment, risk-taking behavior, communication skills, and discipline techniques. The sessions are free and run from 6:30-8:00 PM. Upcoming dates include April 3rd and 17th, and May 1st and 15th. Call Katharine at 542-2037 for more information.

Peace-unity day

BY: ANDY ALLEN, 11TH GRADE

In its third year, Peace-Unity Day is off to its greatest success. With its expanding size, Peace-Unity hopes to become an annual event of non-violence and peace at Northwood High School and in the surrounding community.

Peace-Unity Day is sponsored by the SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Club and was created in 1997-1998. At that time, students at Northwood were riddled with assaults and fights every day. Looking to end this, the SAVE club put their heads together and came up with a three-part points system: (1) a fight-free four weeks to give students five extra minutes at break; (2) a peaceful six weeks to give them a dance; and (3) an eight-week period without a fight to get Peace-Unity Day.

Although the dance was dropped due to lack of interest, the four weeks came by without a hitch and before anyone knew it, it had been a total of thirteen weeks without a fight. The desire for Peace-Unity Day and the fact that students were booing and chanting "No Fights" led to Northwood's longest time period without a fight, a record broken a year later by one more week.

The closer Peace-Unity Day got, the tighter planning became. With thanks to other clubs, the May 21 date went off successfully. At Peace-Unity Day, Future Teachers of America held a hula-hoop contest, Future Farmers of America had a petting zoo, the Spanish Club held a soccer match, and various other clubs held tug-of-war matches. The cultural arts department gave dramatic, dance and choral performances. Art was displayed around the school grounds. In the gym, a three-on-three basketball tournament was held while the another tournament was taking place on the softball field. The art club sold face paintings and tattoos. Pizza was sold by Dominoes Pizza. There were drinks and snacks for all.

Although some students did leave, most stayed for the day ahead.

Given all of its success and the help of Northwood's PTSA, the next year was ready for Peace-Unity Day. A dance and car show were added. There was cotton candy and potato wedges sold by Coach Hall. For SAVE's part, the first year saw a "Cream the Teacher" game, then a "Dunk the Teacher" game the next year, and a raffle both years.

As this year's Peace-Unity Day gears up, SAVE and PTSA are hoping to expand on Peace-Unity Day. Plans are already being made for the petting zoo, dance, and pizza.

The only way for this to happen, however, is for Northwood's students to go another EIGHT weeks without a single fight or assault. It is only up to the students.

Vida

Continued from Page 1

"Me quiero regresar. Mommy, I want to go back home. I don't like it here. Nobody likes me."

"But you are home, your new home."

"No I mean Mexico! I hate it here! I don't want to go to a school that everybody hates me!"

"Nobody hates you: it's just that they don't know you enough yet, so please go back to school, act good and just behave. You'll fit right in."

It's been three months since my mom gave me the little talk. She was right! If I stick with it they will like me. Now I have a lot of friends. My best friend is Tommy. He was the one that chose me to play soccer with him. So, right now I thank my mom.

Today I am sad. I go to the next grade; 1st grade. I'm sad to leave my friends and teacher. I'm moving to a new school. I will miss Tommy. He was my first American friend.

Now I sit in my new first grade chair, but this time I am working on spelling words. I hope I can get some help to study. I have no friends at this school. I hope I can make some new ones.

It's three months into the year. I only made two friends, the teacher and Timmy. I can't really make friends in this grade because I still can't speak much English. All of the kids speak English. I want this year to end fast.

It is graduation day. I am glad. Now I can speak more English. When I get to the new

grade I hope I can make a whole lot of new friends. (It was hard and it took time, but I learned. And I also made more friends.)

Now I'm in second grade. I started the year great! I got 10 friends because of my first grade teacher; she taught me to speak English better. The kids really understand me. I'm getting A's! I also got in trouble. One of my friends told me to say a word and the principal said it was a bad word. I didn't know what it meant. The principal called my mom. I think he isn't my friend. I think he was just using me. Now I only trust my good friends. But I'm moving again. I'm going to North Carolina tomorrow with my parents.

I'm on the plane to North Carolina. We almost missed the plane. My mom said it is a five hour trip. I guess since I didn't get any sleep last night I would get it now.

It's my first day at my new and fourth school. The teacher is really nice. She said we get to play outside for the whole day. When I got out there the kids were playing soccer. I couldn't believe it!; they play soccer on the east side. They play great! I hope I can play. "Excuse me, can I play?" "OK, your on John's team."

Well, that's it. I think I get the language. I think I can get through school now. That's the story of my life till the third grade!

Chris Pacheco is in the 8th grade at North Chatham School. This article was written for a Young Authors Competition at North Chatham School. His Language Arts teacher is Raquel Erman. Thanks to Efrain Ramirez for his help connecting Crossroads with Chris.

Pittsboro home to Royall campers

BY DAVID YELL
Camp Royall Director

In 1972 Mary Lou "Bobo" Warren of Durham decided that her son with autism needed a place to go during the summer. Other camps were unable to provide the supervision and camp environment that would allow her son to have a positive camping experience. So she decided the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) needed to start its own camp. The first summer Mrs. Warren and a few parents took seven campers and spent one week in tents at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland, North Carolina. Over the next 24 summers the camp slowly grew and moved around the state.

In the early 1990's ASNC began its statewide search for the perfect permanent camp location. A 133-acre site located off of Moncure-Pittsboro Road in Chatham County was eventually selected as the site. A committee of parents, professionals, and camp staff worked with architects to design a facility specifically for persons with autism. In May 1997 the dream of Mrs. Warren and many others became a reality. Camp Royall, named after NC Senator Kenneth C. Royall Jr., a longtime supporter of persons with autism and the ASNC, opened as the permanent campsite for children and adults with autism in North Carolina.

Autism is a developmental disability that affects the way people understand the world and relate to people and events. At this time there is no cure for autism. (See "What Is Autism?" box for more.) Persons with autism vary greatly in their abilities and behaviors. While a small percentage of people with autism can live relatively independently, the majority require almost constant and assistance. Prompts, reminders, visual cues, structure, and the use of routines and schedules are typically used when working with folks with autism.

For 10 weeks this summer, May 28-August 4, Camp Royall will come alive with singing, splashing, running, and laughing. Approximately 32 campers each week will enjoy a structured week of typical camp activities, including swimming, boating, crafts, hayrides, hikes, carnivals, dances, campfires and music. One enthusiastic camper exclaimed, "Camp is like the best home ever!"

Students attending colleges and universities from all over the country will come to Camp Royall to learn about autism and to help offer the campers a great camping experience. Each counselor is assigned only one or two campers a week. Counselor Antoine Bailliard, a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, said, "My summer has just



PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER PARKS

The smile on Ricardo Thorpe's face says it all. Ricardo lives in Raleigh.

been one fantastic ride. I have learned unimaginable things about people and myself. I look at life in a whole new way." Many of the summer camp staff will enter into careers in special education, psychology, speech pathology, occupational therapy, medicine, and other human services after their time at Camp Royall.

In addition to offering interested students an invaluable training experience and providing persons with autism with a fun, recreational experience, the ASNC Summer Program accomplishes three additional goals each summer. First, the program provides campers a therapeutic and educational experience. Campers are given the opportunity to improve their self-help skills, communication, social behavior, and independence as well as to learn new skills.

Another function of camp is to provide families a week of respite. Raising a child with autism requires a great amount of physical and emotional energy, attention, and love. One parent commented, "Only those of us who struggle to meet the daily challenge that autism presents to our everyday lives, can truly appreciate the value that one week of respite has on our total family structure."

The last major goal accomplished during the summer at Camp Royall is providing employment opportunities to adults with autism. Last summer over 20 adults worked at camp. Their jobs included maintenance, staffing the dish-washing room, facility cleaning, being assistant counselors, and helping with camp activities. "I love doing this. This is what I want to do with my life," said Warren Croom, an Assistant Counselor last summer.

The ASNC Summer Program is paid for by a



PHOTOGRAPH BY BECKY COBLE

Davidson College graduate Hallie Shinn gives camper Daniel Kliever a lift in the swimming pool. Daniel lives in Chapel Hill.

combination of state funding, private contributions, and camper fees. During the non-summer months Camp Royall tries to offset some of its costs by renting the facilities to outside groups. Churches, businesses, basketball teams, and other groups help keep Camp Royall filled throughout the year.

There are many opportunities for the community to become involved at Camp Royall. Scout troops, churches, and businesses have performed community service projects here. Some people have volunteered by bringing their farm animals out for our "petting zoo." The Pittsboro and Moncure Fire Departments have adorned their full gear and brought their

trucks out for special events. Others volunteer their time by helping out with the campers. Visitors from all over the world come out to observe the program.

On Saturday, April 29 there will be a volunteer workday in conjunction with April's Autism Awareness Month. If you are interested in clearing trails, building benches, and learning more about autism and the camp, this is a great opportunity for it. Please contact Camp Royall Director, David Yell, by email at dyell@autism-society-nc.org, by phone at 919-542-1033, or by mail at Camp Royall, 250 Bill Ash Rd. Moncure, NC 27559 for more information on the workday or other opportunities at Camp Royall. Visitors are always welcome.

If you are interested in receiving additional information on autism or the Autism Awareness Month please contact the state Autism Society of North Carolina office at dlaxton@autismsociety-nc.org or 1-800-442-2762.

David Yell is the director of Camp Royall.

What is autism?



Autism is the third most common developmental disability.

It is a lifelong disability, typically appearing during the first three years of life. Autism affects the functioning of the brain, and occurs in approximately 15 of every 10,000 births. There are no prenatal indicators and a diagnosis is based on observation and evaluation by trained professionals. Autism is four times more common in boys than girls. It is conservatively estimated that there are nearly 15,000 individuals with autism in North Carolina.

Individuals with autism often have difficulty processing information and communicating with others. Other characteristics may include echolalia, the repeating of words or phrases, unusual body movements such as rocking or hand flapping, and a need for sameness and routine in their daily lives. People with autism may have a fascination with objects such as string or a particular toy. Also, people with autism can appear deaf or aloof in social situations.

"He sees the world differently"

Catherine Jones describes learning how to parent a child with autism

BY DEBORAH R. MEYER

The birth of James, now age 6, was Catherine Jones' 40th birthday present to herself. The Chatham County resident had her hands full from the time James could walk. "He was up and running at 10 months. We called him spider man. He ran, and jumped and climbed at an early age," said Jones, also the mother of 14-year-old Sarah. She is married to Jimmy Jones of Apex.

But James' language skills weren't keeping up with his boyish energy and at the age of two, his pediatrician noticed his language skills weren't developing. "He was only saying a handful of words, which is not normal for a two-year old. There were other things. Social indications. He wouldn't look at me for approval, or to see if I was watching. He was lining up his toys, arranging them instead of playing with them. There was a lack of creative play," explained Jones.

James' pediatrician directed them to the Center for Development and Learning at UNC-Chapel Hill. "They were so nice. It is quite frightening but they cushioned it as much as they could. They said James was developmentally delayed with autistic characteristics. I carried around that big mouthful of a diagnosis for a while before I could say the words, 'my son has autism.'" said Jones. "It is tough to say it for the first time." She said it took her over a year after doing a lot of research and learning what autism was before she could say the words.

In that year Jones went to a mother's support group and to family training. She took the list of available autism resources and dug in. She learned about home teaching, communication and behavior management and about advocacy. She took advantage of the parent mentor program that is offered by the TEACCH program (see box). The mentor is someone who has

already been there. "I reached out. Now, after all I have learned and been through, I am on the other end and try to help families that have been recently diagnosed. I am a mentor and resource person. I never thought I would know all about this," said Jones.

Most people don't, she said. They may have some idea what autism is because of the Dustin Hoffman movie "Rain Man" or know someone who has an autistic relative. "When you get a diagnosis of autism for your child, you just think you have been cursed. It is really not like that but it certainly is a challenge."

Jones referred to a piece of a packet that the Wake County Autism Unit distributes which basically tries to get across that if you spend your life mourning over the autism diagnosis, you may never be free to enjoy the very special things about your child.

"It is very touching to read. I do find it to be true. My child is different but there's a lot of joy in raising him. I can't imagine him any other way. I picture the future and hope he continues to learn and develop. I have been very fortunate to get a lot of early intervention services for him," said Jones.

The motto for National Autism Awareness Month in April is 'Early Detection Improves Lives.'

"It changes lives too. James was diagnosed at two and half. You go through a sadness of really not knowing what is going to happen with his life or how it will change your life. Personally, I jumped in with both feet, got on the phone, and I read everything I could to find out what I should do. That has changed my life because I know a lot about autism. I am his advocate. That is some of the best advice I got early on from a friend," said Jones.

An advocate means that Jones is the one on James' side that knows what services such as therapies, teachers, and supports that he needs to be able to succeed because he learns things differently. "He sees the world differently. I have to understand how to make it easier for our family," said Jones.

Besides being an advocate for her son, Jones

has helped other members of the Chatham community whose children have autism whether to speak out at meetings on their behalf or be a shoulder to lean on.

"My child is different but there's a lot of joy in raising him. I can't imagine him any other way."

— Catherine Jones

have an autistic child, you are busy, but it is not forgotten," said Jones.

What Jones would like to accomplish is to find out what is needed in Chatham and how the group can be an advocate for autism in the community. "I would like to donate books about autism at all age levels to all the schools in Chatham County. It would raise awareness. It is difficult for autistic children to be mainstreamed and for typical children to understand that autistic children are different but also alike in that they have strengths. An autistic child may not understand pretend play or play soccer but he can be a whiz on the computer. He may not

be able to eat in the cafeteria but he can maybe climb to the top of the play equipment faster than anybody. When a typical child doesn't understand James, I say he doesn't talk much but he likes to play. That is my son." Jones explains that older children, like the age of her daughter Sarah, can understand the more complex issues of autism, including some of the medical ones like sensory processing or genetic research.

Jones said it is hard to know how many people in Chatham have autistic family members because not everyone joins ASNC. "I wish they would because we would have a better idea of how many there are which would help with obtaining state funding and mental health funding." Jones does estimate that there are between 30 and 60 families in Chatham living with autistic family members.

Meanwhile, Jones works hard at being the best advocate she can be for James, her family and the people she comes across dealing with the many issues of autism. And like any parent, she breathes a sigh of relief when her child goes off to camp, like James did last summer to Camp Royall. There were days to herself to listen to the graceful peace of a house absent of boyishness.

"He had a wonderful time. He went on Sunday and came home on Friday. I tried to prepare him with lots of cards and pictures. I made a picture schedule. I went to camp and made pictures and took one of his cabin bed. I made five copies, one for each night, and he could tear one off each day and put it in an envelope. I wanted James to understand that he would be coming home in five days," said Jones. James came home and once again, the house was filled with the light and the joy a young child showers upon a home.

