

carrborocitizen.com

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PHOTO BY DAVE OTTO

Young Gabe Hart helps Joanna Smith with the "tree-hugging" measuring technique on a giant pine in Carrboro's Adams Tract.

A year of major events, great elation and stunning sorrow

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

The happenings that drive the news cycle are typically either something big that changes the lives of a few people or something incremental that affects many. Major news — something big that happens to many — is rarer.

The year 2008, however, is an exception. Going into it, we all knew it would be a big year, in part because of the pending election of a new president, governor and much of our council of state.

In Orange County, we entered the year in the midst of a serious drought and prepared for a somewhat less seismic but still significant shift in local

politics and leadership, with a new chancellor search started, a state Senate race contested by two well-known and well-liked candidates and the board of county commissioners expanding from five to seven.

What most of us did not see early in the year were the clouds on the horizon. The national economy may not be in ruins, but it is in tatters. And even though the old bromide that here in Orange County we're immune, or at least buffered, from downturns has been dutifully repeated, this community enters 2009 far less well off than a year ago, on the street as well as on paper.

Big decisions were made this year, among them the approval of new

developments that will reshape the downtowns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill. The economy may delay or alter these, but the trend is clear — a denser, more populated and multistory central business district is in the cards.

Other decisions affected the rural areas. One was the much-protested decision by the county to build a new waste transfer station near the White Cross community on N.C. 54. Another decision, this one by state waterquality officials, denied a request by the county for a local public hearing on the continued application of biosolids — a nice word for what comes out of sewage treatment plants - by the City of Burlington.

A look at the events of 2008 pages 4 and 5

The university's decision to seriously pursue a new airport to replace Horace Williams and the state Legislature's decision to write into law that it must be in Orange County

SEE 2008 PAGE 3

The Year in Review



Get outdoors on New Year's Day

he annual Eno River Association's New Year's Day walk is a decadesold tradition. This year, hundreds of folks, young

and old, will enjoy another wellorganized walk along the river, welcoming the New Year and celebrating that long corridor of preserved wild lands.

For those of you who prefer walks with fewer people, our area has lots of great walking and hiking options. There are many other trails along the Eno, and Duke Forest has so many trails that you can walk a different one each week for three months without repeating your walks (www.dukeforest.edu). For folks who don't want to travel more than a few blocks from downtown Carrboro, you can enjoy the Adams Tract, with its trail head in Wilson Park at the end of Williams Street. This town-managed natural area offers several short trails through different forest communities. In reality, the Adams Tract is an unannounced gateway to the extensive and beautiful, rocky Bolin Creek forest corridor. Cross the creek and beyond you will discover trails through hundreds of acres of the University's Carolina North property, better known as the Horace Williams tract. So you can easily extend a short walk to a half-day leisurely ramble. Just before Christmas, a small group of us had a fine time discovering a great number of impressive trees just within the 30-acre Adams Tract. Young naturalist 6-year-old Gabe Hart helped the older folks in measuring some of the larger trees using a "tree-hugging" technique. We discovered that you don't really need justification for hugging a big tree. Just do it in appreciation of the tree; and while you're at it, look straight up to get a human-humbling perspective.



A celebration of the life of Eve Carson, March 2008, at the Smith Center.

PHOTO BY ISAAC SANDLIN

A hard year for the schools

BY SUSAN DICKSON Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — It has certainly been a year of transition in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, with the opening of new schools and facilities and the appointment of new administrators. But while many would like to look back on 2008 and remember the new successes of the sports teams and the first Carrboro High School prom, at the forefront of the memories of many members of the school community are the untimely deaths of three Chapel Hill High School students.

In July, recent Chapel Hill High graduate Lilli Manis was killed when a drunk driver struck the car she was riding in with her boyfriend, Philip Jurov. The two had been returning from

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 3

Hometown New Year's resolutions

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

INSIDE

In Memoriam page 6

INDEX

Music
News
Community
Land & Table
Opinion
Classifieds
Almanac

MARGOT C. LESTER Staff Writer

New Year's resolutions have been traced all the way back to ancient Rome, where citizens offered resolutions to honor the god Janus, for whom January is named. (By the by, Janus was the god of the gates, doorways, beginnings and endings).

Here in the States, we probably have Ben Franklin to thank for the tradition. One of his many adages goes like this: "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let every new year find you a better man."

one-third of Americans resolve to improve themselves in various ways during the coming year.

How many actually keep them is another issue entirely. In fact, only one out of five resolution-makers had kept their promises two years later. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't make them anyhow.

"In many ways, New Year's resolutions can help us create clear goals, build enthusiasm and fight procrastination," says Ronald Nathan, creator of the CD Relieving Your Holiday Stress and Achieving Your New Year's Resolutions.

To improve your odds of success, stop stressing about it. The fact is, we're probably going to back-So influential was Ben's advice that today about slide. According to Nathan, even successful resolv-

ers reported an average of 14 such slipups or lapses. So the trick is to stay constructive.

"Avoid saying, 'I've blown it and I'll never be able to succeed," he suggests. "Replace this discouraging self-chatter with, 'Tomorrow's another day and I'm going to get on with keeping my New Year's resolutions.' You may have lost the battle, but don't convince yourself that you've lost the war."

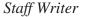
So what have locals resolved for 2009? Here's a sampling:

Based on the philosophy that if you keep doing things the same way, you get the same results, I'm

SEE **RESOLUTIONS** PAGE 7

Amid the doom and gloom, positive developments in Orange County

BY TAYLOR SISK





This story is the seventh in a series about mental health care in North Carolina. To read the previous stories in this series, go to www.carrborocitizen.com/ main/2008/10/04/breakdownseries/

Buried in the deluge of news about our state's collapsing mental health care system are reports of at least two encouraging developments in Orange County, each the sort of communitybased response that local advocates say is the only way out of the crisis.

The first is at Carrboro's Carr Mill Mall, where the UNC Department of Psychiatry has opened a community mental health clinic to house its Schizophrenia Treatment and Evaluation Program (STEP) Clinic and the clinic's Outreach and Support Intervention Services (OASIS) program. OASIS provides help to adolescents



Dr. John Gilmore, vice chair of the UNC Dept. of Psychiatry, and Bebe Smith, a licensed clinical social worker, will operate the OASIS program and STEP Clinic from new offices in Carr Mill Mall.

and young adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, early psychosis.

The second comes from the Town of Chapel Hill, where Mayor Kevin Foy has convened a Mental Health Task Force, comprised of advocates from the community, local government and UNC.

Community based

John Gilmore, vice chair of the UNC Department of Psychiatry, envisioned a community clinic that would provide services for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

Thanks to \$100,000 from the state's Mental Health Trust Fund, \$400,000 from the state Legislature and, most recently, a \$900,000 grant from the Duke Endowment, that vision has now become a reality.

PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

SEE **POSITIVE** PAGE 7

Community

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAY MARKET: 8 a.m. - Noon

Recipe of the Week

Vermouth Glazed Carrots **Recipe provided by Sarah Blacklin**

Ingredients:

2 bunches of carrots* (depending on the size and variety of the carrot. Heirloom carrots tend to be slimmer and smaller than regular carrots)

- 2 Tablespoons of butter
- 2 Tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Vermouth
- salt

Procedure:

Peel and wash the carrots. You can cut the carrots up into bite size chunks, or leave them whole if they are already slender and small. Boil the carrots in a pot of salted water until tender. Drain and remove from the heat. In a separate sauce pan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Once melted, add the carrots, brown sugar and Vermouth. Reduce to low heat. Stir to coat the carrots as the brown sugar thickens and melts. Continue to cook on low heat until the Vermouth is absorbed into the carrots.

