



# newsletter

*They say "once you get that Bynum mud between your toes, you'll always come back" and that is exactly what has kept the town going since the 1800s.*

## Bynum Front Porch Educational Grants Awarded



Denis Alexander Sibrian Gonzalez, Brianna Brewer, and Jacklin Carillo Ibarra

Through donations from the community and fundraising such as the annual sales of Christmas trees, \$3000 was raised to support three students' college aspirations. Each year, from the three Chatham County high schools, students who are enrolled in the AVID program can apply for the grants. AVID, which stands for Achievement Via Individual Determination, is a program that helps students who have a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard to get there – yet may not have the means or opportunity – to attend college. On June 4, the awards were presented during a small ceremony at the Bynum General Store.

Those selected for the 2020 Educational Grants are Brianna Brewer from Chatham Central High School, Jackelin Carillo Ibarra from Jordan Matthews, and Denis Alexander Sibrian Gonzalez from Northwood High School.

Brianna will be attending UNC Charlotte and plans to become a pediatrician. In her free time she enjoys watching movies, making TikToks, and hanging out with her sisters. She also enjoys going out and having picnics or even just staying in and playing board games

with her siblings.

Jackelin will be attending UNCG and plans to become a physician's assistant. Her passion is art and in her free time she enjoys cooking and learning to play guitar.

Before attending NC State to major in bioengineering, Denis will attend CCCC for two years on the Chatham County Promise program. Denis, who enjoys the outdoors just as much as the cool AC during the summer heat, enjoys spending time with his dog Rex and hanging out with friends.

Many thanks go out to those who make the hard selections on the committee for these Education Grants. Serving on the BFP Grant committee are: Beth Kalb, Dale Minge, Matt Porter, Emma Skurnick, and John Winecker.

Thank you for participating in the fundraising events, contributing to the hat during the Summer Friday Night Music Series and Winter Storytelling, and making donations. You gave THREE high school graduates each \$1000 towards their college education!



# Bynum Finds Ways to Connect

On March 3, the first case of COVID was reported in North Carolina. In just two short weeks, almost everything began shifting home--work for some, school for Chatham County students, restaurants shuttered. Yet, we were all still hopeful of a short time shut-down where our efforts could keep the tide of infections at bay. Many began asking how can we stay connected with families and community without risking contributing to the looming community spread? I heard from a friend from the Highland Forest neighborhood off of Manns Chapel Road that she had organized a community art show, asking neighbors to display creations for the ever-present walkers who were escaping their new homes turned schools and worksites. Of course, when I heard this I immediately thought of Bynum and the creatives who live here and immediately sent out the email soliciting interest. By mid-April,

we had over 20 contributors to the COVID art show displaying beautiful creations over two weekends. From birds of all descriptions to decorated Clyde critters, garden art and a few interactive sculptures to play along – and all the wise sayings. As we live right on Bynum road, we saw many of the walkers who came out to enjoy the show. Folks passing through on the way to the bridge and Pokeberry trail stopped to take pictures and enjoy the creations, too. As the pandemic drones on, neighbors have organized weekly food truck visits, informal movie nights, baby showers, and zoom trivia. While not all of these continue, what does continue is the Bynum spirit as we seek other ways to stay connected. Stay safe and well and we are all looking forward to connecting soon.

– Dawn Porter





Time to play  
**'Where in Bynum' is this?**



Hint: Where was this building? It used to stand near a running creek. Do you recognize this gentleman?

Send your old photo to [BynumNews@gmail.com](mailto:BynumNews@gmail.com) and let's play the game together.

*Find the answers tucked away in this newsletter!*

## Christmas Time's A'Coming!!



It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas and once again Bynum Front Porch is going to offer Christmas Trees, Wreaths, & Garland! Of course, the pick-up is outside so social distancing & mask wearing will be easy to do. As always, our trees are fresh Frazier Firs that are cut just days before delivery. The wreaths are hand-made & beautiful. Garland is roped together and sold in any length you prefer.

Since our Summer Music Series had to be canceled, we hope that you will be ordering your trees from us again this year. All proceeds from the tree sale will go to our \$1000 Grants that we give to 3 Chatham County High School students that will be going to college.

Plans for the Holiday Bazaar are still up in the air; but, we are working on it!!!

Tree, Wreath, and Garland Sales will start in October and go thru November 20. Pick-up date will be November 28, 10am-1pm. Visit our website at [www.BynumFrontPorch.org](http://www.BynumFrontPorch.org) for information about how to order.



