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411

2021

your essential guide
to community life



A Chatham N+R Community Publication
Produced in Partnership with
Chatham County Economic Development Corporation





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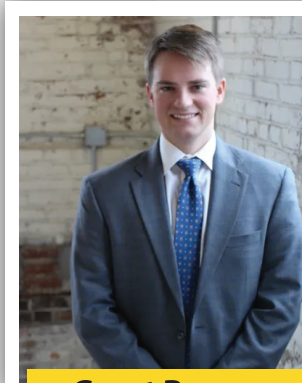
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CHATHAM 411

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COVER BY ROGER PERSON

"Girls" is a 40"x 46" acrylic painting hanging in the artist's home. Much of Roger's work has been inspired by people he met while working in his studio in downtown Siler City. Though he is now working in his home, the ideas still keep coming!

CHATHAM NEWS + RECORD

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ARTS



Chatham has a rich history, one of the state's major tourist attractions (that would be Jordan Lake) and plenty of economic vitality. But if you ask many outside the area what they think of when they hear "Chatham," they'll respond with two words: The arts.

Earlier this year, Chatham was named one of the nation's top communities for music education for the second-straight year (see page 14 for more) and there are renowned artists everywhere.

Which begs the question: Why?

Cheryl Chamblee, executive director of the Chatham Arts Council, believes it's

an expressive local culture that celebrates both independence and community.

"Artists here innovate in quirky, smart, glorious ways, yet they actively support and collaborate in each other's work," she says, noting that some of the artistic activity is hard to see because it's taking place in small studios all across the landscape. "It's sort of in the air we breathe. The arts are part of the core identity of Chatham County. It's part of who we are."

Photo. Folk artist Clyde Jones, a former mill worker from Bynum, is widely known for his fanciful "critter art."

HOW CAN I GET MY FREE LIBRARY CARD?

INSIDER'S TIP

It's easy! Bring an official photo ID and proof of your current address, such as a utility bill or U.S. Mail delivered to your address, to any branch and complete a short application form. Cards are issued to anyone 5 years or older who lives in Chatham or several nearby counties — or to anyone who works in Chatham, regardless of where they live. Library card policies are online at chathamlibraries.org.

Chatham Arts Council

Describing its work as "nurturing creative thinkers," the Chatham Arts Council invests in local artists and educates children in the arts. Investments include grants to support local arts activities and help promoting events across Chatham. Education is provided through its annual ClydeFEST, a hands-on arts carnival for elementary-age children held each spring, and the Artists in Schools initiative, which brings professional artists into local schools to enrich math, science, language and history instruction. Their online directory connects residents to about 175 artists and galleries. PO Box 418, Pittsboro, 919.542.0394, chathamartscouncil.org

► **Artists Directory.** Sortable online listing includes more than 150 Chatham artists of all kinds — actors, architects, musicians, playwrights, storytellers, teachers, visual artists and several arts-based organizations. chathamartscouncil.org/all-artists

► **Artists in Schools.** Engaging, interactive workshops led by actors, dancers, musicians and visual artists reinforce education across the curriculum — including concepts in math, science, language and history.

Chatham Libraries

Showing its spirit of innovation, the main branch of Chatham County Public Libraries operates jointly as a public library and campus library for Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro. In addition to extensive print and

audio-visual materials, three branches combine to provide Chatham residents with book clubs; genealogy and local history resources; free access to NC LIVE, a statewide database of newspapers, magazines and e-books; computer access; and specialized online services. Meeting rooms are available at each branch for public events of a nonprofit, educational, cultural or civic nature. chathamlibraries.org

► **Chatham Community Library.** The main and largest branch offers free computer classes, author events and extensive children's programs. On the Central Carolina Community College campus, 197 NC Highway 87 North, Pittsboro, 919.545.8084

► **Goldston Library.** Children's storytime is an especially popular event. 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road, Goldston, 27252, 919.898.4522

► **Wren Memorial Library.** Siler City's library includes a genealogy and local history collection. 500 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, 919.742.2016

High School Arts

Arts are vibrant in schools throughout Chatham and some nonprofit foundations work in high schools to expand arts opportunity with scholarships, trips to performances and specialized arts equipment and supplies.

► **JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation.** Projects include the fall musical, New York Arts Adventure spring educational trip and JMArts Scholars for summer study. PO Box 395, Siler City, 919.742.2916, jmarts.org

► **Northwood High School Arts Education Foundation.** Projects include teacher grants, student funding for summer arts activities and annual college scholarships recognizing student achievements. PO Box 894, Pittsboro, nhsaef.org

Performing Arts

While there's no large performing arts center to grab the attention, theater, music and storytelling thrive throughout Chatham, often in small rooms or other venues you might not expect.

► **Bynum Front Porch.** Storytelling, bluegrass jam sessions and a summer music series are staples at the historic Bynum General Store. PO Box 381, Bynum, 27228, bynumfrontporch.org

► **Fearrington Village Singers.** Village Voices for women, Harmony Grits for men and a combined chorus perform concerts throughout the year. fvsingers.blogspot.com

► **Manifold Studios.** Artists record at a

high-end, full-scale recording studio and media production facility. PO Box 1239, Pittsboro, 919.444.2290, manifoldrecording.com

► **Pittsboro Youth Theater and Center for the Arts.** Youth productions, theater arts classes and adult performances are offered at a venue that also includes a small coffee shop and space for public, live performances. 18A East Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, 919.533.6997, pittsboroyouththeater.com

► **Shakori Hills Community Arts Center.**

The organization dedicated to arts, music and sustainability education is home to events including the annual Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival. 1439 Henderson Tanyard Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.1746, shakorihills.org

Visual Arts

Not only is Chatham home to internationally renowned artists, including potter Mark Hewitt and sculptor Edwin White (edwinwhitedesigns.com), but the area is rich with talented artists working in many different media.

► **Chatham Artists Guild.** More than 60 members living and working in Chatham promote local arts, share resources and ideas, and produce their popular annual studio tour held in December. PO Box 1024, Pittsboro, chathamartistsguild.org

► **Galloway Ridge Artist Collaboration.** Hosts an artist reception and rotating exhibition three times each year, open to the public with artists invited from Chatham and bordering counties. 3000 Galloway Ridge Road, Pittsboro, 919.545.2611, gallowayridge.com/artists

► **Mark Hewitt Pottery.** World-renowned, functional pottery is produced by Mark Hewitt and other potters who sell work at their barn/showroom and host special events during kiln openings in June and December. 424 Johnny Burke Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.2371, hewittpottery.com

► **NC Arts Incubator.** Operates a gallery and offers affordable studio space for emerging artists. The Chatham Rabbit coffee shop is on the premises. 223 N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City, 919.663.1335, ncartsincubator.com

► **Small Museum of Folk Art.** Nonprofit with an educational mission includes a collection with work by Clyde Jones and other notable, local folk artists. 219 East Street, Pittsboro, 919.642.3866, smallmuseumfolkart.org

► **Smelt Art Gallery.** Exhibition space billed as "a non-conventional art gallery within an old smelting plant." 220 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro, 919.448.4888, facebook.com/smeltartgallery



ROGER PERSON
Chatham 411
Cover Artist

Whimsical. Colorful. Unique. Ask any local art aficionado how they'd describe Roger Person's art and those are words you're likely to hear right off the bat. After that, you might get a puzzled look. There are sculptures and paintings of all sizes, mediums and shapes. "I've got an income that sustains me, so I can do all this goofy stuff," he told a blogger several years ago. "If someone likes it, fine, if they don't, that's okay too."



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JMARTS.ORG



BUSINESS



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Charles Dickens obviously didn't compose those words about Chatham business in 2021, but his opening line from "A Tale of Two Cities" sort of rings true in this strange moment we're all facing.

Let's work backwards.

In obvious ways, this is the worst of times. As the new calendar year begins, we're 11 months into a pandemic that has already claimed too many companies — small businesses, in particular — and pushed owners to their creative limits as they struggle to keep their ventures alive.

On the other hand, once we move

past this immediate health threat, we could quickly enjoy the best of times. Because, as analysts like to say, "the underlying fundamentals are sound."

With large companies pouring into the Triangle region, one of the nation's largest planned developments well under way near Pittsboro and infrastructure like megasites and business support groups, commerce could be booming soon.

Photo. Jeff Edmisten, owner of Creative Computers in Siler City, has sold and repaired computers for nearly three decades.



MICHAEL SMITH
President
Chatham County EDC

With more than two decades of experience in local economic development organizations and the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Michael Smith began work in January 2021 as president of the Chatham County EDC. He has served as president of the North Carolina Economic Development Association and holds a master's degree in geography with a concentration in urban/regional planning from East Carolina University.

