

# southern NEIGHBOR

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Southern Neighbor is a student produced magazine, founded by Bonnie Schaefer and published under the DTH Media Corp.

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# Our stories

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We joined North Carolina First Lady Kristin Cooper on a visit to East Durham Children's Initiative Science Technology Engineering Arts Math and Literacy camp.

These kids are doing more than just learning, though - they're also beating summer food insecurity.

## 5 NEW PRINCIPALS

The fresh faces in CHCCS hallways won't just belong to students this fall. Chapel Hill High School, East Chapel Hill High, and McDougale Elementary School are all welcoming new administrators. We've got all the details on the three incoming principals so you can get to know them and their outlook for the school year.

## 7 TIGER TEETH

Oral hygiene is important for everybody. That includes big cats. Check out our photo story on the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation's visit the Carolina Tiger Rescue in Pittsboro.

## 4 REACHING THE RURAL ELDERLY

Isolation is incredibly detrimental to the health of elderly people. Luckily, Orange County is home to several organizations that are working to battle that.



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# First Lady Cooper visits Durham camps that feed N.C. children's minds and bodies

The camp aims to fight the food insecurity and learning loss that children often face over the summer.

By Marin Wolf

Eastway Elementary in Durham bustled with chatter Wednesday morning as children played at the East Durham Children's Initiative (EDCI) Science Technology Engineering Arts Math (STEAM) and Literacy Camp. Campers finished their morning instruction while also preparing to welcome a special guest joining them for lunch.

North Carolina First Lady Kristin Cooper visited EDCI's STEAM and Literacy Camp during a tour of summer meal sites in Durham and Raleigh to highlight and learn from programs that combat food insecurity.

Since taking on the role of first lady, Cooper has focused on programs and initiatives that target adverse childhood experiences. In addition to visiting EDCI, Cooper also visited the Advance Community Health summer program, which provides lunch and educational services to children in Southeast Raleigh.

"The Governor and I would really like to see universal breakfast for every child in this state," Cooper said. "It's a small price to pay in the grand scheme of things. It's never been a problem about not having enough food. We waste tons of it. The problem has always been about getting food to people who need it."

According to the Map the Meal Gap report by Feeding America, Durham has a food insecurity rate of 17.3 percent. This is higher than Orange County at 13.2 percent and Wake County at 12.7 percent. For many children, food insecurity intensifies during the summer without access to free and reduced breakfast and lunch offered at school.

EDCI is a place-based nonprofit that works with children in East



DTH/ SOPHIA CHIZHIKOVA

First Lady Kristin Cooper meets some of the East Durham Children's Initiative STEAM summer program participants at Eastway Elementary.



DTH/ SOPHIA CHIZHIKOVA

First Lady Kristin Cooper (right) and EDCI President David Reese (left) speak to students during lunchtime.

Durham from birth through high school graduation that provides several opportunities for children and families in the area to access food throughout the summer. Last year, the EDCI Summer Lunch program provided meals to 563 children and adults with food from the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

The organization also offers mobile farmers markets and provides information on food and nutrition options for families.

The most successful EDCI programs that provide students

with free meals, however, are the three summer camps offered at locations throughout East Durham. EDCI President and CEO David Reese said that the camps are strong because they target not only the underlying problem of food insecurity, but the issue of learning loss as well.

"What our data says is that, if we get kids to camp consistently over a six-week period then we will begin to stop learning loss," Reese said.

EDCI STEAM Summer Camp, EDCI BELL (Building Educated

Leaders for Life) Summer Camp and YMCA Camp High Hopes provide over 180 participants with free breakfast and lunch, classroom instruction and other projects.

In 2017, EDCI partnered with North Carolina State University's College of Education to build a curriculum for the summer programs that focus on reading, writing and math. Students have class in the morning, followed by an afternoon of more traditional camp activities, like board games and sports.

Reese said that, through pre- and post-camp testing, EDCI has seen an increase in math and literacy ability among camp participants.

Eastway Elementary Principal Shayla Holeman said the summer camps are "safe havens" provide invaluable resources and instruction to students that would likely otherwise fall behind during the summer months.

"This program and others like it, our children need it," Holeman said. "The reality is, they're able to receive academics and fun. They have attention from adults who care about them, and they're having experiences that normally they wouldn't. There's nothing that I can say that will truly emphasize the necessity of a program like this."