You can e-mail Catherine Jones at catjones@dotsafe.net

Deborah R. Meyer is the publication coordinator of Chatham Crossroads.

Center for autistic adults thrives in Pittsboro

By DEBORAH R. MEYER

The Carolina Living and Learning Center (CLLC) is located on 79 acres of land just north of Pittsboro. By all appearances, it is a typical farm. There are two homes on the parcel bustling with their occupants' daily routines, gardens of vegetables, herbs and flowers poking through to greet the sun, and folks dotting the landscape, some with their hands working the soil, or raking leaves. The whir of a lawnmower is not a foreign sound. Surplus produce is sold at the local farmers' markets.

So what is so special about this

place that over 300 visitors a year come to visit and absorb the atmosphere at CLLC and leave, often in awe? The Carolina Living and Learning Center is an integrated vocational and residential training program for adults with autism. According to its director, Mary E. Van Bourgondien, Ph.D., there are few others like it in the world.

"Back in the early '80s, a mental health study commission decided that the state of North Carolina needed more options on the continuum of services with adults with autism," explained Van Bourgondien. The commission realized there was not a lot going on in

the state either residentially or vocationally for people with autism. TEACCH (see box), part of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, established in 1971, was right down the road and so a plan was made to create the CLLC to have a place to put TEACCH's principles, already at use in the classroom and home, to work in another environment.

"We are a farming state and members of TEACCH, parents of the adults with autism and committee members from the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities thought it would be appropriate to have a farm," explained Van Bourgondien.

With a goal to be within 15 miles of the university, the land north of Pittsboro was purchased and a new avenue opened up in the annals of autism history with the creation of the CLLC in 1990. This summer the camp will celebrate its 10-year anniversary.

The CLLC currently has one home for five adults and a second home for 10 adults with autism. Communication skills, social, leisure and vocational skills, self-help, domestic and cooking skills are addressed in activities both at the CLLC and in the community. Utilizing the Structured Teaching techniques developed by Division

TEACCH, each resident is provided with an individualized treatment plan designed to meet his or her unique needs, explained Van Bourgondien.

"In the world, there is nothing else quite like it that utilizes these teaching principles for adults with autism," said Van Bourgondien.

If you ever have reason to visit the CLLC you too will leave with a sense of awe and appreciation for this multi-faceted jewel that sits quietly but oh so productively in Chatham County's crown.

Deborah R. Meyer is publication coordinator of Chatham Crossroads.

The CLLC hires individuals who are interested in learning more about autism and who have skills and interests in recreation, farming, or landscaping. Individuals interested in full-time or part-time employment should contact Tom Wiebe at <Wiebe@email.unc.edu> or at 919-542-1910.

The CLLC also provides training to professionals who are interested in applying the TEACCH methods in their work with adults

with autism in residential and/or vocational settings. A week-long training course that combines didactic information with hands-on training with adults with autism is offered each fall. This year's training will be held in Pittsboro, NC from October 2 to October 6, 2000. Contact Alice Wertheimer, Training Coordinator for Division TEACCH at 919-966-4126 for information. For more information about the CLLC call 919-542-1910.

What is TEACCH?

Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication handicapped Children and adults), of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provides clinical and diagnostic services to individuals with autism and their families through seven regional centers

across North Carolina. TEACCH staff work with individuals, families, school classrooms, and residential facilities to prevent unnecessary institutionalization of persons with autism. TEACCH is internationally recognized as a leader in autism treatment and research. The Division of TEACCH website address is <http://www.unc.edu/depts/teacch/> and its phone # is 919-966-5156.

What is the ASNC?

The Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) is a parent support organization, founded in 1970, offering an array of programs and direct services. Supported by over 1,200 members, the ASNC publishes a quarterly

newsletter, offers advocacy, information and referral, public education, a resource center, media relations, residential options, vocational options, and recreational programming. The ASNC bookstore is the largest autism-specific bookstore in America, with nearly 200 titles in inventory.

Additional information about autism and the programs of ASNC are available free of charge to NC residents. To receive a packet, please call ASNC toll-free at 1-800-442-2762 or visit the Society's website at <www.autismsociety-nc.org> The mailing address of the ASNC is 505 Oberlin Road,

Suite 230, Raleigh, NC 27605-1345, tel: 919-743-0204, fax: 919-743-0208.

Information in this box was provided by the ASNC which is a United Way agency and receives funding from local United Way offices across the state, the North Carolina legislature, foundation grants, private contributions, and memberships.

Teachers

Continued from Page 1

career in Chatham County would receive approximately \$620 less than one starting in Wake County but consider how that compensation gap widens over 10, 15, 20 years to nearly \$ 4,300. One issue not addressed in this survey is the impact of recruitment bonuses paid by school systems.

Twenty percent of Chatham County teachers are planning to retire by 2004. For many that will not seem too surprising since the oldest Baby Boomers reach 61 this year. At the same time, the survey reveals that some of our schools face the retirement of more than 40% of their teachers. The survey does not address, but does reinforce the potentially damaging effect the state retirement system is and will have on retaining our most experienced teachers.

Here is an illustration. A Chatham County teacher with 21 years of experience (a gemstone in any school system) has plans to retire in four years. A neighboring school system is currently offering \$ 4,100 more in annual supplement than Chatham County. In addition, our teacher is offered a \$3,000 specialty bonus. Fortunately for our county, their daily work commute would be increased 53 miles and they do not like driving. In addition, our teacher very much likes their current school and colleagues.

Now add to the formula the fact that the state retirement formula is based on the teacher's highest paying four years of employ. Their projected annual pension payments will be \$2,900-\$3,400 a year more if they take the position in the other school system. With help of an actuarial table, our teacher multiplies

Teacher Retention Survey 2000 Results

- 20 percent will retire within the next 5 years, with several schools facing the retirement of as much as 40 percent of their teacher.
- 29 percent of Chatham county teachers are currently considering employment outside of the teaching profession.
- 26 percent of our teachers are considering or already have applied to teach in another school system for 2000-2001.
- The top reason why teachers are considering leaving Chatham County schools is the pursuit of better pay (24 percent).
- When asked what might influence them to continue teaching in Chatham County, the overwhelming number one answer was: "higher teacher supplement" (78 percent).
- The survey identified "more support on the job" (38 percent) and "more parental support" (28 percent) as influential factors in teachers wishing to continue to teach in Chatham County.

the number of post-retirement years they can expect to live with an inflation rate of 2 percent. Our teacher's total additional retirement income will be an additional \$153,000 over what they would receive if they remained with Chatham County.

Suddenly that extra commute for a couple of years doesn't seem so bad. Sadly, this scenario is already playing itself out across the Chatham County Schools. The combined effect of other system's offering higher pay, attractive recruitment incentives, and state retirement formula are leading as many teachers who reside in as those who live outside Chatham County consider changing employ. Call your local schools principals to find out

what they are hearing.

In a recent round-table discussion on how to best improve the educational outcomes for at-risk children, a veteran Chatham County kindergarten teacher stated that her tax accountant had chastised her again this year for spending more than three thousand dollars of her own money on the needs of her classroom. The Foundation's survey confirms that teachers are growing desperate for more support on the job. One educator recently suggested that few hundred teachers take their receipts and tax returns to a budget hearing to prove this point. Let's hope that it won't be necessary.

Third on the list of what would influence a

teacher to continue teaching in Chatham County, and possibly the key to addressing all of the issues in the survey, is the need for increased parental support of the teacher. One veteran fourth grade teacher, a Chatham native and recognized as one of the most effective educators in her school, recently told me, "I had never given much thought to retiring until this year... I've never had less parental involvement." Teachers do not let anyone off the hook in this report. According to teachers, parents share as much responsibility of this exodus as do the Commissioners, Board of Education members, Central Office administration, and principals.

No one should be surprised by the predicted loss of more than 50 percent of our teachers. The facts and trend have been with us for years. Chatham County Schools reported a 14 percent teacher loss last year, and the possibility losing up to 18 percent this year. Other than in the service industry (that most parents hope their child's will not be lost in), no business, and certainly not county government as a whole, could afford such attrition. The estimated cost of losing and replacing an employee, based on lost productivity, training, the morale of co-workers, recruitment costs and paperwork, is between 25-31 percent of the annual salary. Multiply that by 96 teachers (this years projected 18 percent) and that's more than \$2 million dollars.

In a democracy almost every human-initiated disaster we experience is a result of our indifference and inaction. We can see lightening now in those distant storm clouds. Whether you have children or not, the Foundation urges the people of Chatham County to immediately make the effort to talk directly with the teachers in your local community.

Phillip K. Cates is the executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation.

Play

Continued from Page 3

will be as an actor.

Sally Jamir, of Silk Hope, is having a ball being involved with the project. She has felt for a long time that theater could convey truths in a more moving way than just talking can convey. "There are truths that Chatham County people would benefit from looking at, like how we can help people get along," said Jamir.

A recent Tuesday found Aloumari, who had created a gesture that choreographer Carpenter really liked, spending a few moments teaching Jamir the movement, one that they will likely perform in the play. The girl and woman laughed and giggled as they got it down tight.

Even as they observe the acting exercises and listen to the folks reading from their writing exercises, Johnson and Carpenter are taking notes. They share these notes with the UNC students to

aid in their writing of scenes for the play.

McLaughlin has already decided this project is a great success. She returned in late March from her home in Cortland, NY where she had just buried her father.

"Right before Dad died I had made several calls home and I think it was on my mind because it had been brought out by the initial performance of the UNC students at the spaghetti party. It got me thinking of home. I was real happy. To be involved in this project has made me feel even more a part of this community. I've been a part of Chatham's community for 20 years but doing this has made me realize I am even more interested than I thought in people's opinions. Even the opposing points of view. I think that everybody has something to say," said McLaughlin.

"Wave When You Pass" will also be performed on April 28 at 7 pm in room 203, Bingham Hall on the UNC campus. McLaughlin said that she hopes both performances are just the first of many community performances and that they will get a lot of people excited about the whole concept of cre-

ating community through performance.

Johnson echoes this thought and hopes that besides having a great time being in the play or just watching it, people will walk away a little changed. "One performance won't change the world but seeing people's honest feelings and words, it is a positive light they will carry with them. The more we do it, the more people we will affect. People have been so friendly and welcoming in this county. A lot of people don't understand what we're doing but they are welcoming of it. I feel happy to be here and share with people. I trust eventually that people will come to know and trust us."

It's not too late to be involved in "Wave When You Pass," either as a performer or a volunteer. For information, contact Lynn Johnson at 919-960-4299 or Dianne Ames McLaughlin at 919-542-4512.

Deborah R. Meyer is publication coordinator for Chatham Crossroads. She went to observe a Tuesday evening with StreetSigns and planned to stay for 20 minutes. Two and a half hours later, she reluctantly tore herself away.

CHATHAM
CROSSROADS

welcomes

Paul Cuadros

and

Kim Caraganis

to its

Board of

Directors

"Dear voter...": Letters from

COMMISSIONERS

School Board • District 1



Greg Solomon
School Board Candidate—District #1

Greg Solomon has managed a cancer research laboratory for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in Research Triangle Park for over 10 years. He lives near Perry Harrison school with his wife, Sondra, and their two daughters. He has been an active member of the PTA, serving as vice-president at North Chatham for two years, and founded after-school science clubs at two county schools. He also coaches a girls softball team for the Chatham County Recreation Department.

A favorite quote of Solomon's comes from Albert Einstein: "The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving. The most important motive for study at school, at the university, and in life is the pleasure of working and thereby obtaining results which will serve the community. The most important task for our educators is to awaken and encourage these psychological forces in a young man (or woman). Such a basis alone can lead to the joy of possessing one of the most precious assets in the world - knowledge or artistic skill."

Solomon can be reached at 545-2965, or 406 Buck Branch Road, Pittsboro, 27312.

Dear Chatham County Parent,

The Chatham County Board of Education is ready for new ideas and new energy. As a concerned parent I have become familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of the Chatham County school system. I have regularly attended Chatham County School Board and County Commissioner meetings for the last five years. I have heard the concerns of people from all over the county. The rapid growth is causing a great strain on our county's resources; therefore we must use what we have more wisely!

By compiling and prioritizing the needs as determined by each school, the School Board should be able to develop long-range goals for the entire school system and act on them. We should focus our attention on how to effectively distribute resources equitably among the schools; reduce the student/teacher ratio in the classroom; provide adequate classroom resources so teachers do not spend their own money to purchase teaching materials; increase the county supplement to teachers' salaries to help minimize teacher turnover; and hire qualified minority faculty and staff to reflect the diversity of the student population.

I am a member of the Perry Harrison Parent Advisory Council. I serve as the Winter Carnival co-chairperson each year. I have served as VP of the PTA at North Chatham. I founded science clubs at two county schools. Participating in all fundraising activities at my children's school, I have built fences, mopped the floors, and mowed the grass.

I have spent a lot of time talking with teachers and

staff and I am aware of their concerns and problems. If I am elected, I will make sure the school board becomes more responsive to their problems and suggestions for correcting them.

I would work to improve communication between all the members of the community and the school board. We need to hear from all concerned citizens who are willing to offer their expertise and ideas in the planning of the educational future of our children. In addition, the School Board and County Commissioners should coordinate their efforts on how to provide increased services for a rapidly expanding population.

I want to improve the school board's fiscal accountability and responsibility. We are among the top ten highest locally-funded school systems in North Carolina—yet our test scores, classroom resources, and facilities are not comparable. With that level of spending, why the discrepancy? Can we identify which programs and personnel are no longer effective?

If Chatham County is to prosper, we must have top-notch schools that can give our children educational opportunities equal to those in our country's best schools. A well-educated populace will, in turn, attract the kind of businesses that can provide good jobs for our Chatham County residents. Our children are our future and our greatest responsibility as a community is to educate our future citizenry well.

I am dedicated to all the schools and children of Chatham County. I hope you will give me the chance to serve them. Vote May 2nd.

Greg Solomon

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**Matt
Chath**

or



Cadle Cooper
(incumbent)
School Board Candidate
District 1

Cadle Cooper has lived in Bynum all his life and has been on the school board for 15 years. A barber in Pittsboro, Cooper says he is in the schools at least once a week and does anything he can for school fundraisers.

He can be reached 542-3811; 160 Durham Eubanks Road, Pittsboro, 27312; or by e-mail at ccoop@mindspring.com

An open letter to the Parents of Chatham County Students:

Most of you know me as Cadle Cooper, your neighborhood barber. Many know me as a long-time advocate for our students through my work on the school board during the past

15 years. This letter is to introduce myself to those who I haven't had the pleasure to meet and express my goals as a school board member.

