

ECWA Hires New Executive Director

BY LARRY BROCKMAN

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) recently took a big step in bringing this local small non-profit organization to a new level by hiring Diana Tetens as ECWA's new Executive Director. The ED position had been vacant for sometime. It was previously held by Steve Hiltner, ECWA co-founder. Steve, now living in New Jersey continues to provide a great deal of support to ECWA.

ECWA has hired Diana to help the organization, among other things find the resources, through grant writing, membership expansion and fund raising, to implement our short term and long terms goals. These goals include: installing a pedestrian bridge from the W. Ellerbe Creek Trail over to the north side of the creek for easy access to the nature reserve; acquiring additional land in the watershed for preservation and recreation; raising the public's awareness, particularly through the schools about the opportunities to care for and interact with the watershed in which we live, and restoring and enhancing the native flora and fauna in the watershed.

Although the ED position is part-time, Diana will also help implement these goals, organize ECWA's Whole Foods 5% Donation Day on Tuesday May 9 (we hope to have your support) and coordinate ECWA's first fall festival. Diana is well suited for this job. She has two masters degrees, one in environmental conservation and sustainable development and the other in adult education. She has worked as a Watershed Coordinator for NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and as an Education and Outreach Assistance for the Broad River Community Watershed Project, Athens, GA. The ECWA Board of Directors' agreed with Diana when she wrote, "I'm very excited about being offered the position (of ED). It's a great opportunity and I think I could bring a lot of enthusiasm and experience to it."

I would like to thank Mike Shiflett, one of the founding members of ECWA and long time supporter, for providing temporary office space for our new Executive Director. If you have extra office space that you would consider allowing ECWA to use at no or very little cost, please contact Larry Brockman, ECWA President at 286-3150.

If you have additional ideas about how ECWA can better serve the neighborhood, please let us know. In meantime, please consider joining ECWA as a member; if you are a past member please send in your membership dues. See www.ellerbecreek.org for more information.



Retail Rap

There's no cozier spot in the neighborhood to sip a cappuccino than the **Broad Street Café**, just off Club on Broad St. at the old Ooh La Latte location. Owner **Matt Jacobi** has retained the big soft overstuffed chairs and sofas, and has added a few other amenities to make this place special. There's a kids corner with lots of toys, games and books, a wide screen TV with video games, a house computer for Internet browsing, lots of books and magazines, and for munchies, empanadas (both sweet and savory), quiches and hot dogs to go along with a wide variety of pastries. You can get a great selection of specialty coffees, but if you just want a morning java, Matt offers three blends, light-Columbia Excelso, medium-Kona, and dark-French-Italian roast. As if that weren't enough, Matt has worked to make the Broad Street Café a true neighborhood gathering place, there's a Knitting Circle on Tuesday nights, free movies on Wednesday nights, a Children's Story Time Reading on Sundays, and live music and/or poetry readings on weekends. Check out their web site at broadstreetcafe.org for a complete schedule of events and times. The café is open every morning at 7:30, except for Saturday, 9 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. The Broad Street Café is also available for private party rentals.

Up on Perry Street get ready for **Za Za Zsu** a chic, hip clothing store that will make you think you've landed in Soho, fabulous upscale fashions and accessories for women, with men's cool clothes to be added by fall. Thanks to owner **Lynda Lewis**, this one of a kind modern boutique brings New York to Durham—finally! Why go to a mall when you can shop at Za Za Zsu? And when you're done shopping stay over for the after hour boutique parties and fashion previews that will soon be scheduled. Trust Lynda, she's a former buyer for Nieman-Marcus. For more exciting news about Za Za Zsu, go to www.zazazsu.com.

You may have noticed a lot of recent changes on Ninth Street. We bid a sad farewell to Kerr Drugs, which had declining sales ever since the pharmacy was removed, and Bakus tapas restaurant, the Peek-A-Boo Grill and Torero's Mexican restaurant have closed. The corner of Ninth and Markham is empty since the silk screen business left, McDonald's Drug store has closed, Alpha Graphics next to the Duck Shop, has been empty for months, and Ninth Street Active Feet will soon move into their new location on Iradell Street. Fortunately, two of these spots will have new tenants. Torero's will soon be replaced by **Xi**, a café that specializes in Central American fare, and a reliable source tells us that **George Bakatias** will probably expand into the Kerr Drug location. **CCI Photography** will be moving around the corner to Perry Street (where they will have fabulous new digital equipment and a gallery space) so that will leave several empty storefronts available.

On Hillsborough Rd. the long time China Inn has closed and been replaced by **Pancho Lopez Mexican Buffet** where you can eat forever. They offer over 30 yummy authentic buffet selections.

We welcome the new neighborhood businesses, but with all those Ninth Street empty storefronts, will somebody please go up there and open a chocolate shop?!