What's at Market?

Lettuce, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, radishes, cauliflower, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, lamb, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, relishes and more!

Community Calendar

12-4pm. Food, arts and crafts and music on Hillsboro Street. 260-9725, pittsboroshops.com

Community College will hold open registration for spring semester classes at its campuses in Chatham, Harnett and Lee counties. cccc.edu

Power of the People: Environmental Justice in Orange County — Jan. 25, 2:30-5pm. Talk by Omega Wilson of the West End Revitalization Association, Inc. Carrboro Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St. 960-3875

The Songs of Zion — Jan. 31, 7:30pm. Winter concert by Women's Voices Chorus. Music inspired by lewish texts and composers and Yiddish and Hebrew folksongs. Duke Chapel. \$15 adults, \$5 students, 684-3855, allan@duke.edu, www. womensvoiceschorus.org

VITA Tax Service — free tax service families done by trained and certified volunteers. The service will be available Monday through Saturday, Feb. 2 through April 15 at several sites in Orange and Chatham counties. www.co.orange.nc.us/vita.

asp Dance

Dance calendars will now appear once

a month in MILL. You can read them in this month's issue on page 9. Faith

Advent Lutheran — 10:25am worship service

Buddhist Teachings and Meditation — Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm. The Kosala Mahayana Buddhist center teaches traditional Kadampa Buddhist practice. 711 W. Rosemary St. 619-5736, meditationinchapelhill.org

Film

Pearl Diver — Jan. 27, 7pm. Story of two sisters haunted by memories of their mother's murder. Fearrington Village Barn, Pittsboro.

Brushes with Life — Feb. 24, 7pm. A documentary exploring the link between illness and art. General Store Café in Pittsboro.

Health & Wellness

support free of charge for cancer patients and family. www. cornucopiahouse.org

The Compassionate Friends: Self-help support after the death of a child — Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Free and open

to all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, chapelhilltcf.org

DivorceCare— Mondays starting Jan. 12, 7pm. A support group for those separated or divorced. Orange United Methodist Church. 942-2825, www.connect2orange.org

Kids

Toddler Time — Thursdays, 4pm. Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

Preschool Story Time —

Saturdays, 10:30am. Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

Express Yourself! — Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon. Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2, 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

Literary

Books Sandwiched—First Wednesday of most months, Ilam. Conference room of the Chapel Hill Public Library, 968-2780

Cybrary Movie/Book Club — Jan. 15, 7pm. To discuss Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog. See the movie, read the book, or both. Carrboro Cybrary. 918-738, www.co.orange.nc.us/ library/cybrary

The Tipping Point — Feb.

10, 7pm. The Carrboreaders Non-Fiction Book Club meets to discuss the Malcolm Gladwell book. 918-7387

Community Book Forum

— Feb. 20, 6:30pm. Cybrary celebrates Black History Month with a discussion of African-American Literature with professor William Andrews, 918-7387

Volunteers

RSVP 55+ Volunteer

Program — Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and over who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. RSVP places volunteers with more than 100 nonprofit agencies in Orange County. 968-2056, www.co.orange.nc.us/aging/ RSVPindex.asp

Meals on Wheels — Seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. 942-2948

English as a Second Language Conversation

Club — Seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from noon-2pm, University Methodist Church on Franklin St. 967-1448, harwellja@bellsouth.net

Do you have anything for one of our calendars? Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.

New Year's Day Schedule **Orange County Solid Waste Management**

Curbside Recycling

There will be NO SERVICE on Thursday January 1 The makeup recycling day is Saturday January 3 Please have your bins out by 7:00 am

Orange County Landfill

and all associated programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection, electronics recycling and mulch sales Closed Thursday January 1 Regular hours resume Friday January 2 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Solid Waste Convenience Centers

Closed (as usual) Wednesday December 31 Closed Thursday January 1 Regular hours resume Friday January 2 7:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



Get on the fast track to becoming a paralegal. Market demand for paralegals is up, and so is competition for the best jobs in the field. If you have an associate's degree or higher, then within a few months you could be competitively positioned to step into the fast-growing paralegal job market with a certificate from one of the nation's top public universities.

UNC-Chapel Hill's Paralegal Certificate Program is an intense program of study that takes place over a four-month period. Classes are held in the evenings and on a number of Saturdays at the Friday Center, UNC's premier adult education facility. Upon completion of the course, you will be prepared to sit for the North Carolina State Bar Paralegal Certification examination.

Learn more at our free information session from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 8. Call 800-845-8640 or e-mail ceinfo@unc.edu. Visit fridaycenter.unc.edu/paralegal for more information or to reserve your space online.



Credit Programs for Part-time S nce Center | Professional Development and Enrichment Programs



Special Events Phil Blank Exhibit — Dec. 12-Jan. 6, 7pm. Wootini Pittsboro First Sundays —

CCCC Registration — Jan.

6, 9am-7pm. Central Carolina



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging $\star \star \star$ HOO BOY! © 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER — Yo, I'm **Bosco**! I am full of personality and spunk!

I often hear people ask around me, "Who is that cat?", and that's because I am always running through the halls or after a feather wand, making people shriek with delight. I can easily leap a person's height to catch toys and other objects of interest. I like other cats but have no problems



occupying myself with anything I can bat around. You will enjoy me as your new family member if you like entertainment from your felines, plus pizazz to spare. And would you mind sharing your dinner with me? I love the smell and the taste of delicious meal fresh from the microwave, or sharing a bag of potato chips. Come see me at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at www.paws4ever.org

ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet King! This

orange tabby is around 2 years old and loves to lounge and soak up attention. He's a laidback guy who is gentle enough for anyone, but still affectionate enough to please those who want lots of quality time with their kitty! Don't miss out on

handsome



King! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill or call 967-7383. You can also see him online at www.co.orange.nc.us/ animalservices/adoption.asp



News Briefs

Tax service

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will provide a free tax service beginning Feb. 2.

Clients of any age whose family income is less than \$50,000 are eligible for the service, which is provided by IRS-certified volunteers and the Orange County Department on Aging's RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program. Returns are filed electronically at no charge.

The service will be available Monday through Saturday, Feb. 2 through April 15 at several sites in Orange and Chatham counties. Appointments for the homebound or disabled can be made by special arrangement. For more information, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/vita.asp

Aquatic center opens

The Homestead Aquatic Center will open on Saturday. Area swimmers are invited to enjoy the new facility, run by the Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department.

The center is located in the northwest corner of the 40acre Homestead Park at 300 Northern Park Drive off Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. The center has two pools, locker rooms, bleachers, a reception area, offices and public art.

For more information on swimming schedules, classes and admission fees at the Homestead Aquatic Center, call 968-2784, or check online at www.chapelhillparks.org

CCCC spring registration

Central Carolina Community College will hold open registration for spring semester classes, including distance education, on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at its campuses in Chatham, Harnett and Lee counties.