EDCI partners with 40 local organizations to provide year-round services to families with the goal of preparing children for high school graduation and beyond. According to the EDCI Year Six Impact Summary, the program has enrolled 1,612 children, with 43 percent participating in three or more programs throughout the year.

The program plans to increase in scale in coming years.

"This is not just about East Durham," Reese said. "This is really about how to create a model which works within similar communities to ours."

*This story was originally published on July 11, 2018.*

# 'Sometimes we're the only people they see'

*These Orange County organizations have made it their mission to improve the quality of life among our area's rural elderly. But providing meals, transportation, home repairs, companionship and more takes a lot of manpower. That's why they're asking for your help.*



Doris Ray sees volunteer Kacky Hammon out at the end of her visit with the help of her bright red walker and her ramp built by members of the Handy Helpers program.

**By Charlotte Ririe**

**D**oris Ray carefully opened her screen door as she greeted volunteer Kathleen “Kacky” Hammon into her home with a huge smile. Her excitement was unforgettable, her anticipation for weekly visits visible in her wise eyes that were opened wide.

At the end of the visit, Ray made her way down the newly constructed ramp from her front porch with her red walker to thank her dear friend Archie Daniel for everything he does.

Daniel, a retired captain at the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, is also something of a community hero. He is the director of the Orange County Rural Alliance (OCRA) and long-time patron of Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT). Daniel’s main mission is to assess the various needs of seniors in his community.

“They might need a ramp, occupation

therapy, physical therapy or someone to start visiting them regularly,” Daniel said.

Orange County is home to several senior care initiatives that share the primary goal to maintain a quality of life worth living for the elderly population and to provide resources that may not be available to them otherwise. These organizations include SALT, OCRA, Handy Helpers and the Orange County Department on Aging (OCDOA).

Nancy Holt is a retired nurse and health care administrator. She sits on the board of OCRA and regularly volunteers with SALT.

“They tell us that sometimes we’re the only people they see,” Holt said of these seniors. “Isolation is one of the causes of decreased health; it exacerbates whatever medical condition someone may have. AARP calculates that 37 percent of all rural elderly suffer from acute isolation.”

These programs often focus their attention on community members in rural areas of the county because they have far less access to basic needs like transportation or grocery stores.

“Look at the community, look at your neighbors,” Holt said. “See who may need some help. That help may be only a visit, only a conversation, only a hug.”

Yvette Garcia Missri is an administrator for the volunteer programs division at the OCDOA and is a project manager for Project EngAGE, a senior leadership program. She works closely with Daniel to provide proper resources.

“Essentially Archie and I partner on two programs. The first one is our Handy Helpers program,” Missri said. “That program is a partnership between the Department on Aging and the Sheriff’s office. It’s all volunteer labor and the materials cost primarily comes from a fund that we have out of the Department on Aging.”

The Handy Helpers program volunteers construct ramps for seniors like Ray who have trouble using stairs. “We are looking to find more volunteers to place in these community-based opportunities,” Missri said. “In my unit we have a volunteer coordinator and she is really good at vetting volunteers and placing them. The best place to start is with us.”

These programs emphasize the importance of visitation. They often pair

volunteers with seniors to check up on them and have conversations.

“We just started a new partnership with a nursing home facility called Signature,” Missri said. “It’s one of the only Medicaid-eligible facilities (in the area), so it tends to have lower income people with less resources living there. Despite being in the heart of Chapel Hill, folks there are really isolated and don’t have a lot of people visiting them, don’t have a lot of connection.”

“What we try to do is that when someone contacts us, Shenae is usually in touch with them within hours and makes an appointment to meet with them within a couple of days,” Missri said.

She said the Department on Aging has other resources that they urge the community to utilize.

“We have an aging helpline that’s staffed every weekday by our social workers. They answer theoretically any aging question,” Missri said. “It’s a really good resource for just getting plugged into the system and getting connected.”

The Aging Helpline can be reached at (919) 968-2087.

If you’re interested in volunteering with one of these programs or have any questions, contact Volunteer Coordinator Shenae McPherson at (919) 245-4243.

*This story was originally published on July 11, 2018.*



Director of the Orange County Rural Alliance, Archie Daniel, reaches out to greet his friend Doris Ray, who he regularly visits.

**“Look at the community, look at your neighbors. See who may need some help. That help may be only a visit, only a conversation, only a hug.”**

Nancy Holt  
OCRA Board Member

# Meet CHCCS' newest principals



Photo courtesy of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

From left to right: Charles Blanchard, Chapel Hill High School; Aisha Howard, McDougle Elementary; Kenneth Proulx, East Chapel Hill High

## By Veronica Correa

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools recently announced the hiring of three new principals for Chapel Hill High School, East Chapel Hill High School, and McDougle Elementary School.