My primary goal is to reduce the student-teacher ratio in all classrooms. A low student-teacher ratio is extremely important in the formative years of education, therefore I want to start with grades kindergarten through fifth. My focus for reducing the current ratio will be to (1) recruit more qualified teachers through the use of sign-on bonuses and increasing teacher supplements, and (2) retain the good teachers we already have. In many instances, Chatham County has lost quality teachers to higher paying counties, that can be remedied with increased teacher supplements.

My second goal is to create an advisory committee between parents, teachers and the school board. Communication is the key to effective leadership, and in order for the school board to meet the needs of our stu-

dents we need to open every channel of communication. This advisory committee will give concerned parents and teachers a contact who will have scheduled time with the board. It will provide a mechanism for someone who wishes a concern to be addressed by the board, but can't attend the meetings, to have their concerns addressed. This will encourage more parental involvement in the school board process, and will allow more creative ideas to be brought forth.

A school's objective is to educate the minds of students, but we must also care for the medical and social needs of our students. It is one of my goals to reduce the ratio of students to nurses and social workers in the school system. The nurses and social workers are now flooded with cases caring for our children.

Our county is growing by leaps and bounds especially in the eastern portion. We must address these current and future needs

today by purchasing land for growth before the land gets too expensive. Once again, I emphasize the need of smaller classrooms. Rather than cramming all the children in to one older building, several buildings are much more conducive to quality education. Also these smaller schools encourage better interaction between students and teachers as well as teachers and parents.

In an effort to reduce planning and construction cost I propose we use a similar architectural design for all elementary, middle schools and high schools. This will save on architectural fees, planning and consultation fees. This will reduce the overall price of new schools and save money for the county.

I would like to thank you for taking a moment to see where I stand on issues for this upcoming school board election. I would also like to thank you in advance for voting Cadle Cooper for School Board.

Sincerely,



Ernest Dark, (incumbent)
Candidate for School Board,
District #2

At the center of the most hotly-contested race this May is incumbent Ernest Dark, a North Chatham resident who faces competition from not one, or two, but five challengers. A research staff specialist with Glaxo-Wellcome for

28 years, Dark says he is proud of the dedication Chatham parents have shown to the county school system. On the board for 12 years, Dark was named Man of the Year at Mt. Sinai AME Church in 1998 and is president of the Leach Education Fund, Inc., a family educational scholarship initiative. One of his favorite sayings is, "To those whom much is given, much is expected."

Ernest Dark can be reached at eddark@hotmail.com.

To the Chatham County Parents:

Let me briefly give you a few reasons why I am asking for you to support my re-election to the School Board representing District 2.

First, I am very dedicated to my work on the School Board and I feel it a privilege to have served these 12 years and I don't take it for granted. I come with lots of experience and fresh new ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

I have not only worked very hard for your children on the local level but also on the state and national levels. Here at home I have worked on establishing partnerships with universities to bring our children back to Chatham County after training. On the state and national levels, I am a certified member of the North Carolina School Board Association Academy, current member of the North Carolina School Board's "Special Issues Forums for At Risk Students" and "Community School Improvement Programs"; member, Federal Relations Committee, national School Board Association; Board liaison to the N.C. State Legislature; and a member, State School Board Association Panel for Fiscal

Responsibility.

My top three priorities are:

- Student achievement
- Employee retention
- Facility maintenance and construction

The achievement of the student is the most important priority. My goal is to have all students at or above grade level by third grade. To this end, last year we reduced the class size ratio (teacher to student) 1-20 in K-2 with the goal of 1-15 by year 2002.

Employee retention is critical. I believe in the total team concept which values "all" employees. The child's performance is many times determined by the first person he or she comes in contact with. That could be the bus driver, cafeteria worker, custodian, assistant, and of course teacher or principal. Although all are important, the teacher is the center in that he or she is directly responsible for that child's learning process on a day to day basis. Therefore, it is important to employ and retain competent, capable teachers and administra-

tors.

The maintenance of the building in many ways supports the learning process. Equally important is the construction of much needed facilities so that space is available for the student to participate in the learning environment.

I am not going to say I won't make mistakes, and you may not agree with every decision I make, but whatever informed decision I have to make, I will have the children foremost in that decision.

I will continue to treat every employee as a valued and trusted person.

I will continue to learn new and innovative ways in which to serve the children.

I will continue to recruit, retain, and support good teachers, staff and administrators.

I will keep Chatham County Schools "For the Children."

Because I have a diligent work ethic and have a passionate desire to give back to the community that has given to me, I ask for your vote on May 2.

Ernest Dark

SEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chatham candidates to you

... into the school board?
... primary for county commissioner?
... of the election

SCHOOL BOARD

School Board • District 2

deal with all this growth?
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Gene Galin
School Board Candidate
District #2

A proposal support manager at GTE in the Research Triangle Park, Gene Galin lives in north Chatham near Frosty's. Galin founded and still operates the Chatham Journal community newspaper and the oldest Chatham-based community web site.

GALIN

He has served on the Chatham Water Committee since 1994 and was one of the original members of the County Strategic Plan Development Committee (1993-1998).

A favorite saying of Galin's is, "You can go through life saying 'I could have, I would have, I should have...' but I didn't and not accomplish much. Sometimes you simply have to just 'do it.'"

Galin can be reached at 919-968-3816; 80 Deer Mountain, Pittsboro, 27312; gene@galin.com or at his website, www.galin.com/forthechildren.html

Dear Chatham County parents, teachers, children and citizens,

What matters most is that every child in Chatham County has a viable opportunity to reach the fullness of his or her potential. For 30 years we have been promised that our students will excel. Some do, most do not. As a system we have made very little progress. Here's what

we need to do:

BUCKS FOR BOOKS, NOT BUREAUCRATS. The school board must demonstrate how any new money requested will raise student performance and emphasize the results we do get when we make an investment.

SMART SPENDING. The reality is that two out of every three Chatham County residents do NOT have children in the county public school system. Chatham County residents have made it clear they want an efficient, well-funded public-school system. And that is what we do not have. It is important that residents have confidence that their tax dollars are being spent efficiently in educating Chatham County children. Only then can they be counted on to provide the additional financial support for the growing needs of our county's schools.

EXPECT THE BEST OF TEACHERS. Give them the conditions, resources and the support they need to teach plus increased pay for superior performance. Teacher satisfaction is higher in schools where student misbehavior, apathy, and violence are not a problem, and where parents and administrators support teachers' efforts.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. We need to set performance standards in the contracts for administrators—superintendent and principals. If they don't deliver, they leave. We cannot improve our schools if we insist on blaming failure on parents, on television, on society. We have to have administrators willing and able to take responsibility for failure and we have to reward them for

success.

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND. We should set higher standards for all students, and provide more enrichment materials and opportunities for students who need them and want them. We should make sure that no student is prevented from achieving his or her best by being in classes where learning is disparaged, or where classes are dumbed down to the lowest denominator.

What does my vision for the Chatham County School System mean?

- For parents, it means greater involvement—knowing how well children are really doing, and what you as a parent can do to help.

- For teachers, it means support from the community, parents and the school system—support for pushing students to realize their full potential.

- For students, it means learning knowledge and skills that will serve you well for the rest of your lives.

- For our community, it means a better future for everyone—especially our children. It means they'll be better equipped to get good jobs, become good citizens, and live good lives.

NO EXCUSES: CHATHAM CHILDREN CAN BE THE BEST! The time has passed for excuses. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. We have excellent children. We have an adequate budget to start with. We have good teachers. We need to set standards, provide the best support possible, and tolerate no excuses.

or



Margie Ellison
Candidate for School Board,
District #2

Margie Ellison who lives in north Chatham, currently supervises the foster care and adoption services unit at the Chatham County Department of Social Services. She has worked for 25 years as an advocate for children and

ELLISON

families. She helped middle and high school students from a seven-county area build their own organization and is proud to say that she has successfully parented a child through the Chatham County school system.

One of Ellison's favorite sayings is, "When you lie down in slumber, do you think God will say, 'You have earned another tomorrow by the work you have done today?'"

She can be reached at work (968-1970), at home (542-2759)

or by email: <margieellison@email.msn.com>

An open letter to Chatham County Parents:

I believe that together we can insure more accountability and establish a standard of excellence in Chatham students, teachers, and administrators. I am best qualified for the office of school board member because I bring leadership that will: (1) create an open school board decision-making process to include the citizens of Chatham County, (2) work to develop 3-5-15 year action plan for the present and the future funding needs of Chatham County schools, (3) close the gap between student performance so that all students achieve at grade level or above.

We have some work to do to make our school system more productive and accountable—for our children and for the taxpayers of this county. It will require leadership that is not afraid to make some hard decisions. My knowledge and experience with systems and organizational design and budget management makes me uniquely qualified to serve. Also, my experience and love for building consensus among diverse groups and raising the voice of the under-repre-

sented to create suggestions with solutions are my strengths. I am a good listener. I am open to accept change but will stand firm on personal and professional values. I am not afraid of confrontation or negotiation. I am committed to developing an open and fair process for citizens to present proposals, recommendations and requests to the board and receive a response and action.

As I listen to you from throughout the county express your concerns and issues, funding for present and future needs of the schools is the number one topic. School board members, county commissioners, and the public must establish a working relationship. We must develop a shared vision for education. Together, we can seek input and support from the public on the issue of a bond referendum. We need to elicit the assistance of experts in the community, like Dr. Bob Risen from southwest Chatham, to implement a funding development plan for our school system. We need to work vigorously with our legislative delegations to increase our state and federal funding for capital improvements. School board members must demonstrate that financial resources are used efficiently and effectively in order for the public and county governments to entrust them with more funding.

We can raise our expectations for all students and establish excellence as the standard of performance for students, teachers and administrators. Our students suffer when "less than" is expected and accepted. School board members must set and enforce policies that promote and require performance measures for teachers to demonstrate students are performing at or above grade level in reading, math, and writing. Our students need to learn the skills of critical thinking and decision-making. Teachers must give time to determine how children learn best in order to inspire a child's intrinsic desire and love for learning. When children are invested in their learning, they and their teachers will achieve.

I ask for your support and vote on May 2nd, for our children's future.

I remain, for children and families,
Margie Ellison



M.E. Burke
School Board Candidate
District #2

A forestry technician for Duke Forest, Michael Burke lives in Baldwin Township, near the Crawford Dairy. He is the father of two children in Chatham

BURKE

Schools, serves as the Vice president of the Perry Harrison PTA, and says that he "likes how things work."

A favorite quote of Burke's comes from an Alzheimer's patient who was asked about her getting lost: "You don't have to know where you are to be there."

Burke can be reached at 929-8496, or by email at meburke@duke.edu.

or

To the parents of Chatham County,

Few aspects of our lives generate as much heat and light as our children; who else will inspire heights of joy and pride, then drive us to distraction within the space of an hour? Naturally, we insist that the schools our children attend be the very best. It is easy to criticize schools, but let's start by admiring what is right and good about our schools, and use that foundation to build the school system we want.

The best thing about our schools is, of course, the students. I have worked with students as part of my job at Duke Forest, and as a volunteer at the Perry Harrison School, and I've observed that all kids want to learn. Some may learn more quickly than others, may have favorite subjects, or may respond best to a particular teaching approach, but they all want to succeed in school. Their desire to learn is what motivates me to help our schools.

We also have a good teaching staff. We have some of the best teachers in the country here in Chatham County. Our teachers are innovative and care about their stu-

dents. It is not surprising that other school systems like to raid our schools for talented and energetic faculty. I talked with teachers at a recent School Board meeting in Siler City. There are many issues facing the Siler City Schools, but the most urgent issue for the teachers was that they be able to teach effectively despite obstacles. The dedication of our faculty and staff also motivates me to help our schools.

Next, let's consider the administrators of our schools: the principals and their support staff. These folks make our schools run. You may have seen their office lights on late at night. I have seen them at School Board meetings standing up for their schools, time after time. This past February I toured Moncure School with the principal, Ms. Mauldin. As she opened the classroom doors her sense of pride in her school was evident. Her school is a tough one to run; it has yet to reach its ABC's expectations; the building is old; the students come from one of the lower economic levels in our county. Nevertheless, as each door opened she said "Look at the work these children are doing, it is so much better than last year." This devotion to our children motivates me to help our schools.

Finally, we are so lucky to have you—the parents of Chatham County. Take pride in how you make our schools better. Every time you volunteer at a school, support a fundraiser, work at the PTA Thrift Store, or take the time to tutor a child, you send a message to the children, teachers, and principal that you care. It is this caring that I share with you, it is a common ground. It is this caring that motivates me to help our schools.

With regards,
M.E. Burke

PROFILES ON NEXT PAGE

County Commissioner District 2 Primary



Margaret Pollard
Incumbent
County Commissioner
Candidate (D), District #2

A county commissioner for six years, Margaret Pollard lives in south central Chatham County, about a fifteen minute walk from the Rocky River. She is a retired Assistant Clinical Professor from the UNC School of Public Health. It was during Pollard's tenure as Chair of the Board of Commissioners that the Chatham's Strategic Plan was approved. She is a founding member of the Strengthening the Black Family organization and also served as director for the Park Heights Adolescent Project, an adolescent pregnancy prevention program which—among other things—found employment for adolescents in small businesses.

One of Pollard's favorite quotes is, "When your life touches mine, I am either helped or hindered. Man lifts man up or man tears man down."

Pollard can be reached at
(919) 542-4845
or e-mail: mpollard@emji.net

Dear Chatham County Residents,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to share my concerns and dreams for our county. Growing up on a farm in Chatham County, I learned to appreciate its beauty through the sounds of its wildlife, its rivers, and the wind rustling through the trees in its forests. Even as a child, I knew that it was a special place, and as an adult I want to do my best to sustain it and provide for its future.

Much of the growth that we have experienced in the county has been healthy, but I fear that the recent rapid acceleration in residential growth is likely to have a negative effect unless we hold it to a level we can afford. Because of the schools and services that it requires, residential growth can make Chatham County's taxes too expensive for everyone, but these increases are especially hard on the elderly on fixed incomes and farmers who rely on their (taxable) land, buildings, and equipment. Our proposed Land Conservation and Development

Plan is a critical tool to help us achieve an appropriate and affordable level of growth, while preserving the County's rural character and its farm economy. With increased community involvement, I am eagerly looking forward to its completion. Together, we can sensibly manage growth so that it does not imperil our future.

Our future is also dependent upon our ability to adequately educate our children, and we must assure that the quality of instruction does not falter. We have slipped behind neighboring counties in what we pay our teachers, and it is essential that we keep pace in order to retain those who have the experience and professionalism that inspires and motivates students. We can, and must do this by increasing the county's contribution to teacher pay, but it is also critical to get some help from our state legislators in raising the base pay of teachers. I will continue to work to make this happen.