The registration locations are: Building 2, 764 West St., Pittsboro; Miriello Building, 1075 E. Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington; and Dennis A Wicker Civic Center, 1105 Kelly Drive, Sanford.

Classes begin Jan. 9.

Red Cross blood drives

The Orange County American Red Cross will hold a number of blood drives over the next weeks.

Locations include: Berry's Grove Baptist Church, 9828 Berry Road, Timberlake, Jan. 4 from 1 to 5 p.m.; Piedmont Electric, 2500 N.C. 86, Hillsborough, Jan. 8 from noon to 5 p.m.; University Mall, 201 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, Jan. 9 from 2:30 to 7 p.m.; UNC Hospitals, Manning Drive behind the hospital, Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and New Sharon United Methodist Church, 1601 New Sharon Church Road, Hillsborough, Jan. 18 from noon to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 942-4862.



HOW TO REACH US The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100

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CLASSIFIED & REAL ESTATE

919-942-2100, 8:30-3 M-F carrborocitizen.com/classifieds Classifieds deadline is midnight Tuesday.

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2008

FROM PAGE I

combined to set off alarms among wary rural residents, particularly those near relatively flat lands within a short drive to the hospital.

We spent all too much of 2008 in tears. The early-morning shooting on March 5 of UNC student body President Eve Carson wasn't just another sad example that this community is a lot less safe than it appears. It drove town and campus into deep, profound mourning before the eyes of the world. Shame, anger and soul-searching followed. Carson was a vibrant, brilliant and dedicated woman, and her death weighed on all of us, especially community and campus leaders who knew her well.

In 2009, we will relive those events when the two young men accused in Carson's kidnapping and murder go to trial.

It won't be the only horrific, brutal killing to be replayed in a court of law. Six young men, most of them in their late teens, stand accused in the late-July killing of Joshua Bailey. The parents of one of those accused have been charged with assisting in the gruesome

aftermath. With so many defendants, there are likely to be pleadings, and as a result we are going to learn more about this crime than we'd ever want to know.

The sudden loss of young people, some as victims of crime and most through accidental means, cast a pall over the year (see editorial, page 6, and our schools year in review on page 1).

Still, the youth of this community also cast the brightest lights of the year when they showed what an energized, informed and dedicated generation can do in an electoral system that had for too long been characterized by ugly slugfests over handfuls of undecided voters. No attack ad could stem the tide of new voters, and on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 5 Barack Obama was president-elect. Throughout much of the community, especially in traditionally African-American enclaves, there was a sense that change had indeed come.

The youth vote, and the thousands more who voted for the first time or the first time in a long time, significantly altered this state's politics and, along with Virginia's similar shift, changed the common - and wrong-headed — view that the south was a monolithic, predictable entity. Call us the If past is prologue, then take a deep breath after you toast the New Year.

New New South.

Much of what we saw this year will carry over to the next.

The challenges facing new administrations at the national, state and county level are tremendous. There are still optimists, but the drumbeat of bad news in the economy is not going to cease with the coming of January. (Anticipate a very loud thud when endof-year 401k and 403b statements are opened in about two weeks.)

Also carrying over to next year are continued disagreements over the waste transfer station, the impact of tight budgets, the negotiations between local governments over the Carolina North project and the airport controversy.

The year ahead may not be quite as intense as the one just past, but in many ways '08 set the stage and the tone for '09. If past is prologue, then take a deep breath after you toast the New Year. And buckle up.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE I

a 2 a.m. showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show when the driver ran a red light, killing Manis and seriously injuring Jurov.

Then in August, Chapel Hill High senior Atlas Fraley was found dead in his home. He had called 911 earlier that day and told operators he thought he was dehydrated and needed an IV. Fraley, a football player, participated in two scrimmages that morning, and had suffered from dehydration in the past.

Orange County Emergency Services has said paramedics arrived at Fraley's home shortly after his call, but have not released information regarding whether or how he was treated.

Tragedy again struck Chapel Hill High in November when senior football player Rodney Torain, one of Fraley's good friends, was killed in a hit-andrun car crash. Torain was riding home with two friends along Old Greensboro Highway when a car began closely following their vehicle. The car then began to pass, striking the vehicle on the left side and causing it to run off the road.

Police are still looking for information regarding the driver of the car that struck the vehicle. Despite the tragedies, the school community moved forward. Among the 2008 schools' highlights:

perience working with Thomas. Thomas submitted his resignation from the district in July.

New principal at Carrboro High

Carrboro High School started its second year with new principal Kelly Batten. Batten, a graduate of UNC, came to Carrboro High from Wake County Schools, where he served for a number of years as an assistant principal and high school worldhistory teacher.

New facility for **Phoenix Academy**

Phoenix Academy celebrated 10 years of success and the opening of a brand-new facility this fall. The academy, created by the school board in 1998 and previously housed in three trailers in the parking lot of the Lincoln Center, serves as a school for students who are at risk of dropping out due to long-term suspension. The new facility is located in the old pottery shop building behind the Lincoln Center administrative offices.

Hemminger resigns, McElveen appointed to school board

Greg McElveen was

pointed as the newest member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education in November. The board selected McElveen from a pool of seven applicants to fill the seat left by Pam Hemminger, who resigned in order to serve on the Orange County Board of Commissioners. McElveen has lived in Chapel Hill for 14 years and works in corporate market research at IBM. He has six children.

Scroggs retires

Long-time educator and administrator Steve Scroggs retired in June as assistant superintendent for support services for the school district. Scroggs served as assistant superintendent for eight years and worked in North Carolina public schools for 35 years. He led Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools through a period of massive growth, overseeing the construction of five schools. He was replaced by Todd LoFrese.

New school for Northside

Realized

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District officials voted in July to build the district's 11th elementary school in the Northside neighborhood in downtown Chapel Hill. The site was the location of the Orange County Training School, a school for black students that later became

Northside Elementary School, which closed its doors when schools were desegregated in the 1960s. The elementary school is scheduled to open at the site between Caldwell and McMasters streets in the fall of 2011.

Racial slurs used at CHS

The Carrboro High community was left saddened and bewildered in January after racially charged comments led to a fight among three students. The school rebounded, coming together to form a committee of students, staff and parents to hold discussions on race issues at the school.

Cheating scandal rocks CHHS

Four Chapel Hill High School students were suspended in February in connection with a cheating incident that school officials said involved a stolen master key to the school and dated back several years. According to school officials, a student took pictures of exam answers on a camera phone and emailed them to other students. While investigating the incident, school administration learned about a master key that was stolen a number of years ago. The school then held discussions about th

Send a check to The Citizen, Post Office Box 248, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Visa/Mastercard are also accepted. Please contact Anne Billings at 919-942-2100 for credit card orders.

ONLINE

carrborocitizen.com/main Stories are online every Thursday.





Morris Grove Elementary opens

Morris Grove Elementary School, the district's 10th elementary school, opened its doors to more than 500 students in August. The school, located on the corner of Eubanks and Dromoland roads, was named for Morris Hogan, a freed slave who founded the original Morris Grove School near the site of the new elementary school in the 1880s.