## The Haw River Assembly News

Like many of you, our work has been turned upside down by this pandemic! We have had to cancel most events, or find new and creative ways to take them online. We hope you will go to our website to check out everything we're doing – [www.HawRiver.org](http://www.HawRiver.org). We have some great new educational videos under the "Resources" tab that both kids and adults will enjoy. And check out some best hiking and paddling trails on the Haw under "About the River/ Recreation." We are taking our annual Haw River Learning Celebration for schools online this fall, and are creating some terrific videos to be used by students, whether they are at school or learning from home. We are sad not to be outdoors along the river with them this fall, but it's more important that we keep all of us safe!

We launched our Climate Action Campaign this spring to be ready to support an economic recovery from the pandemic that puts climate solutions at the forefront. Join us in understanding and combating impacts of climate change at the local level! Thanks to Bynum's own Jan Burger for our beautiful new logo.

To help you keep safe outdoors this summer we have been posting our Swim Guide E-coli Monitoring results each Friday on our Facebook page to let you know if favorite swimming places on the Haw pass this water quality test. Bynum has mostly been in the clear, except when flooded. Despite the pandemic, we are working vigilantly against pollution, including the industrial contaminants in the Haw River, Chatham Park's construction violations and inadequate permit applications, and Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate. We always appreciate your support!

– Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director



# News from Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area

This year hasn't turned out like any of us expected. COVID-19 put a lot of things on hold. Friends of Lower Haw's last group volunteer workday was February 15, and our last group outing was March 8, before we suspended group activities indefinitely due to COVID-19 precautions. The Lower Haw River State Natural Area is a popular place for nature photography, and we're fortunate to have nature photographers willing to let us use their images in our communications. While our group events are on hold, we've been featuring many of their wonderful photos in our newsletter and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



We have a new logo! Thanks to our vice president Anne Geer for designing our new logo and to Anne Kachergis of Kachergis Book Design in Pittsboro for her in-kind donation of graphic design assistance.

In March, vandals spray painted graffiti on the Bynum Mill kiosk. Bynum resident Brittany Lindsay and Facebook follower Brian Fields came to the rescue! Brian made a donation to help fix the problem, and Brittany volunteered to try to remove the graffiti in the hopes that the plexiglass wouldn't have to be replaced again. Brittany was successful in removing the graffiti with the supplies purchased with Brian's donation. Thank you Brittany and Brian!



*A capture from the wildlife camera.*

We were honored to have been selected by Chatham's locally owned co-op grocery Chatham Marketplace as the June recipient of the Register Round Up program. Shoppers could round up to the nearest dollar at the register and 100% of round up donations went to Friends of Lower Haw. The Round Up donation was \$887.66! We are grateful to Chatham Marketplace for supporting local nonprofits with this program, and to all the shoppers who rounded up for us during the month of June. Thanks to Ed Bronson, Friends of Lower Haw member and co-op member, for suggesting our organization for the Register Round-Up program.

This year our new pollinator garden is in bloom. Ben Pickens of Bynum partnered with Friends of Lower Haw on his Eagle Scout service project to make improvements at US 15-501 and US 64 river access sites. The final part of his project was creating a pollinator garden with native plant seeds last fall near the US 15-501 river access parking lot. This is the first season for our pollinator garden.

When we planted it last fall we weren't sure what would come up this year. We've gotten some nice spring and summer wildflowers, and the flowers have attracted an interesting assortment of pollinators. However, grasses began to dominate the garden in late spring and some of the weeds have returned. Our garden could use some attention so we'll get

even more blooms next year. If you've got a green thumb and love gardening with native plants, we could use some volunteers! If you know of a gardening group who would like to "adopt" our pollinator garden, even better! Contact [lowerhawevents@gmail.com](mailto:lowerhawevents@gmail.com) with "Pollinator Garden" in the subject line if you're interested.

Our wildlife camera photos continue to be wildly popular. Check out our wildlife camera photos on our Facebook page.



*Long-tailed Giant Ichneumon Wasp photo by Leah Purvis*

We've been fortunate to have a terrific team of volunteers who have been able to carry on with our trash can, bird house, and wildlife camera projects that can be done alone or with family. Our trash can volunteers have been the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. After the "shelter in place" and "stay at home" went into effect in March, visitation to the Lower Haw River State Natural Area increased dramatically. It's been amazing to see how many people started spending more time outdoors, enjoying the physical and mental health benefits that getting outside in nature has to offer. With the increase in visitation also came a significant increase in trash with overflowing trash cans. We are thankful for volunteers Susan Sigmon, Emma Skurnick, Matt Spangler, Megan Lynch, Martha Slattery, Jimmy Wood, Daniel Cohen, David Everage, Beth Schultze, and Cassandra Ofray who have been dealing with the overflowing trash cans since March.