I will also continue to find approaches that will help to pay for the education of our children and that will improve the lives of county residents. In addition to supporting and enhancing our existing businesses, I believe that it is essential to attract new industrial development in order to substantially increase our tax base and reduce our reliance on residential property taxes. To provide for this new development, we need to plan for a few sites in the county that have the appropriate infrastructure, and carefully select only those industries which we are certain will be responsible in their treatment of their workers and our natural environment.

These are some of my ideas for Chatham County's future. If we plan together, I think Chatham County will continue to be as beautiful as what I saw when I was a child. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to help to make this vision a reality by allowing me to serve again as your county commissioner.

Sincerely,
Margaret Pollard

or

Larry Miller
County Commissioner Candidate (D) —District #2

Note: Larry Miller did not submit a letter for this section.

Who will lead Chatham County?

The choice is yours.

**Come meet the candidates at two
Candidates' Forums**

Prepare yourself for the May 2nd elections by meeting the candidates and learning where they stand on issues you care about.

School Board Forum

Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m.,
Siler City Town Hall

County Commission Forum

Monday, April 24, 7 p.m.,
Superior Court room
in the annex building

(on the southeast side of the Pittsboro traffic circle)

**CHATHAM
CROSSROADS**

Both forums are sponsored by Chatham Crossroads a nonprofit, nonpartisan community newspaper supporting informed dialogue about community issues.

County Commissioner District 1 Primary



Uva Holland
Incumbent
County Commissioner
Candidate (D),
District #1

Uva Holland is a retired church administrator who now lives near Jordan Lake. She and her husband Mainer have two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. As director of the Northeast Corridor of the United Church of Christ, she was responsible for helping with the development of close to 300 churches in ten states from Florida to Maine. A county commissioner for 8 years, Holland has served on many other boards and committees — national, state and local.

One of Holland's favorite sayings is, "Whatever you do, do it with all your might. Work at it early and late, in season and out of season, not leaving stone unturned, and never deferring for a single house that which can be done just as well now."

She can be reached at 362-6851; 370 M. T. Holland Road, Apex, NC 27502; or be email at
<uvah@emji.net>.

Dear Chatham County Residents:
My fellow citizens, as your commissioner I

am delighted to share with you my accomplishments and priorities that have contributed and will contribute to the betterment of Chatham County residents.

Allow me to share with you my vision for Chatham County. Much has been accomplished since my arrival to the Board of Commissioners in 1992, but much more is to be accomplished. As you know, the county's tax base is primarily supported by personal property. It is a priority to add to the infrastructure in the form of water and sewer to attract industry and business to our county. It can help alleviate increases in residential taxes. This will also help to increase the funds for our children who need the best educational opportunity possible.

Other areas of my vision include: provide drinking water to areas in the county where existing wells are failing to serve the best interest of the citizens; continue to review and refine the land use plan; and support the agricultural community and agribusiness along with the significant economic impact that it provides. I also promoted the creation of the county flag.

I have the experience, the understanding, and the knowledge of the county and the utmost desire to continue to serve you. I appreciate your support and your vote for re-election on May 2, 2000.

Warmest regards,
Uva Holland
County Commissioner

or



Bob Atwater
County Commissioner
Candidate (D) —District #1

Bob Atwater is a retired university administrator who now lives near North Chatham Elementary school with his wife, Jean. They have three sons, 30, 32 and 10 years old. Atwater is a member of the Mt. Carmel Church, a former chairman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro American Red Cross (which included Chatham County), and a board member of the Yates Baptist Association, a network of 71 cooperating churches.

His favorite saying is the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

He can be reached by email at
chatham1@mindspring.com
or by mail at P.O. Box 1755 Pittsboro, 27312 .

Dear Chatham County Residents:

I am committed to the well being of all the people of Chatham, and seek to serve you as Commissioner from District One. Please allow me to introduce myself and outline my thoughts in several important areas:

I have been a resident of Chatham for 30 years. After serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1963-67 including service in Southeast Asia, I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have worked for UNC from 1971, first as Personnel Officer for the School of Public Health and later as Business Officer for the School of Nursing. I am devoted to my community, having served five times as the Chairman of Board of Deacons for the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. My wife Jean and I have three children. I believe that one of my greatest strengths is the ability and desire to bring people together to solve problems.

Economic Development

I believe that we need to attract new, environmentally sensitive industry to Chatham County. We need to re-balance our tax base to reduce its unhealthy reliance on real-estate taxes. We need to establish new industrial sites, with proper infrastructure, and proceed to

actively market these sites. The important points here are: 1) advance planning to improve the application process; 2) thoughtful selection of industry; and 3) since Chatham is one of the top locations in America to locate new business, we need not provide inordinately lucrative incentive packages to attract such business

Education

All Chatham County residents should have an opportunity for a good education. As a parent of a child currently in the Chatham County school system, I am very familiar with the challenges our schools are facing. I am committed to adequate funding of our school system. I want to work closely with the School Board to improve our schools. My work experience as a financial officer and administrator will serve Chatham well as we consider funding requirements for our schools.

Planning

Chatham County is experiencing a great deal of change. The key here is how we respond to such rapid change. I believe we must take a pro-active approach in our land development planning. I support many of the concepts found in the new land development plan. I want our agricultural community to continue to provide its critical input to this plan. I want to improve our regional planning and cooperation with our own towns as well as with the neighboring counties. I am committed to protecting our environment as land development policies are developed.

I will appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy for Chatham County Commissioner. My motivation to seek this position of public trust is solely based on a clear sense of call to public duty. Short of such a confirmed sense of call, I would not consider seeking the office. I would like the privilege to work very hard and listen well in order to secure Chatham County's future as it squarely faces its most challenging hour—our greatest opportunity.

Sincerely,
Bob Atwater

**School Board
Forum**

**Tuesday, April 11,
7 p.m.**

**Perry Harrison school
Sponsored by the
Perry Harrison PTA**

**Send us
your money
your time
and your letters**

No kidding! Help keep Chatham Crossroads a vital part of our community. We can always use volunteers, and donations are tax-deductible. Email your letters to editors@chathamcrossroads.org.

Briefs and Announcements, continued

Be a fan

The Chatham County Council on Aging invites everyone to the opening ceremonies of the Chatham County Senior Games on Friday, April 28 at 4 pm at the Siler City Country Club. Siler City Mayor Charles Turner and Pittsboro Mayor Charles Divinney are scheduled to speak and hors d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee and tea will be served. The Elder Statesmen, a barbershop chorus from Carolina Meadows, will perform. There will also be an aerobic and Thai chi demonstration, a display of the Silver Arts entries, a parade of athletes and a fun walk. Admission is free and your support is invaluable. Call 919-542-4512 for more information about the party and the schedule for the senior games.

The senior games must close

But what fun will be had with clowns, music and free homemade ice cream on May 6 from 3:30 pm until 7 pm. And, the celebration is also for Senior Citizens Day. A barbecue and chicken supper will be served. Those over 60 are invited to eat for free. And if you are not that wise yet, the cost is \$4. Call 919-542-4512 to find out details and how you can purchase a raffle ticket.

You can help change the world— be a mentor!

Chatham County Together! won its first 3-on-3 basketball tournament for the 15 through 17-year-old division the third week in March. Roy Barnes, youth counselor, and team members Patrick Goldston, LaCharles Edwards, Tywon Hooker and Stephen Richard praised the Chatham County Recreation Department program and their staff members Tracy Burnett and Seth Swain. This was only the second 3-on-3 tournament for the boys, and they are now motivated to play in Cary's upcoming summer tournament. Chatham County Together! is a Governor's One-on-One mentoring program that also provides recreation, tutoring and group activities with resources that include United Way and community contributions. It is currently recruiting volunteers and has scheduled its next training for Monday, May 1, and Monday, May 8, in Pittsboro. Both nights are required. For more information, contact Director Kim Caraganis at 919-542-5155.

News from the field

Norman A. Jordan Jr. was presented the Marvin E. Senger Distinguished Dairy Farmer Award for 2000 at the 49th annual North Carolina Dairy Conference in Salisbury. Jordan, 43, has been farming for 22 years at Brush Creek Swiss Farms, his family's 450-acre dairy west of Siler City. It is one of North Carolina's Century Farms. The Brush Creek herd is composed of registered Brown Swiss Dairy cows and has a milking herd of 77 cows. The Senger Distinguished Dairy Farmer Award is presented each year to one of North Carolina's dairy farmers who excels in leadership for the dairy industry, management ability, and use of modern technologies on their dairy operation.

Wood you like to learn more?

NC State University's Extension Forestry is conducting a teleconference forum where forest landowners and natural resource professionals can interact on issues that impact forest lands. April 13 the topic is urban forestry and May 11 the topic is wood in home use: moisture and pest problems in residential settings. The site closest to Chatham to participate is at NC State in Raleigh. Registration is \$15 for each teleconference. For more information, email Glenn Woolard, County Extension Director at <glennwoolard@ncsu.edu> or call him at 919-542-8202.

Farming in the new millennium

Farming 2000 & Beyond is a monthly workshop series devoted to helping to provide the tools to meet tomorrow's challenges in sustainable agriculture. Season extension techniques will be discussed on April 17 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the CCCC Land Lab in Pittsboro. Topics to be discussed are poly-tunnels, movable greenhouses, row covers and farmers' experiences. May 15 the workshop will feature discussion and demon-

**Haw River Festival just around the (river) bend**

Chatham's own river-based educational program for youngsters of all ages—the Haw River Festival—returns this month for three weeks of educational programs and one big party. The opening ceremony to collect water at the headwaters of the Haw River will be on

April 9th along with the dedication of the newly purchased land. Soon after, the festival crew will pack up the Haw Wagon and head to Saxapahaw to get ready to greet the first school bus full of kids as they roll in the morning of the 16th for the first week of fun. About 100 fourth-graders a day come to the Festival to take part in our unique program that weaves art, music, history, and science into an experiential program about the river.

The next three weeks (April 28-May 4) will take the crew to a beautiful new site in the upper reaches of the Haw, Camp Guilrock, on the Guilford-Rockingham County line, and to Bynum, Rockingham, Orange, Durham, and Guilford counties. Public, private, and home-



COURTESY OF THE HAW RIVER FESTIVAL

Young visitors to last year's Haw River Festival are captivated by an enchanting storyteller.

schooled students learn in this celebration of nature. From the oxbows and old growth bottomlands near Guilrock to the big white water river in Chatham, the participants of the Festival get to discover the wonders of this natural world, and to deepen their own dedication to conservation.

We still need volunteers for the Festival, but if you can't crew and want to help in another way, we still need some meals cooked for our crew each week. You can contact me or my co-worker, Logistics and Safety Coordinator Paul Kinnaird, at our Bynum office at 919-542-5790.

Due to record snows this past winter, two large groups in the headwaters region of the Haw had to cancel their attendance at the Festival. We are looking for fourth grade classes to attend. If you know a group of students that would like to participate, please call me at the number above.

—Lynn Bossong,
Haw River Festival Coordinator

strations of non-chemical weed control methods. This will be at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center in Sanford. Contact Robert Hadad, Chatham County Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agent at 919-542-8202.

Pull up a seat and dig in

Chatham's newest restaurant, El Tapatio, opened on April 1, in Siler City on 920 N. 2nd Avenue (Business US 421) next to the Siler City Motor Lodge. Bill Bussey, executive director of the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce reports that he ate there twice in one week and the description of his meals would make anyone salivate. Bussey said he particularly enjoyed the salsa. El Tapatio is a sit-down restaurant serving Mexican cuisine and is owned by David Perez and his family.

**A blending of gardens and art**

All are invited to view local artwork that will be showcased throughout the Fearington Gardens from Saturday, April 15 through Sunday, April 30. An opening reception for the artists will be held on April 16 in front of the Fearington House Restaurant at 5 pm. The event is free. Also on the 16, starting at 2:30 pm is a tour of the gardens. Pre-registration is required. Call 919-542-1239 for information.

Back by popular demand

The Gulf/Cumnock Historic Tour will occur on Saturday, April 29 and be led by two historians with deep roots in the Deep River area. It is sponsored by the Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) to promote awareness of the Deep River in Chatham and Lee Counties. The TLC is still raising funds to match a state grant of \$1.2 million to purchase land along the Deep River. To find out more about the tour or contributing, call 919-833-3662.

What is a moon bounce?

To learn, come to the Siler City 11th Annual Chicken Festival on May 19 and 20. The weekend starts with a golf tournament at the Siler City Country Club. The rest of the weekend is filled with arts, crafts, food, live music, children's games and entertainment. More than 150 arts and craft vendors will be there. Pony rides, a petting zoo, art activities, remote race cars, a rock climbing wall and that mysterious moon bounce will make everyone a smiler. Call 1-800-468-6242 for information.

**Getting the word out on volunteerism**

The United Way of Chatham County received a national Communications Best Practices Award on February 10 for their Volunteer Opportunities Brochure at the United Way of America National Conference in Houston, TX. A second edition is planned for this spring and Beth Gillespie, United Way executive director hopes to include many more agencies. Submit information by April 12 to Gillespie at United Way of Chatham County, P.O. Box 1066, Pittsboro, NC 27312. If you would like a copy of the brochure, call 919-542-1110.

**Helping to elevate the citizens of Chatham County**

The United Way of Chatham County has approved a proposal for the use of the \$253,000 donation received from Hospice of Chatham County last year. Specific designations for the Hospice funds comprise a limited number of start-up grants, including a volunteer center for the county; three special grants to current United Way agencies; and the establishment of a United Way endowment fund for the future of Chatham County. For specific details, contact Beth Gillespie at 919-542-1110.

Welcome, Crystina Geiswite

In very early spring, Brownie Troop 941 held an Investiture and Rededication Ceremony in the Chapel of Pittsboro Baptist Church. Four girls formally became new Girl Scouts while the remaining 12 members rededicated themselves to scouting and its principles. Receiving Brownie pins were Julia Haman, Alannah Dispennette, Stuart Montgomery, and Hannah O'Connell. The remaining members of the troop are: Lucy Bernard, Jessica Brauner, Sara Brickey, Kelli Clark, Kaitlund Greenwood, Brittany Kidd, Nickie McGehee, Kristin Shaffer, Emma Smith, Brittany Springle and Danielle Suprick. The troop welcomed Crystina Geiswite, who recently moved from Ohio. The troop, sponsored by Pittsboro Baptist Church is led by Kathy Shaffer, leader and Cathy Tyndall, co-leader.