SPOTLIGHT

CCCC Small Business Center

Free seminars, information and one-on-one business counseling are available from the Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center, which works with prospective small business owners to create a new business or current owners to build their existing one. CCCC Chatham Main Campus, Building 2, Room 103B, 764 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.545.8013, chathamshbc.com

Chatham Chamber of Commerce

Since 1947, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce has worked to help its members promote their businesses and succeed in a competitive marketplace. The chamber also organizes community events including Leadership Chatham, designed to help participants develop a deeper understanding of the local community and the issues it is facing. 531 E. Third Street, Siler City, 919.742.3333, ccucc.net

► **Chatham Development Briefing.** The chamber sponsors an annual summer presentation

to highlight the latest news on local development.

► **Leadership Chatham.** The initiative to develop more informed community leaders holds monthly sessions from September to June focusing on key local issues driving Chatham's success — including agriculture, the economy, education, government, health, history, and team building. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants.

Chatham County BPW

Created to help business and professional women refine their leadership skills and build professional networks, Chatham County BPW holds general meetings featuring speakers on business-related topics and informal chats over coffee for members to share ideas. chathamcountybpw.com

Chatham County EDC

As the county's lead economic development agency, the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation supports local business and markets Chatham as a preferred location for emerging growth companies. That work includes attracting new business and industry,

strengthening companies already operating in Chatham, and enhancing the economic climate and infrastructure needed for success. 964 East Street, Pittsboro, PO Box 1627, 919.542.8274, chathamcdc.org

► **Opportunity Chatham.** The EDC hosts an annual gathering of community leaders in winter to learn important information from a guest expert and discuss the successes, strengths and challenges of local economic development.

Megasites

Chatham is home to two megasites — large parcels of land planned and developed with roads, utilities and other amenities to accommodate large industrial or research facilities.

► **Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site.** The North Carolina Certified Site near Siler City offers 1,802 acres with an excellent transportation network connecting to nearby communities in the Research Triangle and Piedmont Triad and an adjacent 290-acre support park. chathamadvancedmanufacturing.com

► **Moncure Megasite.** Billed by Chatham County EDC as the nation's premier megasite,

I NEED A BUSINESS PLAN, BUT WHERE CAN I GET HELP CREATING ONE?

Business plans are always helpful, but required when you're looking for a business loan or outside financing. The Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center offers one-on-one counseling and other resources to help organize your plans, find the information you need and put everything down on paper. chathamshbc.com

its location offers more than 2,500 acres just a short drive from Raleigh, RDU International Airport and some of the nation's top universities. The property can accommodate 8 million square feet of facility space with additional room to expand. moncuremegasite.com

INSIDER'S TIP

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OUTREACH



Though what they do often takes place quietly, out of the spotlight, a huge number of locals are working every day through faith-based groups and civic clubs to strengthen Chatham communities.

One of the area's more active civic clubs is the Silk Hope Ruritans, who operate a community building used by groups of all kinds, provide scholarships to high school seniors and fund much of their outreach with income from Old Fashioned Farmers Day, one of Chatham's most popular annual festivals.

Daniel Rickard, president of the Silk Hope Ruritans, believes clubs like his

connect people who want to make a real difference in their communities with a hands-on approach.

"The positive impacts these clubs have had through the years is immeasurable," he says. "A single club's contribution to our community may seem small and insignificant to some, but collectively these clubs' impact on the world have, and continue to be, the foundation of our communities."

Photo. Statue of St. Julia is located outside of St. Julia Catholic Church on U.S. Highway 421 east of Siler City.

Civic Clubs

Service clubs are active across Chatham, organizing events, raising money for important causes and strengthening the entire community.

► American Legion

Wartime U.S. veteran organization advocating for patriotism, national security and youth.

Alston-French Post 283. 1239 Mitchells Chapel Road, Pittsboro. Meets first Saturdays.

Moffitt-Poole Post 277. 715 E. Hill Street, Siler City, 919.742.2003. Meets second Saturdays.

Wayne Mendenhall Post 93. PO Box 442, Siler City, 919.200.1809. Meets fourth Tuesdays. freedomwon.org

Brafford-Davis Post 292. 3029 S. Main Street, Goldston, 919.285.9831. Meets second Thursdays.

► Kiwanis

Improving the lives of children by fighting hunger, improving literacy and offering guidance.

Pittsboro. 309 Credle Street, Pittsboro, 919.444.2499. Meets Thursdays.

► Lions

Serving local communities in many ways, including helping the blind and visually impaired.

Bear Creek. Meets second and fourth Thursdays at Harper's X Roads Community Center. Goldston. PO Box 455, Goldston. Meets first and third Thursdays at Lizzie's Grill and Chill.

Moncure. 919.244.5434. Meets first and third Mondays at the Lions Club Building.

Siler City. Meets second and fourth Mondays at Sir Pizza.

► Rotary

Working to create positive change in the community and around the world.

Pittsboro. Meets Wednesdays. PO Box 1179, Pittsboro

Siler City. PO Box 463, Siler City. Meets Mondays at the West Chatham Senior Center. facebook.com/SilerCityRotary

► Ruritan

Working in towns and rural communities for "fellowship, goodwill and community service."

Silk Hope. 4221 Silk Hope Road, Siler City, 919.663.0331, silkhopenc.org

Faith Communities

Churches and other faith-based organizations comfort neighbors and provide guidance at difficult times in life. Here is sampling of local groups.

► AME Zion

Corinth AME Zion Church. 491 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Siler City, 919.742.4021,

facebook.com/CorinthAMEZ

► **Baptist**

Emmaus Baptist Church. 2430 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.4974, emmausbaptchurch.org

First Baptist Church of Siler City. 314 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, 919.742.4310, silercityfbc.org

First Missionary Baptist Church. 914 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Siler City, 919.742.4614

Pittsboro Baptist Church. 121 W. Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.2986, pittsborobaptistchurch.org

Iglesia Bautista Misionera Roca Fuerte. 1365 NC Highway 902 West, Pittsboro, 919.542.6115

► **Buddhist**

North Carolina Zen Center. 390 Ironwood, Pittsboro, 919.542.7411, nczencenter.org

► **Catholic**

St. Julia Catholic Church. 210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City, 919.742.5584

► **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

Pittsboro Ward. 151 Old Rock Spring Cemetery Road, Pittsboro, 919.708.6412

► **Episcopal**

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. 204 W. Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.5679, saint-barts.org

► **Independent**

Chatham Community Church. 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 800, Pittsboro, 919.933.9477, chathamchurch.org

► **Pentecostal**

The Journey Church. 17475 US Highway 64, Siler City, 919.742.5791, thejourneychurchsc.com

► **Presbyterian**

Chapel in the Pines. 314 Great Ridge Parkway, Chapel Hill, 919.960.0616, citppc.org

Pittsboro Presbyterian Church. 95 East Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.4702, pittsboropres.org

► **Seventh-day Adventist**

Pittsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church. 637 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.2259, pittsborosdachurch.org

► **United Church of Christ**

Hanks Chapel UCC. 190 Hanks Loop Road, PO Box 366, Pittsboro, 919.542.2938

► **United Methodist**

Evergreen UMC. 11098 U.S. 15-501 North, Chapel Hill, 919.968.0198, evergreen-umc.org

First UMC of Siler City. 1101 W. Raleigh Street, Siler City, 919.742.2722, fumcsilercity.org

Pittsboro UMC. 71 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.2330, pittsborounitedmethodist.org



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EDUCATION



When Central Carolina Community College opened its new Chatham Health Sciences Center early last year, it was just the latest addition to a rapidly expanding educational scene.

The 40,000-square-foot academic center in North Chatham that trains students for health-related fields was followed just months later by Chatham Grove, a new public elementary school. Two more new schools are slated to open late this summer: the public Seaforth High School and private Thales Academy.

“Education at all levels in Chatham County provides its residents, businesses,

and organizations the best opportunities to work toward economic vitality and mobility for Chatham communities and the larger region,” says CCCC Chatham Provost Mark Hall. “Fortunately, much collaboration and mutual support exists among the College, the schools, economic development groups, non-profit organizations, local governments, and the employers in Chatham County that ensures a collective effort is sustained.”

Photo. Sarah Harris, an English teacher at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, discusses remote learning.

SPOTLIGHT



DR. RANDY BRIDGES Interim Superintendent Chatham County Schools

Appointed late last year after Superintendent Dr. Derrick D. Jordan resigned to accept a position with the state Department of Public Instruction, Dr. Randy Bridges will serve in an interim role while a new superintendent is hired. Bridges was superintendent of Orange County Schools for five years, returning later for a brief tenure as interim superintendent. He also served as interim superintendent of Lexington City Schools and superintendent of Florence School District One in South Carolina.