Thomas replaced

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools officials announced in June that Carrboro High School principal Jeff Thomas had been reassigned to the central office. Superintendent Neil Pedersen said his decision to replace Thomas was based on unsolicited feedback from staff and parents, confirmed by student and teacher surveys, as well as his own ex-







Arthans Farmar John Soahnar, Drilling logs for childre spores

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THE CARRBORO ITIZEN



In January

A major squabble between groups of farmers and vendors erupts over the organization of the new Hillsborough Farmers Market. Adam Sapikowski agrees to plead guilty to two counts of second-

degree murder for killing his parents in 2005. After an anonymous complaint to the town, warning letters are sent to property owners who allow taco trucks to use their property.

The town later revises its mobile-vendor rules to accommodate the trucks.

A 1.1-million-square-foot retail and mixed-use development is proposed for the Buckhorn Road area.

A fight among students at Carrboro High School sparked by racial epithets leaves one student in the hospital, others charged with assault and the school on edge.

Orange County is notified by the federal Environmental Protection Agency that an administrative complaint alleging environmental racism over the decision to site a waste transfer station at

Eubanks Road and other actions was under review. A rousing debate on the subject of impeaching President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney is held before an audience of

several hundred at the Carrboro Century Center. Sarah Blacklin is named the new manager of the Carrboro

Farmers' Market. After complaints about a rooster on Pine Street, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen reviews its noisy-fowl ordinance.

Orange County resident John Edwards ends his run for the Democratic nomination for president.

In February

Filing opens for the May 6 primary elections for state Senate and county commissioner.

Hugh Harrington is elected to the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners in a special election. Harrington finished six votes ahead of Michele Berger in the November election, but 17 voters received incorrect ballots and the state board of elections authorized the new election.

Caring Family Network – the primary provider of mental health treatment in Orange, Person and Chatham counties – announces it will be discontinuing most of its services.

UNC Law School announces plans to move to Carolina North. The Orange County Farmers' Market opens for the first time. The market is at The Public Market House at 120 East Margaret

Lane, Hillsborough (behind the sheriff's department). Due to a dispute over who would manage the new market,

county government creates a leadership committee. Orange County School Board member Dennis Whitling resigns following his arrest several days prior. Whitling, 52, was charged with embezzlement, false pretense, obstruction of justice and corporate malfeasance.

With reservoirs at about 40 percent of capacity, the board of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority declares a Stage Three Water Shortage, limiting water use countywide.

Four Chapel Hill High students are suspended and others implicated in a cheating scandal.

Carrboro approves Roberson Square, a five-story office, retail and condominium project on South Greensboro Street.

In March

Student body president Eve Carson is shot to death in front of her home in downtown Chapel Hill. ATM photos show suspects using her car and driving her SUV. Two suspects, Demario James Atwater and Laurence Alvin Lovette are arrested and charged with her murder and kidnapping.



Carson is remembered in tearful memorials held across campus. Her killing and its impact on UNC draws national attention. Residents of the Cameron-McCauley historic district convey their opposition to plans by UNC's Wesley Foundation to build a

70,000-square-foot five-story Methodist dorm on Pittsboro Street. The Carrboro Citizen celebrates its first year in business. St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church had purchased

more than 20 acres of land on the corner of Rogers and Purefoy roads and plans to build not only new worship facilities but housing, athletic facilities and a wellness center. The Barack Obama presidential campaign opens an office on

In April

West Franklin Street.

A Southern Season-sponsored South Estes Farmers' Market, operated by the group Farmers of Orange, opens at University Mall. Former President Bill Clinton visits Hillsborough to campaign for his wife, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, who is seeking the democratic nomination for president.

Grubb Properties files a plan with Chapel Hill to demolish Glen Lennox and replace it with a more-than 1.8-million-square-foot residential, retail, hotel and office development.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes unanimously to move forward with an agreement with UNC for a gas-recovery project at the Orange County Landfill.

Police investigate a recent string of armed robberies in Carrboro and Chapel Hill that targeted Latino citizens. The smell of smoked pastrami is noticed in downtown Carrboro

as Shelia and Matt Neal open Neal's Deli on South Greensboro. Reacting to a proposal for redevelopment, the Chapel Hill Town Council allows residents in the Glen Lennox area to pursue a neigh-

In May

oorhood conservation district

A Friday afternoon rock show with Superchunk and Arcade Fire draws thousands to an early-vote rally for Obama. The Pressure Boys reunite for two benefit shows for the Cystic

An agreement between the Inter-Faith Council, UNC and the Town of Chapel Hill is reached on moving the Community House men's shelter on Rosemary Street to the corner of Homestead Road

State Sen. Ellie Kinnaird fends off a primary challenge from Orange County commissioner Moses Carey.

the Service Employees International Union.

receives the 2008 Mobile CARE (clean air, renewable energy) Award. Dodd wins the "Special Citizen" honor.

new chancellor. A large hive of honeybees flies down Greensboro Street and

Residents, joined by officials from Orange County, question the

spraying of biosolids on farmlands throughout the county. Chapel Hill native and longtime city schools assistant superintendent Steve Scroggs retires after 35 years in education.

Carrboro Elementary School teacher Briana Corke is named Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Teacher of the Year at the district's annual recognition banquet.

six-month extension to the development moratorium to complete several major land-use ordinances.



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In June

Orange County attorney Geoff Gledhill announces his retirement.

The Chapel Hill Town Council passes a voter-owned elections law setting up public financing for mayor and council candidates. An early-June heat wave sees temperature topping 100 degrees.

University and town officials announce a deal by the UNC-Chapel Hill Foundation to purchase Granville Towers and University Square in a deal valued at \$45.75 million.

The Chapel Hill Town Council rescinds its vote authorizing access to the town's health care plan for former council members who have served eight years or more.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools announce that Carrboro High School Principal Jeff Thomas is reassigned to the district's central office. Rodney Trice, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, serves as interim principal.

Hillsborough lawyer and land surveyor Steve Yuhasz beats Leo Allison in a Democratic primary runoff for the new District 2 seat on the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

In July

Polarizing political figure and former U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, who as a television commentator often editorialized against UNC students and administration, dies.

Town of Chapel Hill employees targeted by racist graffiti demand action by town officials. Under pressure from residents, the Town of Carrboro agrees to

move up the pace on a sidewalk project for James Street. Proposed cuts in hours and staff at the Carrboro Branch Library

at McDougle Middle School lead to protests and the resignation of the library's longtime director Jake Leher. County officials later reinstate funding to roll back part of the cuts.

Provisions authorizing the creation of a joint university- and UNC Health Care-run airport authority to site and build an airport to replace Horace Williams are added to a UNC capital projects bill and passed by the General Assembly. An amendment offered by Rep. William Faison requires the airport to be built in Orange County.