Feeding hungry children around the world starts in Pittsboro

Seven Pittsboro Baptist Church youth recently raised over \$1,800 by fasting for 30 hours. The money will go to World Vision, the

largest, privately funded Christian non-profit relief and development organization in the world. Heather Young raised enough money to be eligible to apply for World Vision's Study Tour which gives young people the opportunity to travel to one of the countries where World Vision is helping to save kids' lives. Jessica Clegg, Laura Daly, Eric Dietrich, Kelli Glosson, Elizabeth Hamm, and Allison Martin also participated.

How can you say no to CORA?

Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) is proud to announce that Barbara Stoddard has joined the CORA board of directors as secretary. You can join Barbara and other wonderful folks at CORA in many capacities but in particular now they are seeking a provisioner and a volunteer coordinator for the board. The provisioner purchases food for distribution to clients, making this vacancy a critical need. The volunteer coordinator schedules volunteers to work at the pantry. Ring up Leigh Loraine and ask when you can start. 919-542-4007.

Celebrating unity

On March 20, people gathered at the Paul Braxton gym in Siler City during the Spring Cultural Unity Festival. The Chatham County Arts Council, Helping Hands, TeenWorks and local businesses joined the Baha'is of Chatham County to sponsor the event which focused on artistic and cultural sharing as a way to understand others and bring people closer together. Ray Estes gave the welcome. "When I heard that this festival was happening here, I knew that Siler City is where I had to be tonight. The eyes of the country are watching Siler City," said Estes referring to recent controversial events in the town, such as the anti-immigrant rally. "Because if unity is achieved in Siler City, it will be achieved everywhere! This way of unity of all people is God's way...I hope this is the first of many spring unity festivals," said Estes.

Teach me how to grow

The Peace Garden Project is a grassroots development project for youth, children and adults in the community and schools. It is an opportunity for participants to learn about other cultures than their own, learn non-violent communication principles and have fun on a practical garden project. The comparisons and similarities that can be drawn between the culture of people and the culture of plants is one to which many have caught on. The garden learning environment is one where young and old can feel safe learning about people, the natural world and life skills and have a chance to experience cooperation in an enjoyable way. The Project is avidly seeking volunteers in many capacities. Please contact Project Coordinator Sally Jamir at 919-742-4672.

Have your pet spayed or neutered

SNAP-NC's Mobile Surgery Unit is coming to Chatham County on April 19.

Dogs \$65
(includes spay or neuter, rabies and distemper)

Cats \$45
(includes spay or neuter, rabies and distemper)

Heartworm testing, leukemia testing, flea and tick control also available!

For alternative dates, information and appointments, CALL 1-919-783-7627.

All services performed by a licensed veterinarian.

SNAP-NC is a non-profit charity.

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program of North Carolina.

Writers News

■ On April 3, at Jordan Matthews High School, award-winning poet **Luis Rodriguez**, author of *La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.*, taught workshops and was the featured speaker at an evening Town Meeting, talking about how his poetry helped turn him away from a life in street gangs. Rodriguez is on a ten-week tour of North Carolina, speaking in schools and art centers, sponsored by the North Carolina Literary Consortium and other groups. ■ A stellar list of recommended readings this spring at McIntyre's Fine Books in Fearington Village (note that some of these readings are on week nights): April 5, 7:00 p.m., **Kent Haruf** will read from *Plainsong*, a National Book Award Finalist; April 8, 11:00 a.m., **Amy Strout**, **Andre Dubus** and **Fred Leebron** will read and discuss recent books; April 15, 11:00 a.m., local writer **Daniel Wallace** will read from his new novel, *Ray in Reverse*; April 17, 7:00 p.m., **Jeffrey Lent** will read from his Civil War novel, *In The Fall* (see box); April 29, 11:00 a.m. **Marianne Gingher** will read from her collection of childhood wisdom, *How to Have a Happy Childhood*; May 3, 7:00 p.m., **Melissa Bank** will read from her bestseller, *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*; May 20, 11:00 a.m. **Joan Medlicott** will read from her debut novel, *The Ladies of Covington Home Send Their Love*. ■ The Chatham County Reading Association book drive for Floyd victims and for Chatham "Laundromat Libraries" continues through end of April. To contribute books, contact **Ann Stewart** at 542-2008. The Association's next free public event is on April 17, 6-8 p.m., when **Doris Betts** will speak at Pittsboro Elementary School on Motivating Young Writers. To support the work of this nonprofit organization and take advantage of the special half-year membership rate, send a \$10.00 check to CCRA, 10 Jordan Woods, Pittsboro, NC 27312. ■ The Second Sunday Reading at UNC's Wilson Library features poet **Stuart Dischell** and fiction writer **June Spence**, April 9 at 2:30. All events are free and open to the public. ■ **Judy Hogan**, founding editor of Carolina Wren Press, will be offering three 10-week courses for writers of fiction/journal/autobiography and poetry beginning April 10 in Durham. Subjects of study include George Eliot, Pablo Neruda, and Octavio Paz. Call for more information: 545-9932. ■ Upcoming local workshops from the North Carolina Writers Network: April 29, 1-5 p.m., Writing Young Adult Fiction with **Sarah Dessen**; May 6, 1-5 p.m., Pitching Story Ideas to Editors and Producing What You Promised with **Bridgette A. Lacy**; May 13, 1-5 p.m.; How to Get Started as a Technical Writer with **Susan Dakin, Ph.D.**; May 20, 10-2 p.m., A Poetry Workshop for Kids in Grades 5-7 with **Phillip Shabazz**. For more information, check the website at www.ncwriters.org, or call NCWN at 967-9540. ■ Discovering the "Wild Mind" II, 8-week creative writing class based on the methods of **Natalie Goldberg** and others begins May 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, at Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro campus. Register by May 8. Contact instructor **Kit Kimberly** at (919) 542 6029 for more information. ■ Sign up now for Duke University's Summer Writing Academy, July 2-9 at the NC Coast. Workshop leaders include **Judy Goldman**, **Joseph Bathanti**, and **Michael Parker**. Call (919) 684-5375 or check the Website at www.learnmore.duke.edu/SummerAcademy. ■ Call Dial-A-Story at 542-3121, for children and all ages. ■ Horton Middle School and the Chatham County Arts Council are planning an educational and arts celebration of poet **George Moses Horton**'s life and work for the Chatham County Schools next fall, culminating in a public event November 18, 2000. Watch for news in upcoming Crossroads about this exciting event.

Send news of upcoming events, readings, workshops, books, authors, and book clubs via fax to 542-5960 or by mail to Crossroads Literary Page, 727 Morris Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Writers Corner

WITH MARJORIE HUDSON

Michael McCormick, also known as White Buffalo Spirit, can often be seen walking around Pittsboro with his handpainted and decorated walking stick and bells on his shoes. Michael is a communicant at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, where he recently preached his first sermon, at the Ash Wednesday service. He suffers from a very rare neurological disease and says he lives each day as if it were his first and his last.—MH

Fishsticks

BY WHITE BUFFALO SPIRIT

Since I come from a very large family of eight brothers and sisters, every meal was an adventure. Although the menu never varied, there were the food fights (peas could be especially lethal), complaints about school and the nuns, my father's drunken musings about his pathetic life, the state of this country, the "little war" in Vietnam and hippies, so you could never predict what would happen next. My father liked to re-live his days in the Marine Corps and regale us with gory and bloody stories from the "real war." Martha Stewart would not have approved of these mealtime tales!

In preparation for the Lord's Day, no meat was ever served on Friday. Instead, the dinner fare always consisted of Mrs. Paul's Fishsticks, french fries, and cole slaw. These bland morsels almost defy description. If anybody out there knows what fishsticks are composed of, please let me know. Fishsticks were always served with the warning that there would be no dessert unless all the fishsticks were eaten. Fortunately, we had a number of dogs who loved fishsticks. Now that I think of it, many of our pets probably died from an overdose of Mrs. Paul's.

We could never understand how eating fishsticks every Friday would make us better Catholics. As the family theologian, I said it was some kind of punishment or penance for our sins. My mother disagreed and said the good fathers absolved us our sins every Saturday when we went to Confession. Eating fishsticks made God and the Pope very happy. It probably made Mrs. Paul very happy too.

On Saturday, we were treated to hamburgers and hotdogs if my father was patient enough or sober enough to tend the coals. A little lighter fluid would speed things up. We could gauge how much Dad had drunk by the taste of lighter fluid on our food. Although our dogs ate a lot of fishsticks, they drew the line at eating petoburgers and petodogs.

Sunday was what the week was all about.

Luis Rodriguez comes to Chatham

Luis J. Rodriguez grew up in Watts and East L.A. His memoir about gang life, *Always Running*, *La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.*, won the Carl Sandburg award, and his *The Concrete River* was awarded the 1991 PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Poetry. His visit to Chatham County was arranged by Mary Lee Moore, director of Media Services and Federal Programs for the Chatham Schools.

Rodriguez has worked extensively with gang members to guide them in positive directions. The heroine of his children's book, *América Is Her Name*, is a Mexican child who feels out of place after her family emigrates to Chicago. When she gets good marks in school for a poem she wrote, she cheers up: "A poet, América knows, belongs everywhere."



Chatham Young Authors Competition Student Finalists

Bonlee School: **Brooke Moore • T.C. Marsh • Kirsti Emerson**

Chatham Middle School: **Wren Farrar • Anna Grey Sanders • Christino Phillip Reyes Sarah Helmer**

J.S. Waters School: **Tabitha Perry • Dorean Johnson**

North Chatham School: **Adam Perry • Paul Shackelford • Daryn Lane • Taylore Manhard Kelly Shackelford**

Perry Harrison School: **Sarah Hackney • Nicole Gerber • Evan Hughes • Bryan Hurlman Rebecca Burwell**

Pittsboro Elementary School: **Chelsea O'Connell • Morgan Thompson • Rayanne Antonelli**

Siler City Elementary School: **Brandon Green • Chantel Siler • Clifton Brooks**



Listen to the authors read from their books at McIntyres. These two, and more, are scheduled for April and May. See Writers News for details.

Do you like this page?

We need your help to continue it!

Chatham Writers Corner is seeking private donations to help match a \$600 grant from the Chatham County Arts Council so that we can continue publication of the Corner past the June/July issue of *Chatham Crossroads*. Please send donations to Chatham Crossroads, PO Box 1685, Pittsboro, NC 27312, and specify on your check that it is for the Writers Corner page. Thank you for supporting this page!



The Crossroads Writers Corner is supported by a Grassroots Grant from the Chatham County Arts Council in conjunction with the NC State Arts Council.

New favorites from McIntyre's Books staff

At McIntyre's Books, Chatham's premier independent bookstore, the staff write enthused book reports on new releases and tuck them in the jackets for clientele to read. Sometimes a staff person places a book in front of you on the counter and says, "You must read this." This week Peter Mock placed *In the Fall* in front of my eyes and told me about this novel "of incredible narrative power." It is the story of three generations of a family, starting with a Union soldier and his ex-slave wife, and ending with a pilgrimage south by a grandchild to find his slave ancestors. Mock's report says, "Three nights running I read late into the night until my eyes could no longer stay open. I read at breakfast, I read at dinner. I didn't want the book to end but, alas, as all good things must, it did. Now it is my duty to sing the praises of this powerful novel and hope that only those with tin ears won't hear." I plan to read this book, and be at the reading!—MH

Students write online

Following is a poem written by Wesley Vasquez when he was in eighth grade at Bonlee School, in Mrs. Courie's language arts class. The author says his poem is about "the unrest associated with justice and equality." You can find this and other student writing on the school website at www.chatham.k12.nc.us at Writing Galore, a site that invites students in the Chatham County Schools to publish their writing online. Students from all grade levels in the Chatham County Schools System may submit their short stories, poetry, essays, or school news.

The Army

BY WESLEY VASQUEZ

An army gathers in the street,
demanding justice and equality,
demanding to be free,
free of the chains of injustice.

The army marches in one accord,
the same desire, the same hope
burns in every heart, mind,
and soul,
to shake off the shackles of oppression.

Discrimination a part of life,
persecution endured,
the sting of affliction,
pierces the soul as a sword.

Tall sentinels proudly stand,
sing among themselves
a hymn
to the marchers it's a battle cry
giving strength to fight.

Anger is all around them,
people on the sidewalk
taunt them,
but who can hold back the army,
no one, for it will overcome.

They march to their goal,
they see freedom up ahead
as a torch against a dark sky,
who will hold them back
from destiny.

Anger rises in me as I
witness these crimes,
see a man killed for wanting freedom,
a child taunted to fight
back,
is there justice anywhere.

With the bribe of lunch at Mickey D's, the ten of us piled into the station wagon for eleven o'clock Mass. Since my father had not converted to Catholicism, he stayed in the car and was able to drink blissfully for one and a half hours. It was my mother's belief that when my father became a Catholic, his drinking would stop. To appease my mother, he finally became a Catholic, but his drinking got worse.

On Mondays, we had meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and the lethal peas. Peas were especially fine weapons for initiating food fights. My brother Tim was an expert marksman with these green projectiles. His target was usually the baby, since all she could do was cry and not retaliate. After all these years, Tim is still proud of his pea flinging expertise. At a family reunion five years ago, I asked how his kids were and he told me they were good pea shooters.

Tuesday was Spaghettios and white bread and Wednesday was frozen pizza. In preparation for the fishstick feast on Friday, we had tuna casserole on Thursday. Mom thought God would be especially happy to know that we did not eat meat for two days in a row. Thursday was also the evening that Walter Cronkite announced the weekly body count from Vietnam. The sad news from Vietnam incited my father to re-live his glory days during World War II and tell even gorier war stories. My mom

hoped and prayed that her son Barry would return home safely. This was not to be.

Walter Cronkite's tally was made more real when two officers in a big black car told us Barry was dead. He had been killed in a "friendly fire incident"; the helicopter he was in was shot down by U.S. soldiers. Talk about irony. We were and still are stunned by this most absurd twist of fate. True to his alcohol-induced state and reactionary politics, my father was quite proud of the fact that his son died for his country, even if Barry died from "friendly fire."

The death of her seventeen-year-old son caused my mother to become radicalized and vociferously protest what many mothers were being faced with. At one time, she threw red paint on the Selective Service Building in Miami. Since this protest demonstration was televised, my father was quite embarrassed and the pastor of our church was not happy to see his parishioner acting in such an un-Catholic manner. Soon afterwards, my mother became a lapsed Catholic and fishsticks were no longer a staple of our Friday evenings.

