

Chatham Trades builds county in many ways

By Dan Stroupe

Nestled across from Bray Park in Siler City lies one of the best kept secrets in Chatham. There one finds a bustle of activity of individuals helping others help themselves and the community. There one finds Chatham Trades, the local community rehabilitation program serving Chatham.

Since 1980, Chatham Trades has been providing vocational and developmental services for Chatham adults



Gary Edlind is packaging corn starch for a customer in Fuquay-Varina. This is one of the subcontracts performed at Chatham Trades' facility.

with developmental disabilities. There these individuals develop their social skills and work habits, and if they choose, continue their academic training. Participants accomplish all of these things while performing meaningful work and earning wages for the work that they perform. In turn, they spend their hard earned wages locally, contributing to Chatham's economy and pay taxes to help

fund the services that they may need. In addition to providing a much-

needed service for a grossly underemployed portion of the community, Chatham Trades' services provide much needed respite for caregivers and additional manpower for the business community. Participants working at Chatham Trades' facility on Alston Bridge Road assist area businesses with small packaging jobs, mailings, sub-assembly jobs, and other short-term manpower needs.

However, Chatham Trades' facility-based services only tell half the story. As participants increase their work skills, Chatham Trades helps work-ready individuals find jobs throughout the county and beyond. Studies have shown that individuals with disabilities make more loyal and safer employees, thereby reducing employer turnover and Workers Compensation costs. To

accomplish this key service, Chatham Trades uses funding from the county and United Way to provide a job coach to train participants in their new job and to assist the employer with a smoother hiring process. As participants become increasingly successful in their new job, Chatham Trades is able to bring more individuals into its facility in Siler City to repeat the process.

Chatham Trades' success is dependent upon support from the community. Individuals or businesses may help with donations, work contracts, employment opportunities and referrals. Call 919-663-3481 or email dstroupe@chathamtrades.org.

Dan Stroupe is executive director at Chatham Trades and has been with the agency since 1985.



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Disclaimer: The information provided at the workshop is not designed to diagnose or treat any medical condition. It is purely educational, based on the book, The 7 Principles of Fat Burning.

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Historic downtown hosts farmers market and 'A Lot of Art'

Joan Thompson of Poverty Hollow Farm on Smoky Hollow Trail out from Siler City heads up the Farmers Market on Second Street near Chatham Avenue. If you don't have your own garden, or if yours is like mine and hasn't done much, you can still have the best home grown vegetables and fruit in North Carolina.

Leaf lettuce from Ralph Sweger's Screech Owl Farm is harvested early Saturday morning and will keep in the refrigerator for two weeks. However, it tastes so good it is usually gone long before then. Brenda Wallen has Goat Milk Soap, flowers and eggs. Tom Maste from Silk Hope has organic tomatoes, cucumbers and melons. Wayne Horton brings in tomatoes, corn and other produce. Ricky and Bev Buckner have corn, tomatoes and pumpkins. Joan Thompson makes goodies from her own special recipes — baked goods, jams and pickles

calendar

www.silercitymerchants.com

Third Friday Artwalk. Sept. 19, 5-9 pm. Features music by the Shelbys, 7-9 pm. Courtyard Coffee and Sodas Café will be open. Horizon Cellars will have complimentary wine tasting at Raleigh St. Gallery, featured artist: Sarah Sparrow. The new location of Against His Will Gallery is on East 2nd St. Mina Bean'a will serve French crepes for dinner and a community dance from 5-10 pm.

Farmer's Market and "A Lot of Art." Every Saturday, 9am to 2pm. On 2nd St. near Chatham Ave. Art booths in "Against His Will" parking lot. Restaurants open early. Contact www.raleighstreetgallery.com

Tim Tron of Grandview Farms has meat raised without chemicals or hormones. Dr. John Dykers sells his Charlean Beef you can sample on the spot.

"A Lot of Art" takes place in the parking lot of "Against His Will" Gallery on Second Street from August through October. This outdoor show is open to all artists and craftsmen.

On August 23, Laura Patis, an art student at Guilford College brought her work. Justin Poe, also a Guilford College student, displayed abstract paintings and trendy jewelry for young people.

The Farmer's Market is Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "A Lot of Art" is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. While you are there, try out the cafes and restaurants. It's a great way to spend a beautiful fall Saturday in Chatham.

—Mary Bastin, Marketing Consultant

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