Chatham County Schools

Dedicated to developing globally competitive and confident graduates, Chatham County Schools serves more than 8,875 students in one of the state’s geographically largest counties with 19 schools: one early college, four high schools, three middle schools, five K-8 schools and six elementaries. One new school, Seaforth High School, is scheduled to open this year for the fall semester. PO Box 128, 369 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.3626, chatham.k12.nc.us

► Elementary and K-8 Schools

Bennett, K-8, PO Box 107, 61 Randolph Street, Bennett, 336.581.3586

Bonlee, K-8, 152 Bonlee School Road, Bear Creek, 919.837.5316

Chatham Grove, K-5, 1301 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro, 919.642.7069

J.S. Waters, K-8, 55 J.S. Waters School Road, Goldston, 919.898.2259

Moncure, K-8, 600 Moncure School Road,

Moncure, 919.542.3725

North Chatham, K-5, 3380 Lystra Road,
Chapel Hill, 919.967.3094

Perry Harrison, K-5, 2655 Hamlets Chapel
Road, Pittsboro, 919.967.9925

Pittsboro, K-4, 375 Pittsboro Elementary
School Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.3987

Siler City, K-5, 671 Ellington Road, Siler City,
919.663.2032

Silk Hope, K-8, 7945 Silk Hope Gum Springs
Road, Siler City, 919.742.3911

Virginia Cross, K-5, 234 Cross School Road,
Siler City, 919.742.4279

► **Middle Schools**

Chatham Middle, 6-8, 2025 South Second
Avenue Extension, Siler City, 919.663.2414

Horton Middle, 5-8, PO Box 639, 79 Horton
Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.2303

Margaret B. Pollard, 6-8, 185 Granite Mill
Boulevard, Chapel Hill, 919.969.0070

► **High Schools**

Chatham Central, 9-12, 14950 NC Highway
902, Bear Creek, 919.837.2251

Jordan-Matthews, 9-12, 910 E. Cardinal Street,
Siler City, 919.742.2916

SPOTLIGHT



DR. LISA M. CHAPMAN
President
Central Carolina
Community College

Now in her third year as president of Central Carolina Community College—which serves Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties — Dr. Lisa Chapman previously was senior vice president and chief academic officer for the North Carolina Community College System and holds an Ed.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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CHATHAM IS ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Based on its commitment to music education and its “efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education,” Chatham was named one of America’s Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Awarded for the second year in a row to Chatham County Schools, the accolade considered a wide range of factors, including learning standards, opportunities for students, professional development for teachers, funding trends and community support.

Northwood, 9-12, 310 Northwood High School Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.4181

Sage Academy, an alternative high school for grades 9-12, 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Siler City, 919.663.5899

► Early College

Chatham School of Science and Engineering, 9-14, 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Siler City, 919.663.5899

Central Carolina Community College

With nearly 6,000 curriculum and continuing education students on campuses in Lee, Chatham and Harnett counties — as measured by full-time

equivalents — Central Carolina Community College is the 10th largest among 58 community colleges in the state. cccc.edu

► **Major Offerings.** University transfer courses lead to the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Engineering degrees. Career and technical courses lead to the Associate in Applied Science degree. Diplomas, certificates and non-degree courses are also offered.

► **Chatham Main Campus.** Sustainability programs and culinary arts are among the innovative programs offered on the 43-acre campus with 60,000 square feet of classrooms, shops, offices and laboratories. 764 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.6495

► **Chatham Health Sciences Center.** Courses and professional credentials focusing on health and well-being — including programs in medical assisting, massage therapy, and health and fitness science — are being developed at the 40,000-square-foot academic center that opened in 2020 near Briar Chapel. 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro, 919.545.8656. cccc.edu/chsc

► **Siler City Center.** Adult high school, GED, ESL, workforce development, medical certification and general college education courses are taught in a 24,000-square-foot facility serving western Chatham. 400 Progress Boulevard, Siler City, 919.545.8663

Chatham County Board of Education

The elected board governing Chatham’s public school system meets on the second Monday of every month at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse or the Chatham County Schools headquarters at 369 West Street in Pittsboro. (Meetings during the pandemic have been held in the multipurpose room of Horton Middle School.) Board members serve four-year terms. Contact information is available from Chatham County Schools at chatham.k12.nc.us.

Chairman Gary L. Leonard, District 5, term expires in December 2022; Vice-Chair Del Turner, District 3, December 2022; David Hamm, District 2, December 2024; Melissa Hlavac, District 1, December 2024; and Jane Allen Wilson, District 4, December 2022

Chatham Education Foundation

Working to enhance opportunity for Chatham County Schools students and staff, the Chatham Education Foundation provides funding for

INSIDER'S TIP

CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CAN RECEIVE FREE TUITION AT CCCC!

Free tuition and required fees for up to two years of study at Central Carolina Community College is guaranteed to all eligible Chatham high school graduates. Students must be county residents and have successfully completed Career and College Promise by earning a specified number of tuition-free college credits while in high school. cccc.edu/promise/

innovative educational projects in the classroom, student scholarships, literacy resources and other activities. PO Box 1518, Pittsboro, 919.578.1631, chathameducationfoundation.org

Private and Charter Schools

Several private schools in Chatham provide education focused around different worldviews and instructional approaches.

► **Aulder Academy.** Therapeutic boarding school for “struggling teen” girls in grades 8-12. 990 Glovers Grove Church Road, Siler City, 919.837.2336, auldern.com

► **Chatham Charter School.** Serves more than 570 students in grades K-12. 2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, 919.742.4550, chathamcharter.org

► **Haw River Christian Academy.** Classical education with a Biblical worldview for grades K-12. 2428 Silk Hope Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, 919.533.4139, hawriverchristian.org

► **Thales Academy.** K-5 location of the regional chain of private preparatory schools is scheduled to open this July in Chatham Park. Pittsboro, 919.525.1142, thalesacademy.org

► **Willow Oak Montessori.** Public charter school with instruction for grades K-8 emphasizing individual students’ interests and developmental levels. 1476 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro, 919.240.7787, charter.willowoakmontessori.org

► **Woods Charter School.** Serves about 512 students in grades K-12 on an 18-acre campus. 160 Woodland Grove Lane, Chapel Hill, 919.960.8353, woodscharter.org



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GOVERNMENT



When Franklin Gomez Flores was sworn in last year as the first-ever Latino representative on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, it was yet another milestone for a vibrant community enjoying growth. Growth in population. Growth in diversity. And growth all across its physical landscape.

Government has been keeping pace, too, with several new buildings that have not only changed the physical landscape, but helped enhance services available to its growing population. Want examples? There's the Chatham County Justice Center, a striking new facility tucked

behind the Historic Chatham County Courthouse. And the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, where you can hold a meeting or even a wedding.

The good news is that local government, whether it's town or county, has managed to preserve the kind of personal touch everyone enjoyed before the latest boom arrived. And if you talk with local officials, it's an approach they want to preserve for years to come.

Photo. Karen Howard is a county commissioner and longtime advocate for education and children's issues.



SPOTLIGHT

PITTSBORO AND CHATHAM COUNTY WELCOME CENTER

Located on Pittsboro's iconic traffic circle, where thousands of vehicles pass through town daily, the new welcome center will greet and guide visitors seeking authentic Chatham experiences. The center also includes offices for Main Street Pittsboro, a nonprofit economic development group, and plans to open this year with regular hours announced in April. 37 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, mainstreetpittsboro.org

Chatham County Government

Most county offices are located in the Courthouse Annex at 12 East Street, PO Box 1809, Pittsboro, 919.542.8200, chathamnc.org

► **County Manager.** Dan LaMontagne, PO Box 1809, Pittsboro, 919.542.8200, dan.lamontagne@chathamnc.org

► **Board of Commissioners.** Usually meets on the third Monday of every month at the Historic Courthouse Courtroom in Pittsboro. Commissioners serve four-year terms. Contact information is available at chathamnc.org.

Karen Howard (D, District 1, term expires December 2024), Mike Dasher (D, Chairperson, District 2, December 2024), Diana Hales (D, Vice Chair, District 3, December 2022), James Crawford (D, District 4, December 2022) and Franklin Gomez Flores (D, District 5, December 2024)

Goldston Government

Town Hall is located at 40 Coral Avenue, PO Box 527, Goldston, 919.898.4441

► **Mayor.** Tim Cunnup, PO Box 415, Goldston, 919.548.5946, tjcunnup@gmail.com. Two-year term

expires in November 2021

► **Board of Commissioners.** Usually meets on the first Monday of every month at Town Hall. Commissioners serve four-year terms. Contact information is available from the Board of Elections at chathamnc.org/boe

Wayne Woody (Ward 1, term expires in November 2021), Steve Cunnup (Ward 2, November 2023), Lynn Gaines (Ward 3, November 2021), Charles A. Fields III (Ward 4, November 2023) and Jonathan Hensley (At-Large, November 2021)

Pittsboro Government

Town Hall is located at 635 East Street, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, 919.542.4621, pittsboronc.gov

► **Town Manager.** Chris Kennedy. 919.542.4621 ext. 1105, ckennedy@pittsboronc.gov

► **Mayor.** James Nass. 60 Brookridge Court, Pittsboro, 703.517.8408, jnass@pittsboronc.gov. Two-year term expires December 2021.

► **Board of Commissioners.** Usually meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at Town Hall. Commissioners serve four-year terms. Contact information is available from the Board of Elections at pittsboronc.gov.