After all these years, I still can't forget the taste of fishsticks and all the memories they bring. A fishstick aficionado told me they are now "new and improved" and that I should try them. I'd rather eat Spam.

arts news

■ **Urgent note to Chatham County Artists:** CCAC Director **Dona Dowling** has spoken with Cheryl Stewart, of the Raleigh-Durham International Airport Master Art Program, about displaying the work of Chatham County artists. Stewart is helping to develop an overall art program at RDU and is looking for ways to incorporate more temporary exhibits or rotating sculpture while the permanent pieces are fabricated. She is screening artists to match them with opportunities and will be creating a slide presentation as part of that process. Submit slides, resume, reviews, and biographical information by April 14 to **Cheryl Stewart**, 4005 Westmount Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410.

■ **Beth Goldston's** painting "Chatham Round Bales" graces the cover of the new Chatham County Visitor's Guide prepared by the Chatham County United Chamber of Commerce. The work of **Gretchen Lothrop**, **Mark Hewitt**, and **Doris Dunlap** appears inside the brochure along with shots of **Joyce Bryant's** Stone Crow Pottery. The brochure also lists local art studios open full-time, information on the Arts Council's concerts and the Studio Tour. To get a copy for visiting friends and family, call (919) 742-3333 or email ccucc@chathamchamber.org.

■ Artists who have not previously participated in the Chatham County Studio Tour may pick up new artist guidelines and applications now at the Chatham County Arts Council and submit them with slides for the jurying process by May 5. Artists who have participated in this event during the period 1995-99 will be sent returning artists applications in May. Studio Tour 2000 will be held December 2-3. For more information please contact the Arts Council at arts@emji.net or 542-0394.

■ Office manager needed for the Chatham County Arts Council. The position is part-time, 10-15 flexible hours weekly, and requires basic computer skills with attention to details and deadlines. Pay is \$9.00/hour. Minorities are encouraged to apply. For more information contact **Dona Dowling** at arts@emji.net or 542-0394.

■ Pottery artists wanted. **Anthony Young** is interested in finding pottery artisans to add to an Internet site now in creation. Contact him at spider@intercom.net

■ Artists of all types wanted. Kindred Spirits, a multi-faceted facility set to open this spring in Raleigh is looking for artists' work to show. For more information contact **Nadine Bannard** at (919) 845-6414 or KindredSpirits07@aol.com.

■ ARTS North Carolina invites artists, administrators, and volunteers to its annual Arts Day events in Raleigh, May 9-10. For 25 years, ARTS North Carolina has been connecting people in the arts through statewide conferences, advocacy activities, career development workshops, and information services. For more information or to register, email arts.n.carolina@mindspring.com, call (919) 828-3056, or check the Website at <http://www.artsnc.org>.

■ **Herman Brannen's** Adam and Eve, a large metal sculpture giving a contemporary interpretation of the subject, is generating some controversy at state levels. Selected for a year-long public art show by officials of the Community College Systems, the piece was first placed in the lobby of their downtown Raleigh headquarters, then reportedly was moved to a private office after complaints that it was "too graphic." Please take time to view the piece, at whatever location you find it, while part of the year-long showing. Meanwhile, Brannen was the only artist selected to speak on a panel at UNC-Chapel Hill for the First Amendment Days conference on March 30. The subject? "Art and Free Expression."

■ North Carolina Arts Council grants for both writers and visual artists are available for residencies at Headlands in California, Vermont Studio Center, and La Napoule, France. Visual artists contact **Jeff Pettus** at (919) 733-2111, ext. 25; writers contact **Debbie McGill** at (919) 733-2111, ext. 22; or visit the Website at www.ncarts.org.

■ The National High School Congressional Arts Program invites you to its district reception, Tuesday, May 30, 6-8 p.m. at the Pittsboro campus of CCCC. Come see this showcase of Chatham's coming generation of artists.

MUSICIANS!

Be included in the first annual Chatham Crossroads
Count it off!
Chatham County music review

We want to let the entire county know about every Chatham County musician, band, choir, folkie, reggae rasta, punk-rocker, bluegrass demon, gospel angel, country crooner, jazz shark, rock & roller, classical queen, soul man and woman that either has a CD or tape and/or performs publicly. It's simple:

- 1) Have a friend write a 200-word description of your music giving readers a sense of what you play. No objectivity required.
- 2) Write a list of your CDs, tapes or upcoming gigs (starting in June)
- 3) If you have a CD, list where folks can get one as well as contact information to reach you
- 4) Grab a photo of you, your band, or your CD cover
- 5) Send it all to Chatham Crossroads, PO Box 1685 Pittsboro, NC 27312. Or you can email the text to editors@chathamcrossroads.org (but be sure to send the photo).

Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (C.A.R.E.) Foster Corner



This is Sam Elliot. He is a three-month old Doberman mix. He is friendly, playful and loveable. When grown, Sam will weigh 70-80 pounds. He needs a home where he will get a lot of attention, love and exercise. He is healthy (can't you see the glow in his eyes?), has started his vaccination series and will be neutered before he goes to a new home. Also for adoption are his brother and two sisters. These pups are in foster homes and are getting plenty of socialization. For more information about Sam, his siblings or the many other wonderful dogs and cats in foster care awaiting adoption,

call C.A.R.E. at 919-542-5757. On May 6th and 7th, C.A.R.E. will be participating in PetSmart's Adoptathon, located in Durham off I-85 at the Guess Road exit. Many adorable dogs, puppies, cats and kittens will be interviewing prospective new families. Volunteers are always needed and welcome in helping with animals at the Adoptathon and other C.A.R.E. activities.



It's Festival season!

Spring time in Chatham County heralds the arrival of four annual festivals:

■ KidsFest

April 15, 10 a.m.- 4p.m., Chatham fairgrounds, Pittsboro
Featuring (tiny) train rides, games, food, moonwalk, a magician, storytelling, clowns and the Crossroads stage. Several candidates running for school board will also be running booths. All proceeds benefit Chatham Childcare Networks. The fairgrounds are located just east of the Pittsboro traffic circle. Cost is \$5 per adult and children are free. Questions? Call 542-6644

■ Haw River Festival Finale

May 13, 1-6 p.m. at the old mill in Bynum
A river Celebration for everyone! Music, art, Clyde Jones Critter Auction, puppets, kayak demos, river monitoring demos, environmental booths and hands-on activities for kids and lots more, all on the banks of the beautiful Haw. Bynum is 4 miles north of Pittsboro off of US 15-501.

■ Artscapade

May 20, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Lamont Norwood Road, North Chatham
This fifth annual spring arts fair is filled with great entertainment and lots of creative hands-on fun for kids and families. Be sure to check out the spin-o-matic art machine! From Cole Park Plaza, travel west on Mann's Chapel and turn right on to Poythress, which soon turns into Lamont Norwood road. Admission is \$5. Call 932-6313 for more information.

■ Chicken Festival

May 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., downtown Siler City
A helium balloon ride that can let you bounce 40 to 100 feet in the air? That's what organizers of this long-time Chatham favorite say you can find at the eleventh annual Chicken Festival. Ten thousand people are expected to enjoy the food, rides, games and bands, which include Bluegrass Experiences, GrooveLine (R&B), Charlie (Rock & Roll) and Pure Country. More than 150 arts and craft vendors will be there. Pony rides, a petting zoo, art activities, remote control racecars and a rock-climbing wall will make everyone a smiler. Call 1-800-468-6242 for information.

Chatham Crossroads Calendar

April 2000

• Art Exhibit - Pat and Bob Goetz will continue their art exhibit through the end of April in Reeves Auditorium at the Pittsboro Memorial Library.

09 Sunday

• Art opening at the Gathering Place in Fearington Village. 2-4 p.m. Featuring the work of Fran Schultaberg and Doris Dunlap.

10 Monday

• Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. at Siler City Elementary School

11 Tuesday

• School Board Candidates Forum 7 p.m. at Perry Harrison School (Sponsored by Perry Harrison PTA)

15 Saturday

• Reading at McIntyre's Bookstore, Fearington Village. 11:00 a.m. Local resident Daniel Wallace, will read from his new novel, Ray in Reverse.

• KidsFest. Family-oriented festival with games, food, magicians, clowns and the Crossroads music stage. Admission \$5 for adults. Kids are free. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the County Fairgrounds, Pittsboro.

15 Saturday

... and Sunday.
• Beginning Animal Communication workshop. Noon to 5 p.m. each day. Fee is \$125.00. Call 545-0686 for reservations or information.

17 Monday

• Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. at J. S. Waters School

• County Commissioners Meeting 10 a.m. in the District Courtroom

17 Monday

• School Board Candidates Forum Siler City Town Hall, 7 p.m. (Sponsored by Chatham Crossroads)

21 Friday

• Beginning of Spring Break - No School!

24 Monday

• County Commission Candidates Forum 7 p.m., in the District Courtroom, Pittsboro (Sponsored by Chatham Crossroads)

May 2000

01 Monday

• End of Spring Break - Back to school!

02 Tuesday

• Chatham County Planning Board Meeting 7 p.m. in the District Courtroom

04 Thursday

• Alvin Schultzberg will present a program about George Gershwin and his music at 7:30 p.m. in Pittsboro Memorial Library's Reeves Auditorium.

08 Monday

• Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. at Horton Middle School

13 Saturday

• Haw River Festival Finale. Music, art, kayak demonstrations, environmental booths all by the banks of the Haw. 1-6 p.m. at the Old Mill in Bynum.

20 Saturday

• Artscapade. The Community Independent School's spring Arts Fair, filled with great entertainment and lots of creative hands-on fun for kids and families, will be held from 11 a.m. through 4 p.m. Admission is \$5.00.

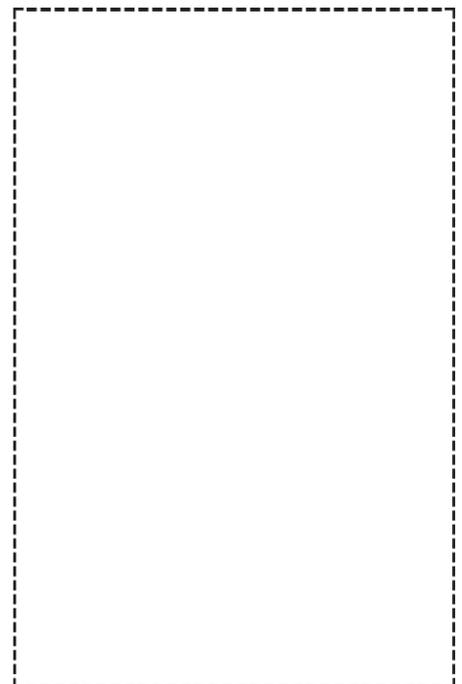
• Chicken Festival. Eleventh annual celebration of Chatham's famous fowl. 150 booths. Music. Big rides and lots of food. The fun runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown Siler City.

22 Monday

• Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the central office of the school board
• County Commissioners Meeting 10 a.m. in the District Courtroom

29 Monday

• Memorial Day - No School



Neighbor to Neighbor

This column is a regular feature in Chatham Crossroads. If you would like to tell the readers of Chatham Crossroads about yourself, a hobby you love, or anything else about being a part of the Chatham Community, give us a call at 545-9561 or email us at editors@ChathamCrossroads.org

The story of Freedom Farm

BY PAM CARPENTER

At Freedom Farm, located in Bear Creek, we have a slogan that we live by: living in harmony with nature. My husband and I practice organic methods of raising our herbs and foods by not using chemicals or synthetics. We also engage in a holistic lifestyle for both the humans and our dogs. Holistic requires that



CARPENTER

the whole being of mind and body must be healthy and balanced. One part such as the physical body cannot be healed until the psychological aspects are considered healthy. Truly, the use of organic foods, herbs along with other various means of healing the body naturally has transformed both our lives and dogs' lives.

I lived miserably with allergies for years prior to eating organic foods and using herbs. For those of you who are not familiar with allergies, they can at times be debilitating keeping one from regular activities and enjoying life. I would take an herb once in a while but it was only a quick fix. When I changed my diet, my attitude and incorporated a serious program of herbal remedies, my year round allergy problem was thankfully eliminated. I don't take herbal remedies for allergies because my immune system is strong from a healthy, holistic lifestyle. There are many stories that I share with others about my husband Don, our dogs and myself in which this combination has worked to create healthy bodies.

It all started with a small, medicinal herb garden here on our farm. I started making herbal remedies in the forms of teas, salves, poultices and extracts for various ailments. The remedy worked so well, I was astounded by the results. This re-awakened a passion in me from my youth of being interested in natural foods and healing. I began to share this information with others and created products that people bought for themselves and their dogs. Then the people who used the products began to tell me how the products worked effectively in many different situations. People shared with me about how our eucalyptus and peppermint salve worked on their arthritis when nothing else would help them. Our teas help calm stressful people in their busy lives. Or if one felt a bit ill, like coming down with a cold, they would start drinking our Immune Builder tea and report that they never got sick. I then began to make facial creams. After many failed attempts, one day in the middle of summer the perfect Moon Woman cream was created. I shouted for joy over this beautiful cream that was finally perfected. It was wonderful and I shared this cream with others much to their delight. From that hot, humid day a couple of years ago, Moon Woman Skin Care was born. The Cherub Dog products followed and our first product was Casey's Cherub Soap, which is used by humans as well because it is a rich, lathering, good-smelling soap!

Our business consists of three different product lines. Moon Woman Skin and Body care products include creams, lotions, cleansers, soaps, toners, and scrubs designed for a woman's sensitive skin. Cherub Dog products include; herbal powder, bar and liquid soap, herbal sprinkles for food and herbal formulas created for dogs as safe, effective alternatives to enhance their well-being. Finally, Freedom Farm products take you back to a simpler time, the days of our grandmothers. Aromas, herbs, salves and all those neat things at your grandmother's house is what Freedom Farm products offers from teas, salves and balms to foot and hand care products and herbal soaps.

Our products contain only vegetable oils such as almond, olive, coconut, jojoba, sesame, and other wholesome ingredients like aloe vera and vegetable glycerin. We never use synthetics, chemicals or petroleum based products in our formulas. And we are against animal testing. Our products are tested on willing human participants. We go one step further in making our products by infusing our organically grown herbs into the vegetables oils for many of our products containing oil creating a true herbal product.

My husband Don and I are fortunate to be able to share our farm and home with our animals. Our dogs are our family members, healers and teachers for us. It was my cocker spaniel Andrew who taught me so much in learning how well herbs, organic foods and natural healing worked when he was diagnosed with what is termed a "fatal disease." It was in working with Andrew that I observed the positive effects that this combination can offer to enhance one's quality of life. "The Natural Dog" is a workshop that I teach which informs the animal guardian about nutrition and various modes of alternative therapies with an emphasis on herbs for your dog. The herbal part of the workshop teaches participants how to create and administer herbs to their companion animals. "The Natural Dog" workshop will be offered May 20th here on our farm.