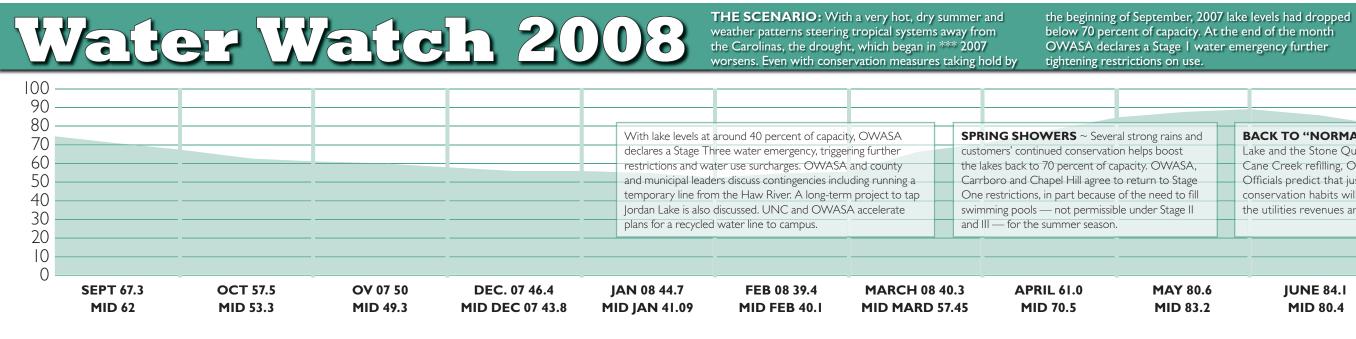
School officials reinstate advanced-placement and honors courses at Carrboro High after complaints.

- Weaver Street Market celebrates its 20th anniversary. A series of heavy weekend thunderstorms downs trees and clogs stormwater systems throughout southern Orange County.
- Thieves stealing catalytic converters hit local park-and-ride lots. Towing of cars by the owners of Abbey Court leads to mass protests by residents, charges of discrimination against Latinos, appeals

by town leaders and a forum at Town Hall. Residents and town officials complain that new fence along the

perimeter of Estes Park Apartments blocks a path used by pedestrians and bikers to get downtown.

Police arrest a suspect who is reported to be toting a shotgun during a series of daytime armed robberies.



Fibrosis Foundation at the Cat's Cradle

and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The State Employees Association of North Carolina votes to join

Randy Dodd, environmental planner for the Town of Carrboro,

Carrboro resident Holden Thorp is chosen to become Carolina's

temporarily nests in a holly bush in front of the Carrboro Century

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approves a













In August

Partly in response to towing at Abbey Court, Carrboro passes a limit on towing fees.

John Edwards admits to an affair. His wife, Elizabeth Edwards, asks that the family's privacy be respected. Kelly Batten, an assistant principal at Leesville Road High School in

Wake County, is named principal of Carrboro High School. Mohammed Taheri-Azar, who drove a rented SUV into a crowd of people in the Pit on the UNC campus in March 2006, pleads

guilty to nine counts of attempted first-degree murder. District Attorney Jim Woodall announces the state will seek the death penalty against Demario James Atwater, one of two suspects

in the murder of Eve Carson. An Orange County jury has not sentenced anyone to death since 1973. Atlas Fraley, a star football player and a rising senior at Chapel

Hill High School, dies in his home after playing in two scrimages. After she wins an award from the N.C. Council on Developme tal Disabilities, Carrboro declares Aug. 7 Ellen Perry Day.

Morris Grove Elementary, named in honor of a school for black students founded by former slave Morris Hogan in the 1880s,

Carrboro approves The Butler, a five story condominium complex planned for the former Butler's Garage site near the Libba Cotton bike path and Brewer Lane.

Tropical Storm Fay brings heavy rain and causes flooding.

In September

Kevin FitzGerald, executive associate dean for finance and administration in the UNC School of Medicine, is appointed by Chancellor Holden Thorp and School of Medicine Dean Bill Roper to lay the groundwork for a 15-member airport authority that will be charged with locating, constructing and managing a new airport.

Tropical Storm Hanna dumps rain on the area, causing localized flooding in spots around the community. A chicken pox outbreak at Carrboro Elementary prompts school

officials to ask parents of unvaccinated children to keep them home from school. Southern Village developers meet with residents about a new

five-story building with a hotel proposed for a spot in the commercial center of the development. Phoenix Academy, the alternative high school in the Chapel

Hill-Carrboro City Schools system, celebrates 10 years of operation with a move to a new facility.

A large holly tree in downtown Pittsboro, more than 100 years old, is cut down.

Triangle Transit increases the number of express routes to Durham and Raleigh.

Chapel Hill officials consider ways to reduce crowd size on Halloween, which fell on a Friday this year.

The body of Joshua McCabe Bailey, a young man missing for more than a month, is found in Chatham County. Six young men are charged with first-degree kidnapping and murder. The parents of one of those arrested are also charged with helping move the body from a site in western Orange County, where it is believed Bailey was killed.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Thorpe dies. Thorpe served on the council twice and helped lead the effort to change the name of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

In October

Stephanie Willis, health coordinator for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, is named School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the School Nurse Association of North Carolina.

Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton's motorized scooter is stolen. Carrboro approves the 300 East Main development, a 507,500-square-foot project that includes a 150-room hotel, a

five-story parking deck, a central pedestrian plaza, three large commercial buildings and extensive changes for Cat's Cradle and The ArtsCenter. New UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp kicks off a weeklong

statewide tour with a visit to science classrooms at Chapel Hill High School. Missy Julian Fox is named director of the UNC Visitor's

Center. Cy Rawls, a beloved member of the local music community

dies. The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes unanimously to approve a special-use permit for Buckhorn Village, a 1.1-million-square-foot development at Buckhorn Road and

I-85. Barbara Clark, the Pittsboro housekeeper accused of fatally beating her former employers, pleads guilty to two counts of

first-degree murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. James Taylor plays a free concert on campus in support of

presidential candidate Barack Obama. Fourth District U.S. Rep. David Price, a Chapel Hill Demo-

crat, faces off against his Republican challenger, B.J. Lawson of Cary, in a lively debate at UNC. The Animal Protection Society of Orange County changes its

name to Paws4Ever. A community meeting in White Cross on a proposed airport draws hundreds of concerned residents.

In a year in which record-setting numbers of new voters were registered, early voting opens with heavy turnout.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen approves a land-use ordinance amendment to allow for the development of a day-care center in Winmore.





In an indication that a slumping economy might delay downtown development, the site for the Roberson Square project, approved earlier in the year, is put on sale. After an extensive effort intended to reduce turnout, Halloween crowds on Franklin Street are much thinner than expected

In November

Record turnout leads to sweeping Democratic victories in North Carolina. The state's Electoral College votes go to Barack Obama, the

first African-American to be elected president of the United States. Bev Perdue is elected the state's first woman governor. Sen. Kay

Hagan unseats Sen. Elizabeth Dole. Voters elect Beradette Pelissier, Pam Hemminger, Valerie Foushee and Steve Yuhaz to the expanded board of county commis-

A Chapel Hill Transit driver is charged with a misdemeanor in the death of a pedestrian near UNC Hospitals. James Merritt, who was raised in Chapel Hill's Northside

neighborhood, is chosen to fill out the council term of the late Bill Thorpe.

Five cases of whooping cough are reported at Estes Hill Elementarv.

Mel Rashkis, a businessman and philanthropist who with his wife Zora was an outstanding supporter of local schools, dies. Local supporters of rights for gay and lesbian individuals join

a statewide rally in Raleigh to denounce California's passage of Proposition 8.

The Chapel Hill High community mourns the loss of another student and member of the football team, when senior Rodney Torain is killed in an early-morning crash after the car he was riding

in is sideswiped. The driver of the other car has not been found. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird confirms that she and UNC law professo Daniel Pollitt are engaged.

With state revenues down, university officials prepare for another round of budget cuts.