This leadership transition takes place after all three high schools in CHCCS were ranked as the top public high schools in North Carolina. CHCCS spokesperson Jeff Nash said that the district was excited for the new leaders, who would bring a fresh perspective and renewed energy to the district.

### Charles Blanchard Chapel Hill High School

"The high schools have an excellent reputation," said Charles Blanchard, the incoming principal at Chapel Hill High School. "I was excited about the opportunity to come to a high school that has a rich tradition of academic and extracurricular excellence."

Blanchard started teaching in 1995 and has worked as a high school principal since 2006. He has been recognized as both a North Carolina

Teaching Fellow and Principal Fellow. He said that he found being in a high school environment to be "energizing." He described his administrative style as student- and teacher-friendly, and tries to avoid being in the office during the day so that he can be visible for students.

"My plan coming in is I'm going to do a lot of listening and learning," he said. "I want an environment that's inclusive for all students."

Outside of work, Blanchard spends as much time with his family as possible. The oldest of his three children will be a first-year at Chapel Hill High this fall, and the family has always prioritized involvement in school activities and extracurriculars.

Blanchard said that one of his priorities at his new position will be to oversee the ongoing renovations for Chapel Hill High, which broke ground in June.

"We want to guide that process as smoothly as possible with minimal distraction for students and teachers," he said.

### Kenneth Proulx East Chapel Hill High School

"East Chapel Hill has a history

of academic excellence, and that is what attracted me to this community," said Kenneth Proulx, the incoming principal at East Chapel Hill High School.

Proulx has worked in public education for 25 years and was the inaugural principal of Holly Grove Middle School in Wake County, which opened in 2010. He said that he believes in building strong relationships between the community, staff and students. He is looking forward to meeting the school's staff and making decisions that are best for the student body.

"Being new to the district, right now I'm learning about East Chapel Hill School and working closely with staff to identify areas we might need to address," he said.

### Aisha Howard McDougle Elementary

Aisha Howard is the new principal of McDougle Elementary School. Howard formerly worked as a teacher in Guilford County and in Durham Public Schools, where she was the principal of Oak Grove Elementary since 2011. She was a finalist for the

Durham Public Schools Principal of the Year in 2015 and 2016.

While going to high school in Chatham County, Howard remembers visiting nearby Chapel Hill and spending time on Franklin Street. She was looking for a change and a new place to grow as a professional.

"Chapel Hill's always been a place where I could see myself working," Howard said.

Howard's goals at her new job are to create an environment where both students and teachers want to show up to school and learn every day. She also wants parents to be happy about where their children are going to school.

"I would say my leadership style is one that is definitely collaborative, one that is big on student achievement but also on developing teachers," Howard said. "I am there to support them and facilitate their growth."

*This story was originally published on July 18, 2018.*

# August Calendar

**1** *Wednesday*

## Alexander Hamilton Exhibit Opening

N.C. Museum of History, All Day

Learn about the man behind the musical. The exhibit will include his history and his path from immigrant to founding father.

**2** *Thursday*

## Midtown Beach Music Series

North Hills, 6 p.m.

Celebrate the summer nights with Shag dancing and the Band of Oz with this beach night celebration. This concert is free and open to the public.

**4** *Sunday*

## Museum + A Meal

Museum of Durham History, 12 p.m.

Learn about the first Muslims to create a mosque community in North Carolina. Afterward, enjoy a lunch from a Kenyan restaurant owned by some of the curators themselves. Tickets are \$20.

**4** *Saturday*

## Basic Sewing Class

The Scrap Exchange, 12 p.m.

Tired of not being able to sew that button back on? Learn from the best and beef up your skills. Tickets are \$30.

**5** *Sunday*

## Summer Movie Series

Ponysaurus Brewing Company, 8 p.m.

Get the most out of this last summer month with a good movie, a good patio and a good beer. Snacks are \$1 and the movie is free.

**7** *Tuesday*

## David Cross "Oh Come On"

The Carolina Theatre of Durham, 8 p.m.

Fans of Arrested Development, come see David Cross as himself in this night of comedy and laughs. Tickets start at \$36.50.

**10** *Saturday*

## Footloose, The Musical

North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theater, 7 p.m.

Get on your feet and enjoy this beloved musical full of the classics. It will be hard to keep still. Tickets range in price.