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin, term expires in December 2021; John Bonitz, December 2023; J.A. (Jay) Farrell, December 2023; Michael A. Fiocco, December 2021; and Kyle Shipp, December 2023

Siler City Government

City Hall is located at 311 N. Second Avenue, PO Box 769, Siler City, 919.742.4731, silercity.org

► **Town Manager.** Roy Lynch. 919.742.4731, rlynch@silercity.org

► **Mayor.** Vacant. Plans at this time are to fill this position with a two-year term during the November 2021 election.

► **Board of Commissioners.** Usually meets on the first and third Mondays of every month at the Town Hall Courtroom. Commissioners serve four-year terms. Contact information is available from the Board of Elections at chathamnc.org/boe.

Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Burke Bray (At-Large, term expires December 2021), Tony Siler (District 1, December 2021), Norma Boone (District 2, December 2021), Curtis Brown (District 3, December 2023), William "Bill" Haiges (District 4, December 2023), Lewis Fadely (District 5,

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CHATHAM COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Chatham's largest multipurpose venue hosts conferences, trade shows, workshops and even weddings in a flexible space. The exhibit hall, with state-of-the-art audio-visual technology, can accommodate up to 680 people. Meeting rooms and a catering kitchen are also available. 1192 U.S. Highway 64 West Business, Pittsboro, 919.545.8393, chathammeetings.com

December 2021) and Thomas "Chip" Price III (At-Large, November 2023)

Federal Elected Representatives

Rep. David Price, D, 4th Congressional District (eastern Chatham), 2108 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515, 202.225.1784, price.house.gov. Term expires January 2023.

Rep. Ted Budd, R, 13th Congressional District (western Chatham), 103 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515, 202.225.4531, budd.house.gov. Term expires January 2023.

Sen. Richard Burr, R, 217 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510, 202.224.3154, burr.senate.gov. Term expires January 2023.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R, 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510, 202.224.6342, tillis.senate.gov. Term expires January 2027.

State Elected Representatives

Sen. Valerie P. Foushee, D, District 23, 300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 517, Raleigh, NC, 27603, 919.733.5804, Valerie.Foushee@ncleg.net. Term

expires January 2023.

Rep. Robert T. Reives II, House Minority Leader, D, District 54, 16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1323, Raleigh, NC, 27601, 919.733.0057, Robert.Reives@ncleg.net. Term expires January 2023.

Emergency Medical Services

County-wide, 24-hour paramedic services provided under a contract with FirstHealth of the Carolinas using a fleet of transport ambulances and quick-response vehicles. Jim Hasbrouck, Director. 1456 U.S. Highway 64 East, PO Box 699. Emergencies: 911. For non-emergency information, 919.542.7377

► **Chatham County Rescue Squad.** Nonprofit organization in Siler City also provides emergency services. 201 W. Third Street, PO Box 542, Siler City, 919.742.4514

Fire Departments

All emergency calls should be made to 911. Other information about local fire departments is listed below.

► **Chatham County Fire Marshal.** Works to reduce and eliminate unnecessary loss of lives and property due to avoidable fires throughout Chatham. Fire Marshal William Judson. 80-D East Street, PO Box 548, Pittsboro, 919.545.8259, william.judson@chathamnc.org

► **Bennett Fire Department.** Operates two stations. Chief Keenan Jones. 55 East Raleigh Street, Bennett, 919.581.3333

► **Bonlee Fire Department.** Chief Ken Smith. 185 Bonlee-Bennett Road, PO Box 236, Bonlee, 919.837.5016. facebook.com/bonleefiredpartment

► **Goldston Rural Fire Department.** Chief Wade Kirkman. 486 S. Church Street, PO Box 432, Goldston, 27252, 919.898.2225. goldstonfire.com

► **North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department.** Operates seven stations. Chief John Strowd. 45 Morris Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.3380. ncvfd.com

► **Moncure Fire.** Operates two stations. Chief Robert Shi. 2389 Old U.S. Highway 1, PO Box 289, Moncure, 27559, 919.542.4191. moncurefire.com

► **Pittsboro Fire and Rescue Department.** Operates three stations. Chief Daryl Griffin. 150 Sanford Road, PO Box 573, Pittsboro, 919.542.4101. pittsborofire.com

► **Siler City Fire Department.** Chief Scott Murphy. 310 N. Chatham Avenue, PO Box 581, Siler City, 919.742.4424

► **Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department.**

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE IN CHATHAM COUNTY?

Complete the one-page North Carolina Voter Registration Application, available online, and mail or deliver your completed form at least 25 days before an election to the Chatham County Board of Elections, 984 Thompson Street, PO Box 111, Pittsboro. You will receive a Voter Information Card with your precinct and polling site as proof of registration. chathamnc.org/boe

Operates two stations. Chief Mark Gaines. 8110 Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road, Siler City, 919.742.5874

Law Enforcement

All emergency calls should be made to 911. Other information about local law enforcement agencies is listed below.

► **Chatham County Sheriff.** Provides law enforcement across Chatham with major divisions or services for administration, investigations, patrol, special operations and victim services. Sheriff Mike Roberson. 295 West Street, PO Box 429, Pittsboro, 919.542.2811

Justice Center, 40 E. Chatham Street, Pittsboro, 919.642.1211

Detention Center and Magistrate's Office, 627 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, 919.545.7802

► **Pittsboro Police.** Chief Clarence "Shorty" Johnson Jr. 635 East Street, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, 919.542.3200 ext 1155

► **Siler City Police.** Chief Michael Wagner. 312 N. Chatham Avenue, PO Box 769, Siler City, 919.742.5626

Selected Agencies

Many agencies provide important services to Chatham residents and can be reached through county and municipal governments. Here are a few.

► **Board of Elections.** Manages voter registration, oversees campaign financing and conducts elections. 984 Thompson Street, Suite D,

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DAN LAMONTAGNE County Manager

After arriving in Chatham more than a decade ago as Solid Waste Director, Dan LaMontagne was named Public Works Director and then Assistant County Manager before landing in his current position in March 2019 as County Manager. He worked as a roofer and in hazardous waste disposal and emergency response before earning his B.S. focused in environmental engineering from North Carolina State University.

Pittsboro, 919.545.8500, chathamnc.org/boe

► [NC Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center](#). Comprehensive agricultural services connect local farmers and agribusinesses with the latest research, information and technology; provide educational programs promoting health and nutrition; and develop youth through 4-H educational programs and camps. 1192 U.S. 64 West Business, Pittsboro, 919.542.8202, chatham.ces.ncsu.edu

Transportation

Though Chatham is largely a rural community, the area does offer a general aviation airport and public transportation.

► [Chatham Transit](#). Public transportation system operated as a nonprofit agency provides regular routes linking Siler City, Pittsboro and Chapel Hill, as well as curb-to-curb service within Chatham by reservation. 127 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, PO Box 1032, Pittsboro, 919.542.5136, chathamtransit.org

► [Siler City Municipal Airport](#). General aviation airport developed around a 5,000-foot paved and lighted runway with an Automated Weather

HOW CAN I USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN CHATHAM?

Transportation is available between any two locations within Chatham by making a reservation at least 48 hours in advance by phone (919.542.5136) or the online form at chathamtransit.org. Fares are based on the distance of your trip: \$2 for up to five miles, \$4 for five to 10 miles, \$7 for 10 to 20 miles and \$3 for each additional 10 miles. A separate CT Express service runs between Pittsboro and several locations around UNC-Chapel Hill.

INSIDER'S TIP

Observing System offers aircraft maintenance, flight training, aircraft rental and car rental. Airport code KSCR. 80 Aviation Drive, Siler City, 919.742.3847



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Michael Smith, whose 20 years of economic development experience includes leadership positions at the Sanford Area Growth Alliance (SAGA), has been named by the Chatham County EDC board as the organization's new president. Smith has served as the President of the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA). He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Geography with a concentration in Urban/Regional Planning from East Carolina University. He came to Sanford from his position as director of economic development in Stanly County. Prior to that he served in Davidson County economic development and led economic development in the Statesville Region for 10 years. Before working in Iredell County, Smith worked with the N.C. Dept. of Commerce in Raleigh for seven years as a project manager and in marketing and business development.

"We're very well positioned," Smith said. "Chatham County, with its available industrial real estate, is very well positioned. Having two sites in the 2,000-acre range is pretty dramatic. I mean, nobody else in the state has anything like that. And so I'm going to be really excited and talking to those two different ownership groups to get their ideas about the best way to move forward."



SERVICES



There's an African proverb that goes something like this: "It takes a village to raise a child." It's the idea that children can only thrive when there are a lot of people helping create the safe, healthy environment they need to succeed.

To be honest, the same idea applies to the rest of us, as well. It takes everyone working together to help people and entire communities thrive.

Ilana Dubester, executive director of El Vínculo Hispano/The Hispanic Liaison, says nonprofit organizations of all kinds play a crucial role in improving the lives of Chatham County residents in many

different ways. Homeownership. Literacy. Leadership development. Educational achievement. And so much more.