# Bynum Front Porch is Awarded **AARP Grant!**

We are very excited to announce that on August 20, Bynum Front Porch was awarded an almost \$7800 Community Challenge Grant from AARP.

Our application was chosen from 2800 applications. It was funded 100% because of our past programs and the community support and enthusiasm for Bynum Front Porch.

The grant will help expand online programming. Bynum Front Porch provides almost weekly music and storytelling shows online that entertain current and former residents – and many others isolated during the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic, sometimes it was difficult for older residents or families with small children to attend live performances at the town's former country store and post office.



The AARP grant will help Bynum Front Porch expand live streaming music and storytelling programs. It will fund a new weekly podcast. Part of the funds will be used to update the music shows' audio equipment (purchased in 2006). It will also help pay for the high

speed internet the community can use at the store. Most exciting, if someone wishes to teach an online class or host a workshop at the store, we will have the internet and technology to support this.

We are very thankful and excited about the new programs and opportunities. We are very grateful to Bynum residents – present and former – for their community and support.

Very, very grateful.



## Are Ya Ready for Some **ELVIS?** Save the Date: **APRIL 3, 2021**

We had such an overwhelming response to our Special Fundraising Event featuring Steven Freeman doing "A Tribute To Elvis" that we thought we'd have him back!!!

This time Steven will have his "Echos of A Legend" Band with him.

Show is tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2021, so **SAVE THE DATE!**

More information will be available on our Bynum Front Porch Facebook and Website as the time gets closer. Until then, keep tuning in for our Virtual Storytelling/Music Shows on Saturdays!!



Who could have ever imagined at the beginning of the year that all we had planned, both in Bynum and in Saxapahaw, would have to be delayed for at least a year until either there is herd immunity or a vaccine for COVID-19. After careful consideration of CDC guidelines and what others in the paddlesports business are doing to minimize the risk of catching the virus, we did begin limited rental operations in Saxapahaw in June. Without an Operations Manager for Bynum, that option was not available to us. Besides, seeing how the public

is recklessly using the Hwy.15-501 access and parking lot, we are glad we are not present to put our staff at risk because the public just does not seem to understand the need for face masks and social distancing.

We feel very fortunate in that we have been able to continue to employ key staff, and look forward to the day when we can safely put people on the river to enjoy nature and the wonderful opportunities the Haw River offers.



Artwork By Our Neighbor Emma Skurnick

## Bynum **United Methodist Church**

*"When you hear the bell ring, that's your neighborhood church saying I love you."*

Greetings from your little brick church on the hill. You may have noticed that our church bell has been quiet, as we are trying to care for the most vulnerable among us by worshipping virtually. While not together in person, we are still active in interpreting God's word for the community, and witnessing to the work of God in our lives, finding God's reach for us beginning where our ropes end, and God's hands under us when we fall.

We are very much looking forward to gathering again, and plan to begin our worship services at the Bynum Front Porch as soon as gathering outdoors is safe. We are grateful to the BFP for the use of the space and hope all the community will come join us there. Until then, know that your neighborhood church holds the mill village it grew up with in constant prayer, and its pastor is your pastor for anything big or small.

~ Pastor BJ

# Bynum Artist Spotlight

## *The Magoo Family Band*



"If you and I had some drums, and some horns, and some horses... If we had some hats, and some flags, and some fire engines... We could be a HOLIDAY... We could be a CELEBRATION... We could be A WHOLE PARADE!" This is a favorite quote from a family-favorite book called "I Like You," by Sandol Stoddard Warburg and Jacqueline Chwast. And as best I can tell, that there is the Magoo Family ethos. We want to make it fun for us, and fun for YOU, as much as possible. Whether we're making music on a summer day, or mourning the loss of beloveds in our community. Whether we're sharing with youngsters the love of Play, or making gorgeous treasures out of trash and fluff - Let's do it together, let's make it beautiful, and if we can, let's have a good time.

We're a family band of musicians, singers, dancers, teachers, writers, performers, fiber artists, community-builders and magic-makers of all kinds. We've done our best to make a life together that calls creativity to the forefront of everything we do. We are ALL Creators, after all. Cosmo, the youngest (and arguably, the best of us) is a truly gifted singer. He sings every day, and has performed many times with the Catbird Chorus as well as several summers with the Paperhand Puppet crew. He's a maker, a builder, a gamer, a thinker, a fixer of things. Zella "danced before she could walk" as Jimmy likes to say. She studied

ALL her young life in various styles, was an accomplished aerialist and stilter, performing a good bit, but mostly just enjoying the Dance of Life. Zella recently began dabbling in farming and fiber arts. Jimmy, the truly dedicated musician among us, has joyfully shared his songs and poetry with us for 35 years! He's a teacher, a community-builder, a Sun-worshiper and a magnet enthusiast (Please ask him about it!). Mardi is the heart of the family, keeping everyone connected to big feelings, and the Big Idea of us. She's a ceremonialist, a mystic, a super-crafty fiber artist, a dancer, a singer, a teacher, and most recently, a ritual performer, combining Ceremony and Theatre in a way that feels old and new at the same time.