**14** *Tuesday*

## Views from The Durham

The Durham Hotel, 9 p.m.

Lucky viewers may get to see a meteor tower even while in the middle of a city. Take your gaze to the stars with plenty to see. This event is free.

**15** *Wednesday*

## Pinball Knockout Tournament

Boxcar Bar+ Arcade, 7 p.m.

Bring your A-game and beat the best in this knockout style challenge for pinball glory.

**16** *Thursday*

## Glow Night

TreeRunner, 5:30 p.m.

Climb through the trees while surrounded by beautiful glowing lights that make this forest even more magical. Tickets start at \$30.

**18** *Saturday*

## Easy as Pie! Cooking Class

Southern Seasons, 11 a.m.

Baking doesn't have to be difficult. Learn three basic recipes sure to impress. Tickets are \$50.

**19** *Sunday*

## Music in the Galleries

Ackland Art Museum, 2 p.m.

Groove to the tunes of Elvis Costello and The Beatles while enjoying some of the amazing art the Ackland has to offer. Feel free to sing along. Tickets are \$7

**23** *Thursday*

## Hockey Night

Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 7:05 p.m.

Can't get enough of North Carolina sports? Enjoy a two-in-one with the Bulls and the Hurricanes.

**24** *Friday*

## Beats n Bars Festival 2018

American Tobacco Historic District, 8 p.m.

There will be food, interactive labs, art installations, music, panels, and so much more. Experience hip hop in a whole new way. Tickets start at \$25.

**24** *Friday*

## Parent's Night Out

Kidzu, 9 p.m.

Need the kids taken care of but the babysitter is busy? Let Kidzu entertain your kids while you have a date night. Price is \$25 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child.

**25** *Saturday*

## Pub Crawl & Haunted Adventure

American Tobacco Campus, 7:30 p.m.

Explore Durham in a whole new light with ghouls and brews. Tickets are \$20.



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# Say 'Ahh':

These big cats are baring their teeth, but not for their prey.

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On Saturday, July 21, a team of volunteer veterinarians and technicians from the Colorado-based Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation came to visit the Carolina Tiger Rescue in Pittsboro. A resident 16-year old lion, Sebastian, was one of four big cats to be visited by the dental team that weekend. Sebastian, the biggest cat at the sanctuary, was given a root canal, dental fillings, and X-rays. DTH staff photographer Sophia Chizhikova gives us a look behind the scenes.

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# Good Times and Favorite Finds – Part IV

By Chris DiGiovanna

One of my favorite parts of my job is to dig through old boxes full of mementos and curios, as you never know what you might find.

Several years ago, I made friends with a local junk hauler. He had me over to his warehouse to look at all of his stuff. Most of it was junk, but a large trunk caught my eye. Turns out, it had belonged to a gentleman who was an Army Air Corps navigator during World War II. I took it back to my shop and must have spent a good 3-4 hours that night going through everything in it. I thought it was fascinating, as it provided a snapshot of a 4-6 year period of the owner's life during and after the war. I pulled a handful of items for sale on eBay, receiving \$335 for an original Air Corps Aviator Cap, \$129 for a vintage 306th Bombardier Group yearbook, and \$81 for a silk aviator escape map. The remaining contents of the trunk sold at a local auction for a little over \$600, bringing the total value of the trunk and its contents to nearly \$1300.



Another time, a client gave me a small box full of odds and ends – some medals, a few odd pieces of silver, and several old watches. To her, it was stuff she inherited, but would never use or display. I dug through the box and found a number of neat little treasures – a 14K sewing thimble that sold for \$127, an unmarked (and non-working) vintage Rolex Junior Sport wristwatch that sold for \$511, and even a small Pinehurst golf trophy that went for over \$700. All in all, she had over \$4000 worth of finds in two small boxes.

One of the most surprising (and nice smelling) finds came from a client that had inherited her aunt's collection of vintage French perfumes. It turns out that not only are certain vintage perfumes very collectible, but so are their bottles and boxes, too. A small box of partially-filled bottles yielded over \$2500 in sales, including a vintage Baccarat crystal bottle of Elizabeth Arden perfume that sold for \$844 to a collector in Australia.

## Neighbor to Neighbor

**Chris DiGiovanna** is the President of **Trader Chris Consignments**, which specializes in selling valuable collectibles, jewelry, watches, and estate silver on eBay. Chris can be reached at [chris@traderchris.biz](mailto:chris@traderchris.biz).



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