"Nonprofits fill the gap in government services and go beyond what local government can offer its residents," she says. "Chatham is fortunate to count on dozens of extraordinary nonprofit organizations and leaders who are passionate to their missions and devoted to helping the community."

Photo. Staff members for El Vínculo Hispano/The Hispanic Liaison, gather outside their office in downtown Siler City.

INSIDER'S TIP

THERE ARE SO MANY NONPROFITS. HOW DO I CONNECT WITH THEM?

ChathamConnecting.org. The free website connects volunteers and contributors with more than 100 local organizations that need their help. Chatham Connecting also maintains a Facebook page (@ChathamConnecting) and Twitter feed (@ChatConn) to provide information and updates about local nonprofits.

Chatham County Social Services

Through a number of programs and initiatives, the Chatham County Department of Social Services works to protect vulnerable residents and enhance their health and financial stability, all while encouraging personal responsibility. Director Jennie Kristiansen. 102 Camp Drive, PO Box 489, Pittsboro, 919.542.2759, chathamnc.org/services/social-services

► Major Programs and Services

Child Support Enforcement services to enforce court orders providing payments to support children, *Work First* to help families temporarily meet their basic needs while seeking employment, *Medicaid* to help low-income families pay for medical expenses, *Food and Nutrition Services* to provide short-term assistance for low-income households, *Child Protective Services* to help children and their caretakers in cases of actual or suspected abuse, and *Foster Care Services* to provide temporary care for children by licensed and approved foster families.

Also, *Adoption Services* to assess and approve individuals interested in providing a permanent home for children, *Energy Assistance* to provide one-time cash payments to help eligible families with heating bills, *Emergency Services* and *Crisis Intervention* to assist low-income households experiencing a heating or cooling emergency in their homes, *Child Care Subsidy* to provide services and subsidies for low-income families to help pay for childcare, and *Adult Services* to help aging and developmentally disabled adults stay in their homes as long as they can or live safely in an appropriate facility.



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Selected Service Agencies

Many independent, nonprofit agencies provides social services to residents throughout Chatham. Here are some of them.

► Boys & Girls Clubs of Central North Carolina.

Offers youth programs and services to enhance child development, academic performance and responsible behavior. Wren Family Center, 126 S. Sixth Avenue, Siler City, 888.785.2582 ext 802, sanfordbgc.org

► Chatham Animal Rescue and Education.

Arranges cat and dog adoptions and provides pet information and services. PO Box 610, Pittsboro, 919.542.5757, chathamanimalrescue.org

► **Chatham Cares Pharmacy.** Provides free pharmacy services for low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents. 127 E. Raleigh Street, Siler City, 919.663.0177, chathamcares.com

► **Chatham County 4-H.** Provides knowledge to help youth become self-directing, contributing and productive members of society. 1192 U.S. Highway 64 West Business, Pittsboro, 919.542.8202, chatham.ces.ncsu.edu

► **Chatham County Partnership for Children.** Enhances the quality of child care, children's health and safety, and family support. 220 Chatham Business Drive, PO Box 637, Pittsboro, 919.542.7449, chathamkids.org

► **Chatham Drug Free.** Leads a countywide effort to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth through several initiatives including Project Graduation. 919.545.5333 (George Greger-Holt), chathamdrugfree.org

► **Chatham Literacy.** Helps adults build literacy through one-on-one tutoring and provides basic education skills and instruction in English as a second language. 1002 W. Third Street, PO Box 1696, Siler City, 919.742.0578, chathamliteracy.org

► **Chatham Trades.** Fosters rehabilitation for adults with disabilities through employment, vocational training and job placement. 2535 Old U.S. Highway 421 North, Siler City, 919.663.3481, chathamtrades.org

► **Communities In Schools of Chatham County.** Provides positive adult role models and activities that enhance academics, social skills and confidence. 208 N. Chatham Avenue, PO Box 903, Siler City, 919.663.0116, cischatham.org

► **CORA Food Pantry.** Provides food to individuals and families who are in need during difficult personal economic periods. 919.542.5020, corafoodpantry.org

► **El Futuro.** Offers mental health and substance abuse services, training, education

and outreach accessible to Spanish-speaking immigrants and their families. 401 N. Ivey Avenue, Siler City, 919.688.7101 ext 600, ElFuturo-NC.org

► El Vínculo Hispano | The Hispanic Liaison.

Helps residents adjust to life in the United States, access services and affirm their rights. Also connects the Hispanic community with other local organizations. 200 N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City, 919.742.1448, hispanicliaison.org

► **Legal Aid of North Carolina.** Provides free civil legal services and community legal education to low-income families. 117 E Salisbury Street, PO Box 1728, Pittsboro, 919.542.0475, legalaiddnc.org

► Salvation Army of Chatham County.

Helps people facing crisis or disasters maintain shelter, food and clothing. 2535 Old U.S. Highway 421 North, Siler City, 919.542.1593, salvationarmycarolinas.org/greensboro/chatham

► **The Learning Trail.** Provides low-income children and their families with the academic and social support needed to reach their full academic potential. PO Box 3061, Chapel Hill, 27515, thelearningtrail.org

► **West Chatham Pantry.** Provides food and fresh produce to those facing emergency need. 919.742.3111, facebook.com/WCFoodPantryNC

United Way



UNITED WAY OF CHATHAM COUNTY

A local affiliate of United Way Worldwide, the United Way of Chatham County raises money and invests in projects by about 15 local nonprofits to enhance education, financial stability and health. It also helps provide NC 211, a free, confidential, multilingual resource to connect Chatham residents with health and human services. 72 Hillsboro Street, PO Box 1066, Pittsboro, 919.542.1110, unitedwayofchathamcounty.org

SPOTLIGHT

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EVENTS



Under normal circumstances, there's no shortage of engaging, live events taking place all across Chatham.

From author readings in Fearington Village to annual agricultural festivals in several western communities, there's always plenty to keep everyone busy.

Interested in music? Got that covered with concerts, competitions and weekend festivals galore. Famished for food? Try some wine tastings, a fruitcake open house or one festival built entirely around North Carolina peppers. Arts and crafts your thing? Take your pick from artisans selling their wares at local street festivals to

kiln openings and a huge, annual fine-art studio tour.

For a largely-rural area, Chatham's variety is pretty impressive. The best events give visitors a chance to experience local culture and maybe enjoy something that's not available in their own backyard.

These aren't normal circumstances, of course, but don't give up. Many events are continuing now in creative formats and others are already planning their big return.

Photo. Oliver Vang of Moncure won the elementary division of Sing and Play '20 in one of the last events before the pandemic.



FARMERS' MARKETS IN CHATHAM

Locally grown and produced specialties — fresh produce, meats, eggs, baked goods and more — attract shoppers to three Chatham farmers' markets.

► Chatham Mills Farmers' Market. Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon from April through October and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from November through January. 480 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro. chathamillsfarmersmarket.com

► Fearington Farmers' Market. Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time and 3 to 5 p.m. all other times of the year. 240 Market Street, Fearington Village. fearingtonfarmersmarket.com

► Pittsboro Farmers' Market. Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. year round. 287 East Street, Pittsboro. pittsborofarmersmarket.org

SPOTLIGHT

Events During the Pandemic

With so much uncertainty during the current pandemic, many planned events could be canceled or rescheduled, especially during the first half of the year. Before planning to attend, please check event websites and social media to confirm dates, times and other details.

Selected Annual Events

From intimate author readings and wine tastings to massive music festivals and downtown street fairs, a steady parade of events keeps Chatham vibrant all year long. Here are a few.

► Ongoing

Author Events. A steady stream of authors flows into McIntyre's Books for readings, conversations about their work and larger literary

gatherings. Fearrington Village. fearrington.com/mcintyres-books

Bynum Front Porch Friday Night Music. Bands of all kinds take to an outdoor stage at the historic Bynum General Store for a popular summer music series. Friday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. from May through August. Bynum. bynumfrontporch.org

Fearrington Wine Events. Renowned Fearrington sommeliers lead themed dinners and tasting classes exploring everything about wine — from grape varieties to the soils and regions where wines are produced. Fearrington Village. fearrington.com

Pittsboro First Sunday. Downtown comes alive on the first Sunday of every month, March through December, with music, food trucks and local artisans selling their work. Pittsboro. shoppittsboro.com/pittsboro-first-sunday

► February

Sing and Play. Student music competition features instrumental and vocal acts with a cash prize awarded by audience vote for the top performance in elementary, middle school and high school divisions. Siler City. 2021 competition canceled due to the pandemic. jmarts.org

► April

ClydeFEST. Arts and crafts carnival for elementary-aged children celebrates local folk artist Clyde Jones with music, bubbles, face painting, games and hands-on art projects. Bynum. Date TBA. chathamartscouncil.org/clydefest

► May

Siler City Spring Chicken Festival. Live music and a classic car show headline the free, daylong street festival that also features art exhibitions, children's activities, local nonprofits, food vendors and a beer garden serving craft beverages. May 1, 2021. Downtown Siler City.