Jimmy wrote a song called "The Good Life" 20 years ago, still a fan favorite. There's a line in there, inspired by the book mentioned above, that says "We are a WHOLE PARADE we're SUPERSTARS!" (And then there's lots of yodeling). That's how we feel about our family, and about EVERYONE. Let's be Superstars, together.

We're so grateful to be back in Bynum, in such masterful, creative company! We're inspired by the community, by the Land and by the River every single day.

~The Magoo Family

## Businesses who supported BFP through the 50/50 Game during Friday Night Music Series:

**Breakaway Cafe**  
breakawaync.co  
984-234-3010

**Delgado Auto**  
delgatoauto.com  
300 East Street Pittsboro  
919-542-6800

**New Horizons Trading Company**  
newhorizonstrading.com  
52 Hillsboro Street  
919-542-7366

**Small B&B Cafe**  
http://smallbandbcafe.com/  
219 East Street Pittsboro

**S&T's Soda Shoppe**  
sandtsodashoppe.com  
85 Hillsboro Street Pittsboro  
919-545-0007

**Virlie's**  
http://virliesgrill.com/  
58 Hillsboro Street Pittsboro

## Friends Of BFP

Martha Anderson  
Ken Hoyle/Floyd Coleman  
Rebekkah Cote  
Lynn Eades  
Gene Galin  
Elizabeth Gottschalk  
Larry Hicks  
Charles Leippe  
Vicki Newell  
Gretchen Smith  
Wendy Smith  
Ted Williams  
Lizy Wildsmith  
Casey Wilson  
Pat Winecker

## 2020 Bynum Front Porch Board of Directors

Amy Akins • Martha Collins (*Secretary*)  
Steven Evans • Phyllis Fleming  
Ron Hatley • Kurt Hein  
Chuck Leippe • Jim Prewitt  
Cindy Raxter • Nina Siegler (*Treasurer*)  
Ken Tunnell (*Chair*)

If you are interested in serving the community on the BFP Board of Directors, just talk with one of the folks listed.

## Our Sponsors:

*Bynum Front Porch gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support!*

### PLATINUM: AARP

**Mosquito Hunters of Chapel Hill/Northwest Raleigh**  
mosquitohunters.com/northwestraleigh-nc  
919-372-3531

**Performance Print Services**  
performanceprintservices.com  
919-957-9995

**Pittsboro Landscape Supply**  
pittsborolandscapesupply.com  
162 Hatley Road  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-869-7123

**GOLD:  
Bynum United Methodist Church**  
www.bynum.church  
54 Bynum Church Road  
919-542-6313

**Weaver Street Realty**  
www.weaverstreetrealty.com  
116 East Main Street  
Carrboro, NC 27510  
919-929-5658

**SILVER:  
Alys Design**  
www.Alysdesign.com

**Auto Pro**  
5522 US Hwy 15-501 N.  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-542-0964

**Hope Crossing Animal Hospital**  
www.hopecrossing.com  
58 East Cotton Rd  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**Paradocs Farms:  
The Michael and Suzanne Stoskopf Foundation**  
http://artsciencesonline.com  
"At the Intersection of Art and Science:  
Philanthropy for a Better Planet"

**BRONZE:  
Chatham Portables**  
Portable Toilet Rentals  
919-742-7300

**Ellis Disposal**  
Trash & Recyclables  
919-542-2208

**Lutterloh Farms & Trucking**  
323 L and W Lane, Pittsboro  
Charlie Lutterloh  
919-201-5758

**Sanders Automotive**  
www.sanders-auto.com  
5701 US Hwy 15-501  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-542-1386



... at a glance

**Our Mission:** *Bynum Front Porch is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the history, identity and supportive atmosphere of the village of Bynum. Bynum Front Porch is a community-funded non-profit venture.*

## Over the fence news:

newbies, farewells, births and deaths since the last newsletter.

