

Duke Energy, Galloway Ridge partner with Habitat for MLK Service Day

By Casey Mann

Volunteers from Duke Energy, Galloway Ridge, and Charah teamed up with Chatham Habitat for Humanity to work on several homes in Siler City.

The event was spearheaded by Pat Richardson, Director of Communications & Community Relations for Galloway Ridge and Indira Everett, Duke Energy's Government & Community Relations Manager for our region. The event was part of an MLK Day of Service through Duke Energy's philanthropic arm, the Duke Energy Foundation.

Two homes on North Chatham Avenue are nearing completion and representatives from Galloway Ridge were caulking, painting, and doing other interior work. On Fifth Avenue, Duke and Charah volunteers laid a foundation for the first home at what Habitat calls the Womble Property. That property is a two acre piece of land that will eventually hold eight Habitat homes.

"We are really excited about the Womble property. That will be Habitat's work in Siler City for the near future," Jerry Wharton, Habitat for Humanity's Executive Director said.

Many of the volunteers noted how happy they were to be working on Habitat homes for the event.

"I enjoy giving back

to the community. I am thankful that Galloway Ridge gave us the opportunity to come out on a work day to do it," Victoria Brewer of Chatham County said.

Leslie Dyess of Chapel Hill was painting a bedroom with a large roller as she described why she was participating with her Galloway Ridge co-workers.

"I was an early volunteer with Habitat in the early 90s and it's great to come back and hear this is the 125th house they have built in Chatham. I do a lot of things like drop off food and clothing, but this is different. There is energy here. I love it," Dyess said.

The soon-to-be owner of the Fifth Avenue home, Grady "J.R." Rierion, worked with the Duke/Charah volunteers laying the foundation for the home. Rierion's home burnt down eight years ago and this Habitat home is providing him the opportunity to move back to Siler City to be close to his children and grandchildren.

While on the site, Rierion ran across a school mate from high school decades ago. Duke employee, Duncan Brewer, was a volunteer for the house. And while Rierion noted that Brewer was a "couple of years ahead" of him, everyone appreciated how things "come back around."

Adrienne Elder, a volun-

teer for Duke Energy noted that the Duke Energy Foundation tries to do events like this throughout the year.

"Duke provides a day of service in the communities we serve to help support the local community. It's great because you can get outside, get some exercise, and help those who need it. And it was great to meet the homeowner," Elder said.

As lunchtime approached, Siler City Mayor John Grimes arrived to thank the volunteers. In addition, Mayor Grimes joined Everett in presenting a check to Chatham Habitat for Humanity for \$1000.

"This is a great program and I appreciate Duke for the contribution. Habitat for Humanity is on every continent in the world. This organization is helping countless people and families and helping to keep families together," Mayor Grimes said.

"We really appreciate Galloway Ridge and Duke Energy for their support. Mayor Grimes, Pat [Richardson], and Indira [Everett] have been great supporters. And thank you to all the volunteers. We don't do what we do without you. It makes a big difference in people's lives and I can't say enough about the great work that you do," Wharton said.

"It feels great. I really appreciate everybody out here today," Rierion said.



Team effort . . .

Volunteers from Duke Energy, Galloway Ridge, and Charah teamed up with Chatham Habitat for Humanity to work on several homes in Siler City on Monday.

Casey Mann photos

Work

continues . . .

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Walter Williams High School Class of 1971 . . .

Woods Charter students learn lessons of unity from historic class

By John Hunter

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned a country where all students of all races would have access to a quality education.

After many uphill battles in the nation's courtrooms and classrooms, his dream was realized when Supreme Court rulings ordered schools throughout the country to become integrated.

The change did not come all at once, and was not without contention and incident.

In 1971, Superintendent Brank Proffitt sought to unite the black and white communities opting to hire Jerome Evans, an African-American coach at Walter Williams High School in Burlington. Evans' role as one of the first African-American coaches in a predominantly white school in the South led to a 1971 article in *Sports Illustrated* titled "The Man Who Was Cut Out For The Job". He was later featured in the book *Black Coach* by Pat Jordan.

Last Friday, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a panel of students from the 1971 class at Walter Williams spoke to the high school students at Woods Charter School about the struggles and triumphs that came with social changes and the Civil Rights movement.

"We want our students going out into the world

ready to engage others. This is a great way for them to learn through storytelling by the people from not too far away that lived it," Woods Charter Principal Cotton Bryant said.

One of the panel members, Becky Koontz Lee, was a familiar face to the students and staff. Lee, a Spanish language and culture teacher at Woods Charter is also a graduate of the Walter Williams High School Class of 1971.