► September

Flatwoods Festival. Free heritage festival features games for children, food vendors and a popular parade of horses, antique cars and historic farm equipment. Bennett. September 11, 2021. tricityruritan.com/flatwoods-festival

Hoppin' John Fiddlers' Convention. String band music lovers gather for contests, workshops, food, dances, camping and a hoppin' john cook-off. Pittsboro. September 16-18, 2021. hoppinjohn.org

Mead Fest. The free, mini-Renaissance faire with period music, sword-fighting knights and even smoked turkey legs celebrates mead, the locally produced "honey wine." Pittsboro. September 25, 2021. starrlightmead.com/mead-fest

Old Fashioned Farmers Day. The "celebration of American farm life from yesteryear" draws crowds on Labor Day weekend for music, dancing, farm demonstrations, food and tractor pulls. Silk Hope. September 4-5, 2021. silkhopenc.org

PepperFest. North Carolina's largest local-food festival draws thousands to celebrate the region's top chefs, brewers and artisans with dishes featuring hot and smoky North Carolina peppers. Pittsboro. Date TBA. pepperfestnc.org

► October

Goldston Old Fashion Day. The street fair returns for its 33rd year with antique power equipment, arts and crafts, classic cars and plenty of activities for children. October 9, 2021. Downtown Goldston.

Pittsboro Street Fair. Thousands of visitors and residents gather to enjoy food, local products and entertainment for all ages at a community celebration held annually for about three decades. October 30, 2021. Downtown Pittsboro.

Shakori Hills GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance. Four-day outdoor music festival draws dozens of notable bands to perform concerts and workshops on several stages. Pittsboro. Dates TBA. shakorihillsgrassroots.org

Southern Supreme Holiday Open House. Individuals and groups descend on the specialty food company to ring in the holiday season, tour kitchens and sample homemade delicacies. Bear Creek. October 7-10, 2021. southernsupreme.com



SPOTLIGHT

CHATHAM 250: A HISTORICAL CELEBRATION

Chatham commemorates the 250th anniversary of its establishment on April 1, 1771, with a year full of diverse, community-centered events and activities highlighting Chatham's uniqueness, rich history and promising future. Festivities focusing on five key areas — creative arts, community and diversity, growth and change, agriculture and our natural environment — will be announced over the coming months and updated regularly on a special Chatham 250 website scheduled to launch early this year.

► December

Chatham Artists Guild Studio Tour. Top local artists open their studios to meet visitors during the annual, two-week self-guided tour and art sale. A free map listing participating artists, working in a variety of media, is available online and at locations throughout the area. December 4-5 and 11-12, 2021. chathamartistsguild.org

Reindeer Run. Serious runners and everyone else interested in a fun morning outdoors hit the road for a fundraiser 5K run with individual and team awards and Rudolph's Family Fun Run. Pittsboro. December 11, 2021. chathamkids.org/5k

Siler City Christmas Parade. Marching bands, floats packed with children and vehicles of all kinds welcome the holiday season with a downtown parade along S. Chatham and nearby streets. Siler City. December 9, 2021.

INSIDER'S TIP

I KNOW THERE ARE MANY MORE LOCAL EVENTS. HOW DO I FIND THEM?

That's true! There are *many* more events, large and small, held all year long throughout Chatham. While we don't have enough space to list them all, the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention and Visitors Bureau maintains an online events calendar. The bureau also keeps people connected with social media feeds, sample itineraries for visitors, an online listing of tourism-related businesses and an overview brochure. 964 East Street, Pittsboro. visitchathamcounty.com/events

COMMUNITY



Not too long ago, Chatham was seen largely as some rural oasis frozen in time, a tranquil retreat of rolling hills and open farmland, where folks could live a quieter, simpler style of life.

Those familiar places still exist, of course, and they remain an essential part of what makes Chatham special. But other areas are changing so quickly that if you haven't driven through in the last few months, well, you may not even recognize where you are.

Much of that change is taking place just north of Pittsboro, where one of the nation's largest "live, work, play"

communities is well underway, significantly reshaping the physical landscape. But change also is happening out west in Siler City, where the arts and Latinx commerce are reshaping a vibrant cultural landscape as well.

With so many ways to live — from rural farm communities to small towns and bustling planned developments — a lot more people are finding Chatham. And many of them are now calling it home.

Photo. "Mosaic," a sculpture by local artist Edwin White, welcomes visitors to Chatham Park just north of Pittsboro.

SPOTLIGHT



CHATHAM: BY THE NUMBERS

At about 700 square miles, Chatham is the state's 18th largest county by area and home to 77,713 residents, according to Office of State Budget and Management estimates — a growing population projected to be 110,406 by 2040.

Chatham Park

One of the nation's largest planned communities, Chatham Park will eventually include about 22,000 homes — along with businesses and entertainment venues — on more than 8,000 acres east of Pittsboro. The development's first custom homes are now under construction in a community that is expected to have a population of about 60,000 when it is fully developed around the year 2045. chathampark.com

► **Mosaic.** Chatham Park's first major project is a 44-acre community that serves as the gateway to Chatham Park. It includes restaurants, retail and office space, entertainment venues, educational facilities, a hotel, 164 apartment homes and 12 condos. mosaicatchathampark.com

Ferrington Village

Developed more than four decades ago as an "English-inspired village nestled in the idyllic countryside," Ferrington Village has attracted almost 3,000 residents from around the world to a vital community built around quaint independent shops, a world-class hotel and restaurant, and a full calendar of activities and events.

Its location, just a 15-minute drive from Chapel Hill, has helped attract guests and locals, alike, to The Ferrington House Inn and Restaurant, part of the world-renowned Relais & Chateau association of individually owned and operated luxury properties. ferrington.com

Goldston

The smallest of three incorporated towns in Chatham, Goldston was established in 1907 — fueled by a railroad line that still runs along Main Street and through a compact business district that stretches a few blocks.

The town is home to about 300 residents and 15 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Its quaint downtown attracts visitors driving through southwestern Chatham all year long, but especially in the fall, when Goldston celebrates Old Fashion Day, a one-day, downtown street fair featuring music, food, classic cars and local arts.

Pittsboro

Formed in 1787 and serving as the seat of Chatham government, Pittsboro has managed to combine a respect for its long history with a look toward the future — with farmers, artists, students and tech innovators all living and working in the growing community.

About 6,750 people currently reside within the city limits and just beyond, though that number will quickly be eclipsed with the Chatham Park planned community now underway. Also drawing people to Pittsboro are a historic and vibrant downtown as well as Central Carolina Community College's Chatham Main Campus. pittsboronc.gov

Siler City

For most of Siler City's history, beginning with its founding in 1887, the town served as commercial hub for rural residents in western Chatham. And it still does, with a strong retail economy and an industrial presence emphasizing textiles and food processing.

But a transformation has been occurring in recent years — with the town of about 8,000 residents quietly emerging as a vibrant and diverse community, with a robust Latinx culture and artists working in many media taking up residence near downtown galleries. silercity.org

Association of Realtors

More than 600 real estate professionals are members of the Orange Chatham Association of Realtors, the local affiliate of a national organization providing continuing education and promoting a code of ethics for members. A membership directory on the website can be searched by city, member name and realty office. 143 Chatham

INSIDER'S TIP

AS CHATHAM GROWS, HOW DO I KEEP UP WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING?

Essential news and information about Chatham is published online and in print by the Chatham News + Record. In addition its award-winning local reporting featured in the weekly newspaper, the CN+R also publishes a portfolio of annual community publications — including *Chatham Life* magazine in the fall and *Chatham 411*, this community guide, every January. chathamnewsrecord.com

Downs Drive, Suite 302, Chapel Hill, 919.914.6718, orangechathamrealtors.com

Chatham Habitat for Humanity

A particularly active affiliate of the national organization, Chatham Habitat for Humanity helps families build and own affordable homes — improving their lives and strengthening the entire community. PO Box 883, Pittsboro, chathamhabitat.org

► **Main Office.** 467 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.0794

► **ReStores.** Nonprofit store selling donated furniture, appliances, home goods and building materials at reasonable prices, generating revenue to build two to three Habitat homes each year. 467 West Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.0788

► **Siler City Office.** 1002 W. Third Street, Siler City, 919.548.4075

Home Builders Association

Since incorporating an existing Chatham association in 2005, the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties has been the organization representing local home builders and related companies. A membership directory organized by services provided is available on their website. 1821 Hillandale Road, Suite 1B-138, Durham, 27705, 919.493.8899, hbadoc.com

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RECREATION



Maybe it's the area's rural legacy or perhaps its rich natural resources, but whatever the reason, outdoor activities have always been central to recreation in Chatham.

Jordan Lake is probably the most visible example, if only because so many people drive across the 16 mile-long lake every day on U.S. Highway 64. Along that route, they pass the entrance to three different campgrounds and can catch a good view of day-visitors sunbathing on the sand and swimming in the water at Seaforth Beach.

There are paddlers exploring other

local waterways, as well. Many bring their own boats onto the Haw and Deep rivers and set their own itineraries, but that's not necessary with outfitters like Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co. offering tours.