Gregory McElveen, a corporate market researcher at IBM and father of six, is chosen to fill the seat of Pam Hemminger, who was elected to the Orange County School Board.

In December

After winning another term, Valarie Foushee is elected chair of the board of county commissioners.

Already facing state charges in the same case, Demario James Atwater pleads not guilty to federal carjacking and firearms charges

in the slaying of Eve Carson. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen votes 5-0 to support civil marriage for same-sex couples.

Commissioners vote to approve a 147-acre parcel on N.C. 54 near Orange Grove Road as the preferred site for a new waste trans-

fer station. Two men are arrested and charged in the May killing of Irina

Yarmolenko. Faced with an uncertain market for bonds, Chapel Hill officials put off financing plans for a library expansion.

Furniture Follies' owner announces plans to close the store at the end of the year.

A coalition of White Cross residents plans to mount a legal challenge to a proposed waste transfer station. Three pedestrians in a group of seven attempting to cross N.C.

54 west of the South Columbia Street Bridge are stuck by a car, killing one.

UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp offers assurances to Orange County officials and residents that the university will abide by county zoning rules should it opt to pursue a new airport.

y. OWASA, Cane Creek refilling, OWASA rescinds Stage I. urn to Stage Officials predict that just as in the 2002 drought ing and raising reservoir from an average *** percent to *** percent. finally refills bringing to water supply back to	
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THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

FOR THE RECORD

Shock and sorrow

6

In many communities throughout the land, this year will be remembered mainly for the historic election of the first African-American president. In North Carolina, it will also be remembered as the year the state elected its first woman governor.

For the first time in a generation, the state played a significant role in choosing a Democratic nominee for president and, in a community with a large population of young people, the energy of the primary and general election season was palpable.

That part of what happened this year is likely what will make it into the history books.

But for many in this community, 2008 was a year of anguish and remorse, of shock and anger. This was the year we lost so many young people and watched as so many more confront the bitter truth of mortality much earlier than any of us would have wished.

The most-widely reported example of that happened within the campus community, which endured the violent loss of a beloved leader. In the eyes of the thousands who gathered at informal memorials and official remembrances, tears and sorrow were evident, but so was that look of disbelief.

The memorials for Eve Carson were not the first in 2008 to pay respects to young person with promise whose life was cut short. Nor were they the last.

A few more of our young people died at the hands of others, many more died in accidents.

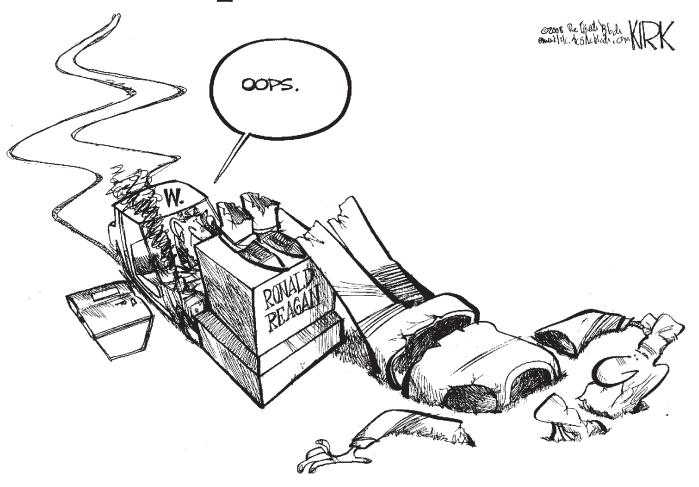
And the pattern of shock and sorrow was repeated so often, you had to worry how their peers would endure.

Shortly after the Chapel Hill High prom, we ran a photo of three happy teens hamming it up for the camera. A couple of weeks later, two of them were gone. It's been difficult to look at that issue ever since.

And many of us remember Atlas Fraley; he was hard to miss — a big, friendly kid who was full of life. Not long after school started back up, he was gone too, and Chapel Hill High was once again in mourning.

No corner of our community was untouched by all this. It's a small world, and these are small towns; and in the days of Facebook and texting, everyone, especially the young and technologically savvy, is linked together more than ever.

While there's maybe a little nostalgia for the simpler life, that connectedness has been a good thing. Our kids, particularly the ones who will very soon become adults and head out into the world, need each other in times like these. And they need us too. They need to know that we know that 2008 was a very hard year for them. They need to know that it's not always like this. Sometimes being that clear-eyed adult isn't enough. Sometimes the people who look up to you need to see in your eyes the tears and sorrow and that look of disbelief.



LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. Typed letters are preferred and email even moreso.

Letters to the editor

Box 248

Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

Email: editor@ carrborocitizen. com

Fax: 919-942-2195

In memoriam

Joshua Bailey, a gentle soul who loved the

outdoors, was taken from his loving family too soon.

Margaret El-

len Barrett left this world at age 60 after passing her time baking, teaching, reading and befriending all those she met along the way.

Eve Carson

was a young leader whose life continues to inspire the entire community.

Fred Cur-

tis made all those who knew him feel unique and loved as he traveled through life loving cooking, music, the coast, the Tar Heels and his wonderful family.

Dr. Christopher C. Fordham III, a former chancellor of the University who helped it grow into a nationally-recognized



Joshua Bailey



Eve Carson

Mary Hayes Holmes died at 78 after leading an active

Christian and community life, serving her church and many civic causes and becoming the County Commissioner.

Margaret McCaull Car-Graceful and

Mary Northe youth she taught and the communities she was a part of, returning to Chapel Hill from Washingleading Northside Community Watch



native, a true Tar Heel, he worked at the hospital and at Kenan Stadium, served in the Army, practiced carpentry and attended Damascus Church he loved his God, his family his county and his Tar Heels.

> was a passionate schools and commu-

for his deep compassion and remembered for his contributions and the elementary school bearing his name.

Cy Rawls, beloved member of the music community, passed on this year and left behind many friends who truly cared for him.

Chuck Tillotson, carpenter, guitar player and family

man left this world



Bill Thorpe

Marvin Poythress was a Chapel Hill



Chuck Tillotson



first female Chatham

michael Lester

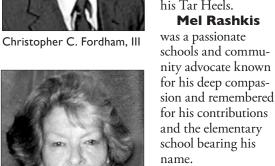
vibrant, the former gourmet retailer was a long-time Democratic Party volunteer.

wood Jones spent a lifetime in service to ton, D.C. in 1991 and

while volunteering with many youth programs.

lames Kar**pinos**, a talented athlete who dedicated much of his time to service, died at 22 in the outdoors. He was a forest firefighter and Wilderness First Responder. Hazel Felker Kiser, 83, passed away in March after living in Chapel Hill and attending Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for over 50 vears. **Dr. Campbell** W. McMillan, alumnus of Wake Forest, traveled the world with the Navy and as a doctor, and was best known for his gift of treating children with respect for the individual.

Mel Rashkis



Kudos

A warm thank you to that tall DJ known as L in Japanese and his friends for sponsoring a dance party this past week at Cat's Cradle in memory of Chapel Hill Tigers Rodney Torain and Atlas Fraley. It was a good chance for the young and not-as-young to get together for a cause — proceeds went to the families — and celebrate the lives of their friends.



EDITORIAL

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center for research and teaching, died at UNC Hospitals at the age of 81.

