

PITTSBORO MAYORAL RACE

**Early voting, same day registration**

*Thurs., Oct. 15 – Sat., Oct. 31*

You must be registered to vote in Chatham County and live in Pittsboro to vote in the Pittsboro municipal election. You can register and vote at the same time during the early voting period at the County Board of Elections in Pittsboro at 984 Thompson Street (located in the Platinum Square office complex on U.S. 64 Business/East Street) across from the U.S. Post Office.

**Pittsboro needs a change of leadership**



By Bill Crawford

My name is Bill Crawford, and I am running for Mayor of Pittsboro.

The reasons I have for doing this can be best illustrated by a couple of specific issues that convinced me that change was needed.

First, there is the Springdale Drive problem. I live in Chatham Forest, an enclosed development. Such a development must have two distinct entrances, so access can not easily be blocked off in an emergency. Our "second" entrance is a block away from the primary one, so all but the first half dozen residences effectively have one exit. This is a situation that is one untimely car accident from dangerous.

The answer to this was to create another entrance at Springdale Drive, which remains roped off and closed until the Chatham Forest developer (Mayor Voller) and his lawyers agree to pay for the improvements to 15-501 that North Carolina demands for the increased traffic it would bring.

Getting this done was a campaign promise of Mayor Voller's in his 2007 campaign. He presided over a Town meeting then and encouraged a vote to ensure this would happen. His lawyers are still negotiating, and it is still closed. It doesn't take much to conclude that this could have been handled better.

The issue that finally drove me to challenge him is the new bus line to Chapel Hill, paid for in part with our tax money. I still haven't seen anything that showed a demand for a bus line. Regional mass transit is a laudable goal, but we are in the middle of a deep recession, and this is how the Mayor chooses to experiment with our taxes?

There are many good people in our town working on the major issues currently holding up development in Pittsboro, most notably wastewater and water capacity. I would like to help them without bringing the extra drama, conflict of interest and lack of common sense that Mayor Voller all too often adds to the mix.

My platform is very simple: transparent government, carefully managed development and no new taxes. The mayor's office is a non-partisan one, and I plan to uphold that by listening to anybody who has a good idea for bringing Pittsboro into the future. That, and following Ronald Reagan's sage advice: there is no end to what you can achieve when you don't care who gets the credit.

I moved to Pittsboro because I saw it had all the wonderful character of a small town, along with an appetite for growth. I would like to do what I can to keep it as a wonderful place to raise our children and build a life.

**Election day, Nov. 3**

If you prefer to vote on election day, be sure you have registered to vote in Chatham by Oct. 9 at the County Board of Elections in Pittsboro at 984 Thompson Street. On Election Day you may vote at Central Carolina Community College, located on U.S. 64 Business (West Street), west of the courthouse circle, just beyond the traffic light past Al's Diner on the right. For more info, contact the Board of Elections at 919-545-8500.

**Voller and Team Pittsboro strive for smart growth**



By Randy Voller

I'm Randy Voller and I'm seeking re-election to a third term as the Mayor of Pittsboro. I love serving the citizens of Pittsboro and I love our town. When elected, I will fight for all citizens and work for the best interests of our town and community with a focus on the most demanding constituency: the future.

**Growth**

Growth is inevitable. Sprawl is not. It is not a question of whether Pittsboro grows, but rather "how" our town grows. How our town grows is a reflection of who leads Pittsboro. Leaders who observe the successes and the failures of neighboring communities need to make wise decisions to ensure that Pittsboro remains in a vibrant present that will not beget an unlivable future. When I'm re-elected, these decisions about the building of our community will continue to be collaborative and interactive. I invite you to get involved with "Team Pittsboro" and Chatham County and become a part of the process of building our community and shaping its destiny.

**Sense of Place**

Pittsboro and Chatham County are special places. The town and its citizens deserve more than the status quo. We will all gain by enhancing our distinctive character and avoiding the common mistakes of poor planning and community ennui. Pittsboro and the surrounding area can be a magnet for job growth and affordable and safe housing, but only if we acknowledge, appreciate, protect and enhance what makes us special: our historic small town surrounded by beautiful natural resources. Existing vibrant and growing communities of artists, farmers and sustainable energy leaders will draw more of the same as well as those who appreciate the added value this creative culture brings to a community. With good quality infrastructure and water, increased and enhanced recreational spaces and economic vitality, Pittsboro can be a shining light. As the Mayor of Pittsboro I want our community to lead the way.

**Team Pittsboro**

Mutual cooperation among key players is essential to create a better future for all citizens of Pittsboro. Obstacles are more easily overcome when people at all levels work together with experienced and knowledgeable leadership. As the Mayor of Pittsboro, I believe it is imperative that local leadership work as a team to compete

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For information on other municipal elections in Chatham, see page 10.



Chatham chickens high in pecking order. Page 3



Not all fall colors are safe. Page 5

ONLY ONLINE

▶ Don Lein on foolish energy fads.

## The politics of health care

By Ron Veitel

The main topic of the political debate these days seems to be health care reform. It is true that reform is urgent yet not so urgent that we don't invest the time to rethink the current course of the U.S. health care system. The bills being introduced appear to focus on fixing a broken system by applying band aids rather than identifying and treating the underlying causes. This mindset follows modern medical thinking; treat the symptoms and not the causes.

OPINION

I have been following this discourse and have observed that the state of our current system and the need for prevention and wellness has been completely ignored. Insurance appears to be the fall guy right now but the true debate should be on the current direction of our system and not on making sure all Americans have insurance that only pays for modern medical care.



In 2007 the United States spent \$2.2 trillion dollars on health care; this averages \$7,421 per person. Compare this to just \$356 per person per year (\$75 billion) in 1970. Health care accounted for 16.2 percent of the US economy in 2007 and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projects that health spending will be one-fifth (20.3 percent) of our Gross Domestic Product by 2018. Almost half of health care spending is used to treat just 5 percent of the population and in 2006 21.2 percent of health spending went towards the treatment of the 1 percent of the population who had total health expenses above \$41,580. Spending on prescription drugs has grown a whopping 89 percent from 2000 to 2007.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, health spending in the US is 52 percent higher than in the next highest spending country and 90 percent higher than in many other countries we would consider global competitors. Yet the World Health Organization ranks the US health system at 37 out of 190 in the world.

These numbers are enough to take one's breath away but I would like to continue painting a picture for you. In 1997 the Institute of Medicine released a report stating that hospital related medical errors

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