If paddling, swimming, camping and picnicking aren't your thing, don't despair. Chatham has plenty of other options to enjoy — from golf and youth sports to a tiger sanctuary, which, to be honest, is something you just don't see everywhere.

Photo. Paddleboarders take a less-common approach to enjoying the water at Jordan Lake.

Attractions

Unique local attractions draw visitors seeking a new experience. But check before you visit, because many are open limited hours.

► **Carolina Tiger Rescue.** Nonprofit wildlife sanctuary for wild cats offers public and private educational tours. 1940 Hanks Chapel Road, Pittsboro, 919.542.4684, carolinatigerrescue.org

► **Chatham Historical Museum.** Free museum traces Chatham through time and in the voices of its people. Historic Chatham County Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.6222, chathamhistory.org

Golf

Chatham offers a variety of golfing options, from an affordable, 9-hole course to a Davis Love III signature design on the shores of Jordan Lake.

► **Golf Club at Chapel Ridge.** 18-hole championship course by JMP Golf Design and Fred Couples. 1010 Chapel Ridge Drive, Pittsboro, 919.545.2242, chapelridgegolfclub.com

► **Governor's Club.** Private club and award-winning, 27-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature course. 11000 Governors Drive, Chapel Hill, 27517, 919.933.7500, governorsclubnc.com

► **Old Chatham Golf Club.** Private, golf-only club hosted the 2019 65th U.S. Senior Amateur Championship. 1480 O'Kelly Chapel Road, Durham, 27713, 919.361.1400, oldchathamgolf.org

► **Siler City Country Club.** Semi-private club, open to the public, with a variety of membership options. 150 Country Club Drive, Siler City, 919.742.3721, silercitycountryclub.com

► **The Preserve at Jordan Lake.** Semi-private course, open to the public, with a Davis Love III signature design at the shores of Jordan Lake. 840 The Preserve Trail, Chapel Hill, 27517, 919.542.5501, thepreservegolfclub.com

► **Twin Lakes Golf Course.** Public, 9-hole, regulation course with affordable greens fees. 648 Willow Way, Chapel Hill, 27516, 919.933.1024, golf-twinlakes.com

Jordan Lake

One of the state's most visited parks, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area has more than 1,000 campsites around an undeveloped 14,000-acre reservoir, seven swim beaches, 14 miles of hiking trails, educational programs and plenty of wildlife. 280 State Park Road, Apex, 919.362.0586, ncparks.gov/jordan-lake-state-recreation-area

I SEE A LOT OF BIKERS IN CHATHAM, BUT HOW DO I KNOW WHERE TO RIDE?

Chatham enjoys a 198-mile system of bicycle trails that draws riders throughout the region to lightly-traveled country roads that connect towns, crossroads communities and points of interest. A free map suggests seven recreational loops, from 13 to 37 miles long, and shows parks along the routes. visitchatham.com/location/bicycle-trails-2

► **Entrance Fees.** About \$7 per car is charged daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day; senior citizen discounts and annual passes are available.

► **Camping.** Options include tent, trailer and RV camping; more primitive backpack sites; and special areas for groups.

► **Educational Events.** Learning activities, usually free and led by park rangers, give park visitors a deeper insight into the natural world.

Parks and Recreation

Public recreational areas and activities are provided by organizations across Chatham. Seasonal guides are often available online.

► **Chatham County Parks and Recreation.** Offers a network of regional parks, special events and classes, and recreational sports for youth and adults. 964 East Street, Suite 100, Pittsboro, 919.545.8555, chathamnc.org/parksandrecreation

► **Pittsboro Parks and Recreation.** Operates eight parks, including the 52-acre Rock Ridge Park and 36-acre Town Lake Park, and hosts special events. 919.542.1519, pittsboronc.gov/parks

► **Siler City Parks and Recreation.** Maintains several parks, two gymnasiums, a community center and the Bray Park Aquatic Facility outdoor pool — and offers youth athletics and special community events. 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, 919.742.2699, silercity.org

Recreation Organizations

Whether they are nonprofit fitness centers

or organizations making Chatham's natural resources accessible, several other recreational organizations provide options for local residents and visitors.

► **Chatham YMCA.** Fitness center associated with YMCA of the Triangle offering exercise equipment and group classes focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. 287 East Street, Suite 412, Pittsboro, 919.545.9622, ymcatriangle.org/chatham-ymca

► **Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co.** Rental boats, paddling courses and guided trips on the Haw River and other local waterways designed to help paddlers understand the locations and their natural significance. 6079 Swepsonville-Saxapahaw Road, PO Box 22, Saxapahaw, 27340, 919.260.6465, hawrivercanoe.com

► **Haw River Trails.** Provides public access via land and paddle trails to 80 miles along the Haw River, from the Rockingham-Guilford county line to Jordan Lake State Recreational Area in Chatham. 3916 R. Dean Coleman Road, Burlington, 27215, 336.229.2380, thehaw.org

Youth Sports

A wide variety of youth sports are offered all across Chatham, most by county and municipal parks and recreation departments, but also by several sport-specific organizations.

► **Chatham Soccer League.** Recreational leagues, travel teams and a developmental academy provide a variety of competitive options for youth ages 3 to 18. PO Box 875, Pittsboro, 919.205.9977, chathamsoccerleague.org

► **East Chatham Chargers Football and Cheerleading.** Flag football, tackle football and cheerleading are offered for ages 5 to 14, with registration opening in May, practices beginning in August and games running through mid-November. PO Box 1337, Pittsboro, ecchargers.org

► **East Chatham Little League.** Boys and girls ages 4 to 13 participate in T-ball and baseball competition from late March to June at fields in Pittsboro and near North Chatham Elementary. An all-star season begins later in June. PO Box 1504, Pittsboro, eastchathambaseball.com

► **North Chatham Youth Lacrosse.** Spring competition for boys and girls, kindergarten through 8th grade, runs from late February into May with player development clinics offered in the fall. 95147 Vance Knolls, Chapel Hill, 27517, 415.405.6351, chathamcardinals.org



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SENIORS



Chatham seniors enjoy a particularly active lifestyle, being actively involved in everything from community service to business and the arts. Cathy Brooks Edwards, or “Brooksie” as she’s known, is proof of that proposition.

The 65-year-old, who describes herself as a “wise elder” and “super cool senior,” recently started a 10-month project to become certified as a teacher in Kundalini yoga. “My body already feels stronger,” she says, “and it is my desire that this takes me into aging with grace.”

It’s not like she wasn’t busy already. A little more than one year ago, she

published “Heartspace,” a book about grief, loss and love in death and dying. It’s full of honest, reflective essays by many Chatham residents who share their personal experience and insight.

But if literature isn’t your thing, there’s much more to keep Chatham seniors busy. Much of it is organized by the Chatham County Council on Aging, but that’s just the first place to look. It seems like there are as many pursuits as there are seniors.

Photo: Cathy Brooks Edwards displays her book, “Heartspace,” available at Amazon and other booksellers.

INSIDER’S TIP

HOW CAN I GET FREE HELP FILING MY TAX RETURNS?

You may qualify for free tax help from VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, offered through the Chatham County Council on Aging. IRS-certified volunteers help prepare a basic return and then file electronically for people with low income or who have disabilities or speak limited English. The service is available from February 9 through April 6. Call 919.542.4512 for details. chathamcoa.org/services

Chatham County Council on Aging

A “one-stop” resource for local seniors, the Chatham County Council on Aging provides a wealth of information and services to help people enjoy a healthy life, be engaged in the community and live independently. The portfolio includes community and in-home meals, in-home personal care and caregiver respite, assistive equipment loans, medical transportation, a calendar of events and much more. PO Box 715, Pittsboro, chathamcoa.org

► **Virtual Classes and Events.** Though they began during the pandemic, virtual classes and events have become so popular that they are now a permanent part of the Council on Aging calendar. Options currently include games, performances, fitness classes and personal enrichment activities.