You can visit Freedom Farm during the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's Farm Tour April 29 and 30th 1-6 p.m. daily or during the first Saturday in December for holiday shopping. (This year we will also invite other creative people to come and offer their crafts for sale.) You can buy our products at the Pittsboro General Store or by mail order. If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletter, special mailings or would like more information about our products or a group demonstration, please call and leave your name and address at 919.837.5982 or e-mail at: feather@interpath.com.

BY CECELIA CARVER

If you could stop by North Chatham Elementary School and walk the grounds, you'd see gorgeous red Emperor tulips in full bloom, vetch and rye cover crops recently turned under, broccoli transplants ready to go in, and room in the raised beds for potatoes. You might see a local farmer working with the students in their gardens, or you might catch students loading into a bus as they head out to a local farm for a visit.

Who's behind this effort? The teachers of North Chatham Elementary School are working with Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Screech Owl Farm School, and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to



NOTES
FROM
SCREECH
OWL
FARM
SCHOOL

build a Sustainable Agriculture curriculum that can be used in other Chatham schools. The overall goal is to introduce students to the concepts and methods of Sustainable Agriculture through specific projects.

Why all this farming in our schools? Because, Chatham is a farming county, and the folks involved in this project are interested in supporting that heritage. We love sharing with students the joy of working with the soil.

This initiative connects local growers and farmers to the schools, and helps build bridges of understanding. It gets students outside, together with a member of the community, to share common hands-on-science experiences that reach across cultures, academic skills and languages.

If you are interested in finding out more, write us: farm@screechowl.com.

We'd love to include you.

Cecelia Carver is the director of the Screech Owl Farm School. Her web page is www.screechowl.com

Chatham Forum

Another article on Hispanics?

BY EFRAIN RAMIREZ

How fortunate can Chatham be? Yet another article on Hispanics? Latinos? What to call them?

I came here some 15 years ago never realizing that this would be such an issue. Frankly, when I moved to Pittsboro, I thought I was the only one around until I went to the Piggly Wiggly (where the Thrift Shop is now), encountered a section for Mexican foods and heard people speaking Spanish. That weekend I went to wash my laundry and spoke to a bunch more. It wasn't until I stopped working for money (some call it retirement) that I came to realize how many Spanish-speaking people call Chatham home. Did you know there are some who have been in Chatham for over 30 years? There were even some Spaniards off the coast (and probably on the coast) of North Carolina before the English ever got here.

After "retirement" six years ago I worked/volunteered at a number of locations. This is when I found my first UNC School of Public Health study on Hispanics in Chatham. It had been written two years before and was extensive. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Jon Warkenton and the graduate students who put it together. I am sure there are still copies somewhere at the Health Department. Since then Chatham has been the laboratory for other UNC studies, and articles galore—both positive and negative—criticizing as well as praising what is occurring in Chatham county and how we have dealt with or coped with the influx of Spanish speaking residents. We are not the only place in North Carolina and certainly not the largest that has a Latino population, but we sure have been the focus of attention.

The first week of March was an example of how well we are doing. There was the "El Foro Latino" at Camp Royall on Moncure-Pittsboro Road. It was well attended by Latino leaders from all over the state. Several educators from Chatham brought some of their Latino

students giving them a real lesson in civics. The main focus seems to have been on the 2000 census. The event was covered a few days later on the morning National Public Radio (NPR) show. This is the fourth year that the Foro has been held and I believe the third time in Chatham.

Then UNC School of Social Work, through its World View International Program for Educators, held a seminar regarding Hispanics in North Carolina. Chatham was well represented. One of the main features in the program was a panel that included the chair of the Chatham County Commissioners, Rick Givens, and the Board of Education's Vice-Chair, Ernest Dark. There were several others on the panel who had also been part of a group of North Carolina officials who traveled to Mexico so they could learn more about some of the people who now call Chatham home. They seemed to have also learned a bit more as to why they come here, and to respect the incredible sacrifice, danger and the effort it takes to do so. No one condoned the fact that many are here in violation of immigration laws, but there certainly seemed to be more sympathy for the reasons why this migration has been occurring.

In addition to county and state officials, Ms. Keisha Walker, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher from Jordan Matthews High School brought three of her Latino students to participate in a second panel. In many respects this was the highlight of the seminar. I wish the county and state officials who had been in the earlier panel had stayed long enough to hear what these young people had to say. They were incredibly mature, intelligent and articulate. They expressed themselves from the heart as to who they were, why they were here and what they hoped to accomplish in this land. It was also evident that they will contribute to our future.

Finally, the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) held its first annual Hispanic Educational Summit at the NC School of Science &

Mathematics on March 18. Was Chatham represented? "You betcha!" There were 50 or more Latino students from Chatham schools who participated, including Ms. Walker and her three. They were there along with some 150 to 200 others. The NCSHP was founded by Dr. Fernando Rodriguez and Mr. Marco Zarate, among others, to promote education among Latino youth attending North Carolina middle and high schools. It is part of a statewide mentoring program to help young people finish their education, at least through high school, and to go on to college or university where ever possible.

Truly a full two weeks of activities. It goes to show you that contrary to some of the negative news/rumors you hear from time to time, Hispanics/Latinos are not taking away; they are also contributing. They, like all the other migrations that have come before them, aspire to better themselves and their families. In many cases they and their ancestors have been in what is now called the United States of America for several hundred years. They have also made sacrifices to come here, just like other migrant groups, and suffered the same indignities and rejection as did every one else. It seems to be the price they have to pay for being a part of this land. That is the pity of it. (See the story written by Mexican-born Chris Pacheco, an eighth grade student at North Chatham School, on the cover).

As far as labels go, Efrain A. Ramirez, Jr. chooses "Nuyorican" to reflect his birth in Puerto Rico and his childhood in New York City. He spent time in Miami, Puerto Rico, with the United States Marine Corps and various schools in California, graduating from UC Santa Barbara. He is now retired from international marketing and from most paying jobs although he currently works part-time at North Chatham School. In the recent past, Efrain was almost a full-time volunteer who has retired again, for the time being.

It is time to stop protecting the State from God

BY GARY PHILLIPS

Dear friend of mine:

You were surprised and dismayed when I proposed we have prayer before county commissioner meetings, so I thought I should try to explain myself.

I like public prayer. I'm sick and tired of a culture that lives in its head all the time and never gets to its heart. It's a part of the hegemony of white intellectual power, a battering ram in the war against subsistence peoples. I'm serious about this.

Our crisis is spiritual, I believe, and spiritual tools are called for. The way we conduct our public life excludes a spiritual dimension to our work and the inherent responsibilities for ethics and integrity that is part of the ground of that kind of experience. We actively exclude people from public discourse who are diurnal rather than dichotomous, folks who think in stories and wish in prayer. These are predominantly poor people and people of color. I'm sick and tired of

it, to quote Barbara Lorie. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired, to quote Fannie Lou Hamer.

I want a public life that's chaotic and fecund with spirituality. I'd like to see statues of the Goddess in our public parks (Venus Willendorf, not de Milo). I'd like to see the Upanishads engraved on the lintels of courthouses and the name of Allah sung from the rooftops of Pittsboro. I'd like to see Jews and Pentacostals bring their powerful words to the table. Buddhists, too.

It is time to stop protecting the State from God. There's a false objectivity to politics, anyway. As Dudley Young says, "Today the official view is still that the knowledge science seeks is of the dispassionate and not the carnal kind; and yet the evidence everywhere of Nature's violated body suggests that this is not altogether so..."

I have an evangel to the progressive community. This is what I shout at Democracy South board retreats and

whisper at the gatherings of radical environmentalists. They're the people I love. We're outgunned, outspent and out-organized; Mother-God/Father-God is the only uncontrollable asset we have on our side. (Sure, it's okay to call her Nature if you want to—just talk to her.)

I know this is a long circle to make in discussing whether we should pray/allow prayer/solicit prayer before county commissioner meetings in Chatham County, but I believe we can do this thing in a way that is inclusive, not exclusive, that honors the extraordinary diversity of spiritual expression. Maybe we'll be blessed by it. I don't know.

I'll tell you this, though. (again with a nod to Young): Any hand of power that is not sometimes folded in prayer will in the end become a predatory claw. I believe that.

Gary Phillips is a Chatham County Commissioner who lives in Silk Hope.

Humbling journey

BY RICK GIVENS

When Debbie Meyer ask me to write a column for Chatham Crossroads about my trip to Mexico, I really didn't know what to say but I agreed and will try to give you a brief impression of what I learned. So many stories and images bombarded me on that trip-I could never cover all of them, but here is a little background, and a story.

The purpose of the trip to Mexico, which took place January 31, 2000 through February 6, 2000, was to send and educate North Carolina public policy leaders about Latino/Hispanic immigration. It was sponsored by The North Carolina Center for International Understanding.

I was very pleased to be included in such a group. The group included Representatives from the State House. We had State Senators, and VPs of large companies. The delegation from Chatham County was comprised of myself, School Board Vice-chair Ernest Dark, Chief of Police Lewis Phillips from Siler City, Sheriff Don Whitt, and Gloria Maldonado from Helping Hands, a community group in Siler City.

Our journey began with a two-day orientation in Raleigh, three weeks before our departure to Mexico. We were given a lot of information on Mexico, and the places we would visit. One interesting fact that I learned was that a large number of immigrants were brought from Mexico to the United States during World War Two. These workers were

bought in by the government because of the shortage of labor in the US. Immigrant laborers were brought in by the trainload, and busload. After the war, word spread all over Mexico of higher paying jobs, and opportunities in the States and a new wave of migration began in earnest.



RICK GIVENS

The story I will share is this. Outside of Mexico City there is a "small" town of only one million. Yes, this is small by Mexican standards because in Mexico City they have over 20 million people. In this town, called Chalco, I visited the Juan Diego Center. Until recently there was no infrastructure for plumbing, or electricity. All of Chalco's residents live below the poverty line. The Juan Diego Center provides multiple community services to this community, including a small public library, daycare, health services, and workshops to cultivate job skills.

We were greeted as very special guests. As we toured each class starting with day care for babies as young as three weeks old, up to maybe the eighth grade there was a sense of pride that given the ever present poverty was hard to believe. They were saying we aren't blaming anyone for our place on this earth, but they were also saying we can better our

lives.

Everyone was proud of what they were doing, and had plans to make do with what they had. They didn't blame someone else for their position. They had hope for a brighter future, and they were willing to work hard to achieve that end.

In the library there were only a few books, but they were used by thousands. Many were published in the 1940s, and '50s. The residents were making do, and growing in spite of their adversity.

Seeing these people strive to better their position was very humbling. It put certain things in perspective for me. I thanked God for all the blessings that he had given me, and bestowed on my country. I also thanked him for giving me a better understanding of my place in this world. While I can't deny that there is a problem with the immigration laws that need attention, this journey began a process that should help in the search for solutions for all of the residents of Chatham County.

My favorite poet put it best when he wrote "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night." He was Dylan Thomas, and he says it all.

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at the close of day;

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,

Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

What this means to me is never say die. In this very poor school there was learning taking place, they were fighting the odds for a better life, and winning.

Rick Givens is Chairman of the Chatham County Commissioners.

It pays to vote

BY BOB HALL

Are you someone who thinks it doesn't matter whether or not you vote?

Well, consider this truth: The quality of life is much better in the communities where more people vote.

Hard evidence shows that the states with the best 20-year record of voter turnout enjoy fuller employment, a fairer tax system, and a smaller income gap between the rich and the poor. They also have a lower crime rate, lower high-school dropout rate, and higher potential for their citizens to reach old age.

For example, Iowa and Montana enjoy high voter turnout and rank among the top 10 states for most of these social and economic factors. By contrast, North Carolina ranks 46th for voter turnout, 34th for income gap, 30th for use of regressive taxes, and 40th for high-school dropout rate. It's not that low-turnout states are poorer; North Carolina is actually richer than Iowa and Montana on a per-capita basis. But the gaps are much bigger here between rich and poor, educated and uneducated, white and non-white.

Statistics, gathered by Democracy South a few years ago, confirm this relationship between voter turnout and basic equity. Ten of the best 12 states for turnout scored among the best 12 on a set of indicators measuring social and economic health, while 11 of the

worst 14 states for voter turnout are at the bottom on the equity scale. Common sense also says that when more people shape a state's or a community's government, the benefits of jobs and public policy get spread around more evenly. As political scientist Oliver Woshinsky puts it, "If everybody is voting, politicians cannot pursue elitist policy goals or they'll get punished."

When large numbers don't participate, important issues get sidestepped and policies get enacted that penalize the people least inclined to vote. Young people are especially hurt in a culture of civic abstinence. Teenagers of all races in states like North Carolina are more likely to drop out from school, be unemployed, commit crime, or get pregnant — yet these same states put the least resources in public schools compared to their spending for prisons. There's a vicious cycle of disadvantaged youth becoming disengaged, non-voting adults, which allows states to continue making education and income equity a low priority. People in the middle, between rich and poor, also pay the price for higher crime rates, higher public health bills, and the lost potential of talented children. It's in their self-interest, too, to have more people become investors in the community and change the state's political culture. The payoff can be measured in dollars and cents.

We can do more to help move North Carolina from a low-turnout to high-turnout state.

REMOVE THE BARRIERS TO VOTING. In the 1880s, North Carolina had a turnout that matched the North; but then Klan insurrection and Jim Crow laws eliminated black and many poorer white voters through the poll tax and other devices. Even now, registration deadlines, restrictions on absentee ballots, and week-day elections make it difficult for the less advantaged to exercise their right to vote.

MAKE POLITICS INSPIRING AND ISSUE-DRIVEN. The high turnout of the 1880s resulted in large part from a spirited debate, enriched by the Populist Party, on such vital issues as expanding public education and making taxes more fair. Reward politicians who address meat-and-potato issues and embarrass those who use distorted ads and hot-button topics to divide people. GIVE VOTERS A CHOICE. We need a diversity of candidates that mirrors our citizenry, and a real chance that they can be elected. Open the ballot to more parties, and end the "winner-take-all" approach to elections. By using the proportional representation methods of other countries, your vote could count even if it didn't go to the top vote-getter.

END THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF CAMPAIGN MONEY. Cynicism over politicians

on-the-take has ballooned into a broad anti-government mood that is destroying our civic culture. We need thorough campaign finance reform to own our government and end expensive favors for private donors. Candidates who show broad support, reject special-interest money, and accept spending limits should get money from a Clean Election Fund. Voter-authorized public financing for qualified candidate would be cleaner and cheaper for taxpayers.

MAKE VOTING A PART OF PEOPLE'S IDENTITY. We need a grassroots civics education campaign that counters cynicism and says, "Be One of This Town's Bosses." We all stand before the ballot box as equals; you're as powerful as a millionaire. Don't diminish yourself by failing to vote.

Remember this on May 2 and November 7, 2000: The health of your economy and society depends on the health of your democracy. Vote.