Atlas Fraley

& Rodney To**rain**, talented and beloved Chapel Hill High students and close friends, died too young, a striking tragedy for their ag-

Fred Curtis grieved school, com-

munity and families. **Betty June**

Hayes, an active political participant and Orange County Register of Deeds from 1954 to 1988, passed on in late March at the age of 78.

Ruffin M. Hobbs created great

works of metal sculpture, earning recognition and respect with Atlas Fraley his skill and talent, and died at his home and studio at the age of 56.

Cy Rawls Lee Meyer,

owner of Meyer

Painting and Contracting, passed on in the summer after a life of hunting, golfing, warm friendship and loving family.

COMMUNITY Q&A: WHAT IS LOCAL?

Last week in our editorial, we asked the question "What is Local?"

Following are some our readers' responses. Send your thoughts to editor@ carrborocitizen.com

You can read the editorial on our web site at carrborocitizen.com/ main/2008/12/23/for-the-record-122408

Supporting local

I'm an economist who has been thinking about this topic for many years. To me, the important thing to remember is that when you buy a good or service, you not only receive the good, you also lend support to a (often long) chain of businesses that have been involved in getting it into your hands. Once you are comfortable with that idea, you can see that what you buy and where you buy it affect the shape of the world around you. If you want there to be a local mechanic to repair your car when it

gets old, you need to take it to that mechanic for routine maintenance (like oil changes) long before it needs repairs.

That may be a good way to think about "what is local?" What do you want in your community? If you like to be surrounded by farmland, then buy at the farmers' market. If you want a vibrant downtown, do much of your shopping there. If being able to buy a cup of coffee, a sandwich, or a nice dinner without making a special excursion matters, patronize the local restaurants. If the idea of a dependable, local handyman appeals, hire him or her the next time you have a little-too-complex repair at home--and pass the name along to your neighbors.

Go the next step by thinking farther along that supply chain. Can you buy things that are manufactured locally ... or at least distributed by a nearby firm? Do the profits from

the store stay in the area? How much of the labor content in what you buy is from your region? your state? your country? To only use things that are made within a 50-mile radius (or only in the U.S) is almost impossible, but if you think it through, you can make a difference.

So, maybe it's better to think about "supporting the local" than trying to define "what is local" by remembering that you are buying a community as well as goods when you shop. I don't get hung up on a definition of "local," but I've become willing to pay a little more for a good or service in order to support the kind of community in which I want to live.

> TOM TIEMANN Carrboro

Real local pork

I've noticed that UNC dining services as well as a few other restaurants around town often refer

suddenly, well-loved and remembered by his close friends and family.

Bill Thorpe was Chapel Hill town council member and dedicated servant to his com-

munity and voice for the minority. Hanson **Douglas Ses-**

soms, 76, was a worldwide leader in leisure studies and recreation and spent his life teaching, volunteering, traveling and photographing the world with his wife. Irina Yarmolenko was found



dead at 20, a bright Irina Yarmolenko spirit who moved to

Rodney Torain

the States from Russia with her family in 1990 as a refugee and found her place as an active student at UNC-Charlotte.

Craig Peter Yarnell, co-founder of Yarnell Hoffer Hardware, passed away suddenly at 49 and is remembered for his kindness.

> to Smithfield bacon and other pork products as "local." This really burns me up. The only thing that Smithfield does locally is pollute. The CEO lives on Park Avenue, the company is owned by shareholders; the business model is putting small pork farmers out of business, thus eliminating competition.

> Local is a tricky word and we do perhaps need a replacement. Local means community and relationshipdriven commerce — small scale businesses held to high standards because they are identified with a person who lives amongst us and who is committed to treating employees, the earth, the community, and the consumer with care. In the values of local it is better to support a small-scale artisan ham-maker in Tennessee than to buy a North Carolina factory farmed one.

> > APRIL MCGREGER Carrboro



Margaret Carmichael Lester

POSITIVE

FROM PAGE

The clinic is located on the second floor of Carr Mill Mall and will be called the UNC Center of Excellence for Community Mental Health. Gilmore's long-term goal is to pro-vide comprehensive services to the community, utilizing university resources from the departments of psychiatry and psychology, the schools of social work and nursing and the rehabilitation counseling program.

The clinic will initially be staffed by two full-time social workers and a part-time psychiatrist and psychologist from the university. Students will also work in the program, thereby gaining real-world experience. "One of the main goals,"

says Gilmore, "is to develop an interdisciplinary training program in community mental health. We hope to develop evidence-based practices and then go out across the state to train practitioners."

While initially focusing on schizophrenia and psychotic disorders, Gilmore says, "We're going to do the best that we can to see as many people as we can. We'll take all comers at this point."

The OASIS program has moved from offices near University Mall to Carr Mill Mall and has been offering services at Carr Mill for about a month. The STEP Clinic is due to open soon after the first of the year.

Nowhere to go

Gilmore is also serving on Chapel Hill Mayor Foy's Mental Health Task Force.

"I think it's a good group," Gilmore says. "Many of the important players in the community are there. The charge is a good one."

That charge is to identify the impact on the community of "changes in the mental health service delivery system ... create awareness and generate discussion about the mental health service system" and then "make recommendations for the future."

The task force is chaired by Dr. Natalie Ammarell, a longtime consultant in the delivery of human services and former president of the Inter-Faith

marell began discussions with Foy about the way mental illness affects the entire community, in particular with regard to homelessness.

Former County Commissioner Margaret Brown has also shared her concerns about the relationship between mental illness and homelessness with Foy, and encouraged him to form a task force.

Mental health reform in North Carolina was initiated in 2001, with a mandate to move the mentally ill out of state institutions and into community-based services delivered by private providers. But community-based services were never sufficiently funded. Without adequate community services, state institutions have become so overcrowded that stays are generally limited to a few days, regardless of a patient's needs.

Brown recognized early on that the premature release of mental patients from UNC Hospitals into a community with very limited options for care was bound to exacerbate the county's homeless problem.

"When you start ending these programs and dumping all these people out, where are they going to go?" Brown asks. "The only places to go are to the emergency room [or] on the street.

"So I went to Kevin Foy and said, 'Kevin, why don't you pull together a meeting of the head of psychiatry and the chancellor and some other people, and let's sit down and talk about mental health reform and the impact it's going to have on the town of Chapel Hill.

"Let's anticipate the impact and see if we can't brainstorm."

Ammarell agrees with Gilm-ore that Foy's task force represents diverse perspectives on mental health issues in Orange County, but stresses the importance of continually hearing from other voices, particularly of the consumers of mental health care services.

"My goal is to get lots of perspectives at the table," says Am-marell, "but to keep it a manageable size."

She also stresses that while the task force has been formed in Chapel Hill, its mandate is to address the needs of the entire county, "because everyone is affected." In recognition of that mandate, the task force includes Gwen Harvey, Orange

ager.

Ultimately, Ammarell says, "The goal is to look at how our work can reach beyond Orange County. The mayor is already looking into that."

"The fact that all of these key stakeholders are coming together to dialogue and strategize is positive," Mark Sullivan, task force member and executive director of the Orange County Mental Health Association, writes in an email reply.

"The issues that we are facing are the results of state policy that we do not have much influence over, and the economic landscape makes things more challenging.

"However, I am hopeful that we can overcome some of the turf issues that are problematic and that we can begin to take responsibility for our community as a community."