► **Eastern Chatham Senior Center.** 365 NC Highway 87 North, Pittsboro, 919.542.4512

► **Western Chatham Senior Center.** 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City, 919.742.3975

Retirement Communities

Many communities in Chatham cater to the needs and interests of retirees and senior adults. Here are some:

► **Carolina Meadows.** With more than 800 residents and 160 acres of landscaped outdoor spaces, the North Chatham community offers comprehensive healthcare, fitness and lifestyle

programs, and opportunities for community outreach. 100 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, 27517, 919.942.4014, carolinameadows.org

► **Carolina Preserve at Amberly.** Based in Cary with homes in Chatham, the active-adult community has 1,360 homes, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and more than 120 clubs. 115 Allforth Place, Cary, 27519, 919.467.7837, carolinapreserve.com

► **Encore at Briar Chapel.** Neighborhood for residents age 55 and up in the North Chatham development features single-level homes with an exclusive clubhouse. 117 Boone Street, Chapel Hill, 27516, 919.951.0700, briarchapelnc.com/homes/active-adult-55plus-homes

► **Galloway Ridge at Fearington.** Apartments and villas offer a variety of lifestyle options with amenities like a 49-seat cinema, on-site medically-based fitness center, organized giving opportunities, and long-term skilled nursing and assisted living. 3000 Galloway Ridge Road, Pittsboro, 919.328.2657, gallowayridge.com

► **Twin Rivers Independent Senior Living.** Apartment-based community with on-call staff available 24 hours a day provides weekly housekeeping and linen service, scheduled meals and activities. Twin Rivers is affiliated with Cambridge Hills Assisted Living, an all-inclusive

assisted living community with a 38-bed unit for memory care. 25 S. Rectory Street, Pittsboro, 919.545.0149, silver-thread.com

Senior Games and Silver Arts

Held each spring, Senior Games and Silver Arts offer Olympic-style competitions in about 18 sports and artistic activities in performing arts, visual arts, literary arts and heritage crafts for seniors. Local winners may advance to statewide and national competitions. chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/senior-games

Senior-Focused Organizations

Other organizations in Chatham provide services and volunteer opportunities focused on seniors.

► **Fearington Cares.** Nonprofit community care organization holds events and provides a wide range of assistance to residents of Fearington Village who need a helping hand. 28 Swim and Croquet behind the Gathering Place (location), 2020 Fearington Post (mail), Pittsboro, 919.542.6877, fearingtoncares.org



INSIDER'S TIP

HOW DO I KEEP UP WITH SENIOR EVENTS?

There's so much happening for seniors across Chatham that it's hard to keep track of the events, news and advice for healthy living. "The Chatham Senior Times," a free newsletter published by the Chatham Council on Aging, provides a seasonal roundup and is available on request by email or postal mail. chathamcoa.org



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WELLNESS



With healthcare access becoming more important every day, it's comforting to know that Chatham enjoys a remarkable portfolio of resources to help local residents live a healthy life.

As rural hospitals struggle in many communities across the nation, services at Chatham Hospital in Siler City have been expanding. The latest example? Just last fall, a brand-new, \$2.6-million Maternity Care Center began delivering babies at the hospital for the first time in almost three decades. They expect to deliver up to 120 babies during this first year of operation.

Two of the world's most respected

medical centers are just a few miles over the border — UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and Duke University Hospital in Durham — and UNC Health Care provides specialized care at two local centers, one in Chatham Park and the other in Siler City.

Of course, there's much more to wellness than hospitals. Chatham offers home health, nursing, fitness centers, public parks, yoga studios and much more in an area that continues to grow and expand its wellness options every day.

Photo: Instructor Lisa Pigeon teaches at Yoga Garden in downtown Pittsboro.

INSIDER'S TIP

THE COVID-19 VACCINE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED. NOW WHAT?

The COVID-19 vaccine is key to beating this pandemic, so it's important that members of the Chatham community roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated once it's available to them. Vaccine rollout will be done in phases, starting with healthcare providers and long-term care facilities, and will take months. Stay up-to-date at chathamnc.org/coronavirusvaccine.

Chatham County Public Health

With its mission of protecting and promoting the health and safety of residents, the Chatham County Public Health Department is responsible for a wide range of activities including health policy and promotion, family health programs, environmental health and animal services.

Among its many wellness activities, the department employs health educators, nurses and social workers to teach wellness classes, prevent teen pregnancy and transmission of sexually-transmitted diseases, and help residents live a more healthy lifestyle. It also operates a clinic in Siler City and works to enhance environmental health with projects like water quality testing, restaurant inspections and public sanitation programs. chathamnc.org

► **Administrative Office.** 80 East Street, Pittsboro, 919.542.8220

► **Siler City Clinic.** Offers immunizations, maternity care, family planning and primary care for adults and children. 1000 S. Tenth Avenue, Siler City, 919.742.5641

Chatham Hospital

The 25-bed Chatham Hospital is classified as a critical access hospital, one designed to provide high-quality healthcare services in rural communities. Operated as part of the UNC Health Care System, the hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission and has received 12 consecutive five-star ratings for patient experience from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The facility provides surgical, medical,

pediatric and emergency services, as well as outpatient services. The 10-bed emergency department provides full-service, around the clock care. Community-based outpatient services in the areas of diabetes education, physical therapy, imaging, cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation are also offered. 475 Progress Boulevard, Siler City, 919.799.4000, chathamhospital.org

Duke Center for Living at Fearington

One of the few area fitness centers specializing in medically-based wellness programs, the Duke Center for Living at Fearington helps people make lasting lifestyle changes to improve their health. Facilities include a four-lane, 25-yard indoor pool. 100 Clynelish Close, Pittsboro, 919.545.2133, dukefitnessfearington.com

Duke Health

Associated with Duke University and one of the region's largest healthcare networks, Duke Health has received a number of top rankings from U.S. News & World Report. dukehealth.org

► Duke Primary Care of Galloway Ridge.

Primary care for adults, including physicals, immunizations and internal medicine. 50 Craggenmore Road, Pittsboro, 919.794.5307

Home Care Facilities

Fifteen accredited home care facilities are licensed in Chatham by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Aegis Home Care. 40125 Moring, Chapel Hill, 919.442.5252

Carolina Meadows Home Care Inc. 100 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, 919.370.7299

First Choice Home Care Inc. 1754 E. 11th Street, Suite B, Siler City, 919.663.1188

Galloway Ridge. 3000 Galloway Ridge, Pittsboro, 919.545.2660

Guardian Angels Home Care of North Carolina. 161 Bear Tree Creek, Chapel Hill, 919.704-8001

Keston Care. 781 Mount Carmel Church Road, Chapel Hill, 919.967.0507

Liberty Home Care. 401 E. 3rd Street, Siler City, 919.742.4843

Piedmont Health Services Home Care, 163 Chatham Business Drive, Pittsboro, 919.545.7341

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Quality Life Home Care Inc. 148 East Street, Suite 201, Pittsboro, 919.545.2027

Sister 2 Sister Solution Inc. 156 Scotton Matthew Road, Siler City, 919.742.4223

Sunrise Home Care Inc. 1754 E. 11th Street, Suite D, Siler City, 919.663.0925

Total Life Care Inc. 106 Village Lake Road, Suite A, Siler City, 919.799.7275

UNC Home Health. 287 East Street, Suite 221, Pittsboro, 984.215.2650

Wisdom Senior Care. 288 East Street, Suite 1001-F4, Pittsboro, 919.408.1852

Wisdom Senior Care Inc. 3622 Shannon Road, Suite 104, Durham, 919.323.3693

Home Health Facilities

Two accredited home health facilities are licensed in Chatham by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Liberty Home Care. 401 E. 3rd Street, Siler City, 919.742.4843

UNC Home Health. 287 East Street, Suite 221, Pittsboro, 984.215.2650

Nursing Facilities

Four nursing facilities are licensed in Chatham County by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Carolina Meadows Health Center. 500 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, 919.942.4014

Siler City Center. 900 West Dolphin Street, Siler City, 919.663.3431

The Arbor. 3000 Galloway Ridge Road, Pittsboro, 919.545.2690

The Laurels of Chatham. 72 Chatham Business Park, Pittsboro, 919.542.6677

UNC Health Care

Operated by the University of North Carolina and owned by the state, UNC Health Care includes UNC Hospitals and its provider network, clinical programs of the UNC School of Medicine, and 11 affiliate hospitals and hospital systems across North Carolina, including Chatham Hospital in Siler City. unchealthcare.org

► UNC Chatham Park Medical Office.

Combines services from Chatham Hospital, UNC Physicians Network and UNC Medical Center — including imaging, rehabilitation, laboratory testing, family medicine, rheumatology, specialty care and therapeutic infusions. 75 Freedom Parkway,



DOROTHY RAWLEIGH Childcare Health Consultant Chatham Public Health

Recognizing her "tireless efforts to keep Chatham's youngest residents healthy," Dorothy Rawleigh was named 2020 Employee of the Year by the Chatham County Board of Health. The childcare health consultant has done groundbreaking work to enhance nutrition and boost immunization rates in local child care centers, an initiative that also earned her GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's 2018 Child Health Recognition Award, an honor presented annually to innovative organizations and individuals for improving the lives of children.

SPOTLIGHT

Pittsboro, phone numbers vary by specialty

► **Chatham Medical Park.** Provides primary care and medical services in a number of healthcare specialties, including cardiology, general surgery, gynecology, urology, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and occupational, physical and speech therapy. 163 Medical Park Drive, Siler City, phone numbers vary by specialty

► **North Chatham Pediatrics and Internal Medicine.** Cares for the entire family with a full range of medical services to promote a healthy lifestyle. 118 Knox Way, Chapel Hill, 984.215.5900

Selected Wellness Organizations

► **Yoga Garden Pittsboro.** The friendly and welcoming community studio conducts classes and workshops in a spectrum of yoga styles, provides teacher training and holds a Sunday morning meditation. 184 East Street, Pittsboro, 919.533.7935, yogagardenpb.com

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