### New neighbors:

- Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gottschalk & Timothy Boyer, sons Ollie & Jack
- Justin, Dana & Elowyn Hattaway
- Angela Huffman & Christopher Moses
- Nancy & Michael Huslage
- Mike Orbon
- Greg & Marie Mortimer
- Mike & Jenny Smith, son Jackson

### Deaths:

- Elizabeth "Beth" Bryant
- Ruth Lucier
- Jerry T. Johnson
- Richard "Buddy" Manning

### Moved away:

- Cary & Erin Kolat (Zoey, Gracie, Ryder)
- Brittany Lindsay - temporarily to attend school

## Ways you can help Bynum Front Porch

- Volunteer on one of the BFP Committees
- Donate Items from the BFP Wish List
- Join the BFP teams as a Corporate Sponsor
- Join the BFP Friends
- Become a BFP Board Member

## BFP Wish List

- Licensed Electrician – The building and stages are in need of donated skills.
- Solar Powered Lights
- Roofer – There are some small leak areas that need attention.
- White/Clear Rope Lights
- HVAC system to cool down during summer months
- Flat-screen SMART TV – 36" or larger

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Remember to shop at Smile.Amazon.com and let Amazon and your shopping donate to Bynum Front Porch.



# 2020 - 2021 community calendar

## VIRTUAL MUSIC & STORYTELLING

- September 12** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- September 19** - 7 pm - Grand Shores & The Onyx Club Boys
- October 10** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- October 17** - 7 pm - Jonathan Byrd, Jess Kline & Eric Bannan
- October - November 20** - Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser
- November 14** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- November 21** - 7 pm - Tommy Edwards & Carolina Lightning
- November 28** - 10am-1pm - Pick Up for Christmas Trees, Wreaths, and Garland
- December 12** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- December 19** - 7 pm - BFP Christmas Show w/ Bobby Gales

## 2021

- January 9** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- January 16** - 7 pm - David Lamotte
- February 13** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- February 20** - 7 pm - Joe Newberry
- March 13** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- March 20** - 7 pm - Abigail Dowd & Lyn Koonce
- April 3** - Special Fundraiser w/Stephen Freeman & The Echos of A Legend Band
- April 10** - 7 pm - Storytelling
- April 17** - 7 pm - Piano Jam w/William Nesmith, Tim Smith, and Junk Man Jack Gorham

## BFP Calendar Has Changed

We know that a lot of folks in our community were hoping the summer concerts would go on, and have told us they needed something to look forward to once life got back to normal.

Our volunteers pressed on and recruited a fantastic lineup of performers. However, under current guidelines, concerts such as ours are not allowed, and there is no definite time frame for when they will be allowed. We certainly accept that large gatherings are not in the best interest of public health, and more than anything, we want to avoid endangering audiences and artists.

Sadly, that means no live music at the store this summer until the epidemiologists and experts advising our governor tell us it is safe to gather again. We have faith that people will take the advice of these experts and practice the three Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash

- Wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

We will keep you posted on changes. Keep checking back with us on FaceBook and our website and remember to keep on rockin'! With a little luck, we'll see you all again on Friday nights next year at Bynum Front Porch.

### Answer to **Where in Bynum Game:**

Arthur L Smith, Bynum Postmaster 1948. This is the Original Post Office (no longer standing). It was located before the old Haw River Assembly house on Bynum Rd and Durham/Eubanks Road, (part of the Moore General Store).

bynumfrontporch@gmail.com [www.BynumFrontPorch.org](http://www.BynumFrontPorch.org)  
Send newsletter content to [BynumNews@gmail.com](mailto:BynumNews@gmail.com)

**BFP is a non-profit organization, your tax-deductible donations are always welcome:**

Physical Address/GPS: 950 Bynum Road, 27312  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 381, Bynum, NC 27228



## You Can Be A "Friend of Bynum Front Porch"

Make a donation of \$50 and become a proud supporter of Bynum Front Porch.

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide 3 - \$1000 Grants to our Chatham County Seniors who plan to continue their education in college. The number of Grants increased from 2 to 3 in 2018 and your help is needed.

You can make your tax-deductible donation to any board member or on our Facebook page. Recognition of your support will be on our Facebook page and on signage inside the Bynum General Store.

If you prefer you can also mail your donation to: Bynum Front Porch, P.O. Box 381, Bynum, NC 27228.

*Thank you very much for your continued support!*

## WiFi Available at BGS

- Bynum Front Porch would like to announce the addition of free WiFi at the store. Sit on the porch or in your car, it will be on 24/7.
- Our new Bynum Front Porch wireless network brings critical connectivity to residents and visitors giving them daily access to everything from education materials for kids to information about Bynum's rich history and attractions, to everyday needs like paying bills, checking library hours - or even just keeping tabs on Tar Heel Basketball.
- The password is posted in the window.