Panelist Chris Coley, a football player on the 1971 team, recalled the turmoil following the move to integrate the school.

"Honestly, I think it was more the adults than it was the students. I can't recall having a problem," Coley said.

Coley recalled his days playing for Evans fondly.

"Coach Evans was a very fair coach. You did the job, you got the job," he said.

Sandra Gant-Satterfield served as the vice president of the student council in 1971, remembers the initial feeling of being displaced and life on campus being quantified.

"It felt like we were ripped from our homes. And everything was an equation; a bunch of ratios and quotas. The president of the student council had to be a white student, the vice president had to be black," she said.

Joan Tinnen Matkins, was the first black cheerleader at Williams High School.

"It didn't matter to me. I was just a cheerleader," she said.

Tinnen Matkins was moved to a predominately white middle school after being in all black schools.

"I remember walking up and down the hallway and counting the number of black students. There was so few of us. I wasn't sure how I was supposed to feel about it," she said.

"Hate is not something that you're born with, it is something that you're taught. It takes too much time and energy to hate," she added.

Tinnen Matkins classmate, and later on husband, Larry Matkins, was a superstar running back on the football team.

"I had never been in a school with white students before," Matkins said.

But then he met his future co-captain of the football team, and a man he called his mentor, David "Daisy" Coleman.

"[Coleman] didn't know what I was going through and we talked it out. Daisy made it real easy. He had a way of putting you at ease.

"There was a lot of tension from the outside, but after the integration happened, you wonder what took so long," Coleman said.



John Hunter photo

First integrated class . . .

Woods Charter School teacher Becky Koontz Lee spoke to students about being a member of the 1971 class of Williams High School in Burlington, the first integrated class at the school.

MLK Day observance

(Below) Joan Tinnen Matkins, Sandra Grant-Satterfield, Joel Leath and Sonia McIntyre Leath talk to Woods Charter students during the MLK Day Observance last Friday.



The Chatham Scene

News and Events around the county

TWO RIBBON CUTTINGS

- The Chatham Chamber of Commerce invites and encourages the public to join us on January 25 at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate the new locations of Chatham Literacy, Chatham Habitat for Humanity and the Beauty Enrichment Center at 606 East 3rd. Street, Siler City. Refreshments will be available after the 11:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting and up until 1 p.m.
- Join us January 28 at 11 a.m. celebrating the opening of AFE Taekwondo & Martial Arts, at 105 Siler Crossing in Siler City. After the Ribbon Cutting and up until 2 p.m. there will be refreshments and a bouncy house for children.

NEW HOPE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWS

Bird Walk with New Hope Audubon Society Saturday, January 28 to

local site. Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Wild Bird Center in East Gate Shopping Center for a 2-3 hour bird walk. New birders and birders of all levels are welcome. Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring snack and water if you like. Heavy rain will result in cancellation. For questions, contact Bo Howes at bohoves@gmail.com.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS PRESENTS

The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties will host a presentation by Walter Salinger on Thursday February 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room A. In the face of redistricting changes, he provides an alternative view of the process and advocates for

a nonpartisan redistricting plan. The program is free and open to the public with free parking available. For more information, contact Pam Oxendine at lwv.durham@gmail.com.

SIERRA CLUB PRESENTATION

To slow global warming, stop building fossil fuel pipelines - presentation Thursday, February 2 from 7-9 p.m. at C.C.C.C. (Pittsboro), Bldg 2, multi-purpose room, with an eye-witness to the Standing Rock ND protests, and more. Free with refreshments. More information at 919-929-6648.

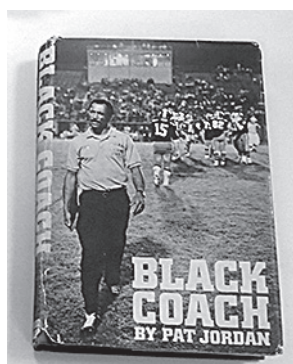
SPREADING HOPE, INC. ANNUAL MTG.

The Annual Meeting of Spreading Hope, Inc., a non-profit organization, will be January 18, at 5:30 p.m. at Holland Chapel Church, 360 Burgess Road, Apex.

John Hunter photo

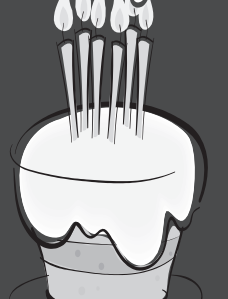
Legendary coach . . .

(Left) The book, *Black Coach*, was written about legendary Williams coach Jerome Evans and the 1971 season of the football team.



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