

# Cooperation wins in landslide

By Randolph S. Voller

As an elected official we are asked to represent four constituencies: those who voted for us, those who voted against us, those who did not vote, and the future — i.e. future voters who have yet to move here or who are not even born yet.

With such a diverse constituency to consider we must evaluate all potential options to craft a better tomorrow.

Chatham and its municipalities are competing with counties and municipalities from around the state for scarce dollars to address critical infrastructure issues. Clearly the most rational path to achieve the best quality potable water system and construct a modern wastewater plant, which will handle today's needs and future growth, will be through mutual cooperation. Although each entity involved will give a little in the process, the result will be a better Chatham for all citizens. With that in mind I introduced the following resolution at the Chatham County Democratic Party's Convention (CCDP) on April 25, 2009.

**PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE DELEGATES AT THE COUNTY CONVENTION HELD AT THE SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE ON APRIL 25, 2009- Introduced by the Mayor of Pittsboro, R. Voller**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT MUTUAL COOPERATION IN CHATHAM COUNTY AMONG THE MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTY, SCHOOL BOARD, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CCCC)**

Whereas cooperation between the municipalities, Chatham County, the Board of Education and the Central

Carolina Community College would foster greater opportunities for the citizens of Chatham County;

Whereas the aforesaid cooperation will also yield economies of scale and maximize the investments of tax dollars and volunteer time supporting the municipalities, Chatham County, the Board of Education and the Central Carolina Community College;

Whereas the cooperation will save the citizens of Chatham County money and set an example of leadership and forward thinking;

Whereas the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has been convening meetings of the municipalities, Chatham County, the Board of Education and the Central Carolina Community College in order to facilitate an understanding of common goals and vision for Chatham County;

Whereas the aforesaid cooperation should yield agreements that will allow the joint use of facilities for the public good, cooperation and support of grant requests, commons plans for economic development, waste water facilities, reuse water facilities, potable water, storm water management, planning, workforce housing, workforce training, energy policy, carbon reduction, and transit.

Be it Resolved, the Chatham County Democratic Party (CCDP) supports the Cooperation between the municipalities, Chatham County, the Board of Education and the Central Carolina Community College for the mutual benefit of all citizens and stakeholders in Chatham County.

*Randolph S. Voller is Mayor of Pittsboro*



## After 90 days

By Don Lein

Typically, the honeymoon lasts 100 days, but a number of patterns and answers seem to be emerging in a shorter period of time, besides newspaper deadlines do not honor tradition.

Initially, it appeared that the Obama administration was adhering to the wisdom of G.B. Shaw, that Fabian Socialist, who opined that, "The government that robs Peter to pay Paul, can always count upon Paul's support." The first bill was an accommodation to trial lawyers, the "special interest" that is always mentioned first in every Democrat's litany of gratitude. The number of "Pauls" benefiting from the "stimulus" bill was alarming, but not surprising. The idea promulgated that the federal government can, in some way, improve on our existing health care system by becoming more involved or, heaven help us, taking it over, while in the next breath saying entitlements, which the government has set up and run to solve yesterday's societal problems, are completely out of control seems, at least, incongruous. The current handling of the alternative fuel fiasco with "black liquor" is just another example of their lack of foresight. Individuals, when they keep doing the same thing and expecting different results are generally considered insane.

While domestic programs seem to lack some degree of coherence, it is on the global front where America has the most exposure, because foreign influence will largely dictate domestic policy. In the first place, Asian countries in the last couple of decades have accumulated many billions of dollar's worth of American Treasury Bills. They want the return on investment they anticipated, thus they want the American economy to be as successful as it can be. Paradoxically, communism is cheering for the success of capitalism. Behind the scenes, however, there will be more arm-twisting than cheering.

The first forays in promulgating a global message to meet the current economic challenges met with little success. The only other country to try a stimulus was Japan, but only in a token way. The European community was appalled at the amount of debt that was being incurred to solve a problem that would probably solve itself better

without well-intended but counter-productive interference.

The more important danger in promulgating foreign policy deal with properly handling American exports of our market economy and its companion, religion. It is clear to the devel-

oping world that the market economy is the best and fastest way to ensure solid, steady growth. Zhao Xiao, a Chinese government economist in comparing market economies with and without churches argues that religion is a necessary moral underpinning and attributes America's commercial success not to its natural resources, financial system, nor technology, but rather its churches; a plurality of different denominations that are driven to survive by competition, rather than the European model of Anglican and other state churches.

European secularists had always argued that modernity and religion are incompatible, but current emerging economies indicate that their ideas are outdated. Indeed China and other countries wishing to usher in modernity are encouraging religion. China officially recognized and guaranteed freedom of religion for 5 different religions in 1982. Now China is the country that has the largest number of both Moslems and Christians, which does not even count thousands of "house churches". A surprising theme links nationalism to religion in that many feel that it is patriotic to become religious, because American brand religiosity will make China stronger.

It's a challenging, changing world. Hopefully, the President learned enough from Pastor Jeremiah Wright to recognize the positive force that religion can play and is playing in the growth of the economies of the world and that religion in the public square is fundamental to the success to these countries and their economies.

Instead of trying to emulate hubristic Western Europe, which is drowning in its own socialist excess with negative population growth and slightly over zero economic growth, let's emulate the Asians who are using American paradigms that somehow we have discarded or forgotten. They've done it before. "When will we ever learn?"

*Don Lein is a Chatham resident who is active in a variety of civic organizations.*



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