'Down and dirty' Chapel Hill psychiatrist Clay Whitehead is another early task force advocate, and is now one of the 15 members.

"The number one objective I have is trying to get people aware of the problem," says Whitehead.

His second objective is to open the possibility of a community renewal" built on an understanding of the depths of the problem, and to "do some-thing creative and benevolent" to address that problem.

It just makes sense to use local talent and resources, and locally generated funds, to solve a local problem, Whitehead says. Stressing the importance of the university's involvement, he sees the opening of the UNC Center of Excellence for Community Mental Health as exactly the sort of initiative that can begin to address this crisis.

Whitehead says we could create a model program, but it should not be approached as "some rarified research kind of enterprise."

While "the 'great institution on the hill' can offer a great deal" in terms of best-practice and administrative models, he says, "we're talking down and dirty here. We've got to get out there and take care of people."

Beginning anew Newspaper accounts depict

a broken mental health care system in North Carolina. But



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW Dr. Natalie Ammarell has recently been appointed by Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy to chair a mental health task force to address the problems of mental health care in Chapel Hill.

ing Margaret Brown and Clay Whitehead, there is no "system" at all.

Reassembling a network that worked relatively well four decades ago isn't an option. "There's nothing to knit back

together," says Brown. Building anew, she urges, must begin at the community level; and the university's involvement is critical.

She stresses that the town must show leadership, and says she has faith in Foy.

"Kevin is the only person of leadership in this community that I can see that could pull this together," she says. She believes Foy understands the issues and potential repercussions, and is uniquely positioned, as mayor of Chapel Hill, to urge the university to commit its considerable resources.

Ignoring this crisis, says Whitehead, is clearly no longer an option. He believes spreading awareness should be the first objective of any local initiative.

"Everyday you see something in the paper about how another clinic is closing up," he says, while yet another state of-

reform.

'What excites me," Whitehead says, "is that a few people here have perceived that this is not such a great situation, and are trying to figure out what can be done."

Are we as a nation any closer to recognizing that we have a mental health care crisis, and that mental illness is as critical as any other serious illness?

"I think there are more people that know this," Whitehead says. "But it's still very much stigmatized. We're in denial."

solve this problem."

Whitehead acknowledges that the task ahead is daunting, particularly within the current economic climate. But, he says, "When people start to think "the greatest good for the great-

Breakdown

This story is the seventh and final installment of Breakdown: A Series on Mental Health Care in NC. Go to www.carrborocitizen.com/ main/2008/10/04/breakdown-series/ to read about:

• A young man diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and his experience with our state's mental health care system.

• How a relatively effective mental health care system in North Carolina once provided services, and then unraveled.

• The chaos created by mental health care reform in North Carolina.

• Is the best heath care available in Orange County enough?

• A family's struggle to find the care their son required.

• What mental health care advocates say must happen to create a better system.

He believes though that with a creative approach here in Orange County, "We might be able to illustrate how a local community can tackle and re-

- and they *are* now start to think - and they *are* now starting to think – they're going to realize that we've got a serious problem in this country," and that we must chart a path for providing

Council. While at IFC, Am- County's assistant city manfor many advocates, includ-

ficial urges us to be patient with est number.

RESOLUTIONS

FROM PAGE I

going for different results next year by changing those things that didn't work this year.

- Delores Bailey, executive director, EmPOWERment Inc., Chapel Hill

My resolution: To lower my blood pressure. My plan: Play more, work less. My doctor also recommends less fried food - but, hey, let's be realistic.

- Brad Bonneville, Bonneville Renovation & Repair, Carrboro

I have only one resolution for 2009: Give more.

– Valerie Foushee, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Chapel Hill

My 2009 resolution is to prioritize my 2008 resolutions. — Tom Maxwell, singer/ songwriter/musician, Pittsboro

I gave up New Year's Resolutions for Lent.

— Mike Nelson, county commissioner, Hillsborough Make amends with ruffled

friends, push for hope, push for change, be more green, improve my cooking skills, eat more oysters.

Tim Peck, Peck & Artisans, Carrboro

My resolution for 2009 is not to make resolutions. I'd just like to accept the rich gift of my life and live it, as well and deeply as I can. I know there are positive aspects to resolutions, but my soul wishes to disembark from the American ship of poisonous self-help.

- Gary Phillips, Pittsboro I will finish my second novel in 2009.

— James Protzman, author/ artist/activist, Chapel Hill

I think my new year's resolution will be to meditate more.

- Ruby Sinreich, Orange-Politics.org, Chapel Hill

I resolve to let my workdays be guided by my highest priori-

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ties, not my inbox. And to make time for exercise so I can keep up with Conrad, who is walking at 10 months.

- Dave Thomas, director of social media for SAS, Carrboro

Here's my resolution: to find new, better and more sustainable ways to use the power of successful businesses to close the opportunity gap between the rich and the rest in our society.

- Kevin Trapani, CEO of the Redwoods Group, Chapel Hill

Same resolution I have every year: not to use so many paper towels. Never achieve my goal.

- Daniel Wallace, author, Chapel Hill







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FLORA FROM PAGE I

If you want more of an adventure, you can take a mountain hike just by traveling a few minutes north to Occoneechee Mountain on the edge of Hillsborough. It's now part of the state park system, and once you make the steep walk up to the looking-off place, you'll have a being-in-themountains sensation.

This is one of my favorite local natural areas and I frequently take outof-town visitors there to get a flavor of Western North Carolina without the long drive. You may be surprised to discover an extensive shrub layer of the evergreen mountain laurel, Kalmia angustifolia, with a few rhododendron, Rhododendron catabiense, here and there and a groundcover of galax, Galax aphylla, an evergreen-leaved wildflower common throughout the Carolina mountain regions. Visitors appreciate learning that these isolated pockets of mountain species in our eastern Piedmont are small "relict" plant



Sue Morgan, foreground, sharing a real mountain experience at nearby Occoneechee Mountain with her family visiting from England.

communities of former lce Age boreal forests, left in place clinging to coolish, north-facing, rocky creek and river bluffs.

Whether you stay close to home or travel a few miles away, take time at this turning over of the year for a woods walk. And even if you are accompanied by a few other folks, stop and be silent for at least 60 seconds, hear the sounds the forest makes, and let that guide you into the New Year.



Cat Baby, 1967

hat better way to start the New Year than with a Cat Baby story? For the newcomer

wondering who is Cat Baby — think about the movie *Radio* and you'll get the picture. From the mid-'50s until his passing at age 58 in 1993, George "Cat Baby" Cannada of Carrboro was the unofficial beloved team mascot of Chapel Hill High School football. Here we see him posing proudly with an unidentified CHHS cheerleader during a fall 1967 football game that I was covering for Jim Shumaker's *Chapel Hill Weekly.*

The longtime paper "boy" famously called himself — and everybody else in town, regardless of their station — "Cat Baby." He also used the short but drawn out version "Caaaat!" as both a greeting and an exclamation. Ask anybody who grew up here and they're liable to have a Cat Baby story. This is one of Charlie Byrd's favorites: In the early '70s, John Boone of Carrboro took George to Washington D.C., and as they drove past the White House Boone said to George, "Look, Cat; that's where the president lives!" To which George exclaimed, "[Bleep]! I didn't know Mr. Friday lived up here! CAT!"



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