Bob Hall is research director for the Chapel Hill-based Democracy South and active with North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections. For information on campaign finance reform efforts in North Carolina, email ncvcce@mind-spring.com or call 1-877-663-3257.

Volunteer opportunities in Chatham County

Chatham Crossroads is proud to team up with the United Way and the Chatham County Volunteer Initiative to present regular listings of volunteer opportunities in the county. We welcome ideas for short features on volunteer agencies. Contact Debbie Meyer, Chatham Crossroads' publication coordinator at 942-3252 or tirzah1@ibm.net

Child Care Networks
P.O. Box 1581, 117 E Salisbury Street,
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Contact: Jan Wilkie, 542-6644

Volunteer Needs: Board members with business skills and board committee members. Help with monthly newsletter, follow-up and evaluation of mailings and database updates.

Help with KidsFest Children's Fair.

Guardian Ad Litem
P.O. Box 1028, Carrboro, NC 27510
Contact: Gretchen Aylsworth, 968-2049

Volunteer Needs: Mature, responsible, compassionate adults who will provide advocacy and support for abused/neglected children in juvenile court in Chatham County. No special educational background required; just

a sincere interest in helping children.

Hispanic Liaison
105 E Second Street, Siler City, NC 27344

Contact: Ilana Dubester, 742-1448

Volunteer Needs: Grant research, grant writing, office support, translating/interpreting and outreach.

Where can I find Chatham Crossroads?

■ **PITTSBORO:** Senior Center, CCCC, Ronnie's Quick Stop, Pittsboro Memorial Library, Pittsboro General Store, Cane Creek Video, Kerr Drugs, Lowe's Foods, Flix Video, Food Lion, Petro Mart, Cooper Gas Station (15-501), Frosty's ■ **SILER CITY:** Chatham County Chamber of Commerce, Food Lion, Rose's, BP Gas Station, Amoco/Wicker Mart, Wren Library, Tienda Romero, Best Foods, Lowe's Foods, Chatham Pharmacy, Servco Gas Station, PTA Thrift Shop, MovieMax Video, CCCC, Pantry (CCC), Helping Hands Center, Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Tienda Gabriel, Tienda Guerrero, Stockyards ■ **BYNUM:** Tuck's Country Store ■ **CARRBORO:** Weaver Street Grocery ■ **CHAPEL HILL:** Chapel Hill Library, Wellspring Grocery, Davis Library, Student Union, Undergrad Library ■ **COLE PARK PLAZA:** Lowe's Foods ■ **FEARRINGTON:** Market Café and McIntyre's ■ **GOLDSTON:** Goldston Library and Southern States ■ **JORDAN LAKE AREA:** Amoco, (Hwy 64), Topp's Station (64/Mt. Gilead), BP (Hwy 751), Carolina Meadows Center, Farrell's Store (Lystra/Farrington), Phillips 66 (Hwy 751) ■ **MONCURE:** Fast Serve Market and Mini Mart (by US1) ■ **SILK HOPE:** Silk Hope Grocery

“El Censo es su futuro, no lo deje en blanco”

Ha llegado la hora de hacerse contar. Cada 10 años en Estados Unidos así como en otros países, el gobierno organiza un Censo para contar la población del país y reunir otros datos importantes. A partir de esta semana, les llegarán por correo unos formularios del censo, intitulados CENSUS 2000. Existen dos tipos de cuestionarios, uno corto y uno largo (menos frecuente), son distribuidos al azar. Le puede tocar el uno o el otro. No los echen a la basura. Los cuestionarios son disponibles en español llamando al 1-800-471-8642.

Pero ¿En qué consiste el Censo? Se trata de contar a todas aquellas personas que en un momento dado viven en el país. Todos, sin importar la raza, país de origen o estatuto de inmigración deben participar en el Censo. Si el día que llegan los formularios del censo, usted está viviendo en el país, rellene los formularios!

¿Porqué es importante que todos participen en el Censo? Porque los datos reunidos son los que determinan la cantidad de dinero que el estado federal distribuye a las comunidades para sus programas sociales, educativos, de salud y de medio ambiente. Según el número de personas que viven en un condado, se dará dinero para construir o mejorar las escuelas, para programas de guardería infantil, para clases de inglés, para programas de ayuda a los ancianos y mucho más. Si no se hacen contar, el condado recibirá menos fondos para tales programas.

Además rellenen los formularios del Censo ES FACIL, SEGURO Y CONFIDENCIAL. Insistimos, no deben temer nada por rellenar los formularios o por hablar con el personal del Censo. Ellos, por Ley, deben guardar la información de manera muy confidencial. El censo es una compilación de los datos de todos, no se divulgan archivos individuales en ningún caso.

El Vínculo Hispano, como centro de cuestionario del Censo, provee ayuda para rellenar los formularios los lunes, miércoles y jueves de 9 a 4.30 de la tarde. Esta ayuda es gratuita, vengan a visitarnos. Tendremos unas sorpresas (playeras, bolígrafos, etc) para los que rellenen los formularios con nosotros. Así que por favor, les pedimos que tomen el tiempo y rellenen bien los cuestionarios del Censo.

¡Todos contamos, hagámonos contar!

Verdades y mentiras sobre el Censo...

4. He escuchado que sólo los ciudadanos americanos tienen que rellenar los cuestionarios.
MENTIRA. TODOS debemos rellenar los formularios, cualquiera que sea nuestro estado de inmigración.

2. He escuchado que el personal del Censo me puede reportar a la migra y a los impuestos.
MENTIRA. Todos los que trabajan para el Censo tienen obligación de confidencialidad

¡Ni el Presidente de los Estados Unidos tiene acceso a archivos privados!

Rellenar los formularios del Censo es SEGURO.

4. No sé cuanto tiempo voy a quedarme aquí en Estados Unidos pero me han dicho que rellene los formularios de todos modos.

VERDAD. Si el 1 de Abril está en Estados Unidos, debe participar en el Censo.

4. ¿Para qué hacerme contar, de todos modos nada va a cambiar en mi comunidad?

MENTIRA. Si todos nos hacemos contar, esto permitirá que nuestra comunidad obtenga más fondos federales para la educación de nuestros hijos, para el bienestar los ancianos, para nuestros amigos incapacitados, para nuestro medio ambiente. El Censo nos beneficia directamente.

¡No Tengan miedo, háganse contar!

Préstamos de emregencia: un nuevo programa de el vínculo Hispano

Este programa ofrece préstamos modestos sin intereses a la comunidad Latina del Condado de Chatham. Si usted recibe un préstamo de \$100, por ejemplo, sólo pagará \$100. El reembolso (pago) se puede hacer por semana, por quince, o por mes, usted decide. Para solicitar un préstamo, usted debe hacer una cita y cumplir con los requisitos. Hable con nosotros al 919-742-1448.

Noticias del pueblo... Viaje a México de un grupo de representantes locales: un gran éxito

El mes pasado, un grupo de líderes comunitarios que incluye los comisionados Givens y Polard, el Jefe de la policía de Siler City Phillips y el Sheriff Whitt, miembros de la junta de directores de las escuelas, Gloria Maldonado y demás, participaron en un viaje a México organizado por el Centro Internacional para la Comprensión Mutua de UNC. Durante este viaje, los participantes pudieron visitar varios pueblos, probar platos típicos, conversar con los habitantes y las autoridades locales, visitar escuelas y centros de salud, etc. Según los comentarios de los participantes, fue una experiencia muy enriquecedora que les permitió entender mejor a la población Latina del Condado. Rick Givens, el comisionado que escribió la carta al INS hasta comentó en la prensa que ahora, sabiendo lo que sabe, no hubiera mandado tal carta. Esto le ha valido ser llamado traidor por los manifestantes contra la inmigración del pasado sábado 19 de febrero.

Manifestación contra la inmigración en el Condado (Demonstration against immigration)

La manifestación contra la inmigración del 19 de febrero fue organizada por un grupo extremista minoritario. Ellos invitaron al famoso David Duke, el ex-miembro del KKK (un grupo que aboga por la supremacía de la raza blanca). Durante la semana de preparación de la manifestación, El Vínculo Hispano recibió muchísimas llamadas de individuos y asociaciones locales que querían mostrar su apoyo a la comunidad Latina y ver como podían apoyar. Las autoridades locales también llamaron para confirmar que no tenían nada que ver con la manifestación y que de ninguna manera representaba la opinión de la ciudad. Sin embargo, la Constitución Americana consta del derecho de expresión con lo cual tuvieron que autorizar la manifestación. Es probable que varios grupos que trabajan en el condado se junten para organizar una gran celebración de diversidad cultural esta Primavera. Si están interesados en participar en esta celebración, favor de comunicarse con nosotros al 919-742-1448.

La información contenida en esta página es cortesía de El Vínculo Hispano y fue publicada en el boletín trimestral Número 2 del Vínculo. Para mayor información o para recibir nuestro boletín, llámenos al 919-742-1448. Escrito por Paloma Salvador Castro.

Prevent fires

This month we are not celebrating the firefighter's day or how to prevent fires or the like, but when I read this information, I thought about all of you and how crucial it is to be knowledgeable of certain rules that could help in preventing fires.



ELENA ASKEY

American Red Cross.

Protect your family from fires:

■ Install at least one smoke detector at the every entrance of rooms and in each level of the house, checking monthly their batteries and changing them once a year.

■ Portable heaters, place clothing, curtains, furniture and any other inflammable article away from a portable heater. Plug heaters directly to the electric outlet on the wall and disconnect when not in use.

■ Be safe in the kitchen, keep utensils that can burn, such as towels, clothing, curtains, away from the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen area and learn how to operate it.

■ Electricity, use plugs to cover electric outlets especially if you have children. Avoid to over surge an electric outlet with several electric items at one time and do not place the cord under rugs or furniture.

■ Security habits, never smoke in bed. Keep matches and lighters from children's reach.

■ Escape plans, plan and practice escape routes in case of fire and make sure that everybody knows two ways of getting out of the dwelling. Use a chain latter to escape from a second or third floor home and practice on how to use it. Teach your children that firefighters are their friend and that they will help them in case of a fire. Know how to call and ask for assistance in an emergency.

■ Practice escape plans, crawl below the smoke. Touch closed doors with your hand. If a door is hot, use other exit. If the door is not hot, open it slowly and look if there is smoke or fire. Meet your family, out of the home, at a place earlier designated; and then call for help. Never returned to a burning home, apartment or building.

Protect your family. Do it Today!

Readers may write Elena Askey at P.O. Box 2422, Fayetteville, N.C. 28302 or by e-mail at elenaskey@aol.com send your name, address, and phone number.

Prevenga los incendios

Este mes no se celebra el mes de los bomberos o de cómo evitar los incendios, pero cuando leí esta información, pensé en todos ustedes y lo crucial que es el conocer ciertas reglas que nos pueden ayudar a prevenir los incendios.

Hay hispanos que vienen a este país en invierno y compran calentadores portátiles para combatir el frío y ví lo bueno que un artículo de estos puede ser para todos en general. Esta información la obtuve de La Cruz Roja Americana.

Proteja a su familia de los incendios.

■ Instale por lo menos un detector de humo fuera de cada habitación y en cada nivel de su hogar, revisando las baterías mensualmente y cambíelas al menos una vez al año.

■ Calentadores portátiles, mantenga cobijas, ropa, cortinas, muebles y cualquier cosa que pueda encenderse en fuego lejos de los calentadores portátiles. Conecte los calentadores directamente en tomacorrientes de pared y desconéctelos cuando no los use.

■ Seguridad en la cocina, mantenga los utensilios que se pueden quemar, tales como toallas, ropa y cortinas, lejos de la estufa. Mantenga un extinguidor de incendios en la cocina, y aprenda a usarlo.

■ Electricidad, use tapones de seguridad en los tomacorrientes, especialmente si tiene niños pequeños. Evite sobrecargar la electricidad en un tomacorriente y no coloque los cordones de los aparatos eléctricos debajo de alfombras ó muebles.

■ Hábitos de seguridad, nunca fume en la cama. Mantenga los fósforos y encendedores fuera del alcance de los niños.

■ Planes de escape, planifique y practique rutas de escape de incendios y asegúrese de que todos sepan dos maneras de salir de cada habitación. Use una escalera en forma de cadena para escapar de los pisos altos y practique cómo usarla. Enseñe a los niños que los bomberos son sus amigos y que los ayudarán si ocurre un incendio. Sepa cómo llamar para pedir ayuda de emergencia.

■ Practique el escape, arrástrese (gatee) debajo del humo. Toque las puertas cerradas con la parte posterior de su mano. Si una puerta esta caliente, use otra salida. Si no está caliente, abra la puerta lentamente y mire si hay humo ó fuego. Reúnase con su familia, fuera del hogar, en el lugar previamente designado; y después llame para pedir ayuda. Nunca regrese a su casa, apartamento ó edificio que se está incendiando.

Proteja a su familia. ¡Hágalo hoy!

Lectores pueden escribir a Elena Askey al P.O. Box 2422, Fayetteville, N.C. 28302 ó por e-mail a elenaskey@aol.com envíe su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono.

► Recorte este cupón y preséntelo en la farmacia junto con su próxima receta o segunda preparación del medicamento para solicitar indicaciones en español para su receta.

Cut out this coupon and present it at the pharmacy with your next prescription or refill to request Spanish labeling for your prescription.

► Pharmacist: Please label my prescription in Spanish and give me all available pertinent information in Spanish. Also, include this request in my computer records for future prescriptions.

Este es un servicio de la North Carolina Board of Pharmacy y no tiene valor monetario.

¿Necesita cuidado infantil?

Child Care Networks le ofrece:

- información sobre el cuidado infantil.
- ayuda para solicitar fondos para pagarle a la persona que le cuida a sus niños.

¿Cuida usted niños en su casa?

Child Care Networks le ofrece:

- cursos sobre temas relacionados al cuidado de los niños.
- una biblioteca con juguetes educativos y libros en español y mucho más....

Llame al 542-6644, ext. 12 ó 20



A Child Care Resource and Referral Agency

Vote for Gene Galin

Yo soy hijo de inmigrantes y se que Uds. conozen lo importante que es el hablar ingles. Es necesario para el progreso de Uds. y de sus hijos; para poder mejorar sus vidas y obtener buenos trabajos. Es necesario para su educacion. Es tambien importante que sigan practicando su español y que sean bilingue. Lo que yo no conozco es, ¿cual es la mejor manera para asistirlos a Uds. a aprender ingles? Cuando yo logre la posición como uno de los Directores en La Junta Escolar de Chatham County pueden estar seguros que solicitare sus consejos para que utilizemos los mejores metodos disponibles para la educacion de todos en Chatham County.