



Presidents Report, April 11 2023

I going to try to send out a newsletter like this once a month, giving a short update on all the things that have been happening in Innovate Chatham. If this seems like a good or bad idea, please let me know. I would welcome your feedback and suggestions about how we can improve.

Chatham Tech Talk

There was no Tech Talk for March due to Burney and Graham traveling.

I'm looking for Tech Talk speakers for upcoming months. Any suggestions?

Is it time for a social event? I think so. Let's meet at [Fairgame Beverage Co, on Thursday, April 20 at 5pm.](#)

Are folks interested in a talk about ticks? I will try and organize this for May.

[Jennifer Platt, DrPH, Author at Tick-Borne Conditions United \(tbcunited.org\)](#)

I attended a great presentation from Jennifer last week. Chatham County is apparently a major epicenter of tick-borne diseases.

We will plan a CTT for July on ethical hacking/penetration testing/red teaming from Tim Seiner.

Digital Inclusion Plan

County assistant, Brenton Hart has produced a much-improved draft of the Chatham County Digital Inclusion Plan. He has also completed a summary of the goals and strategies for each section. The draft is routing to the last of 6 departments. Thereafter, we will get input from a few more organizations.

The Coalition partners were sent a link to the new draft plan and a copy of the goals and strategies for their final review.

[Goals and Strategies](#) document from Brenton

Digital Inclusion Help

I finally was able to speak with the Goldston Mayor, Jonathan Hensley. I provided him with the contact information for [Conterra Networks](#) and explained the opportunity for broadband there.

Separately, the County awarded a project in Goldston to Randolph Communications to connect the communications tower near downtown and the library(?) to their fiber system.

This leaves Goldston in a position to have competing providers!

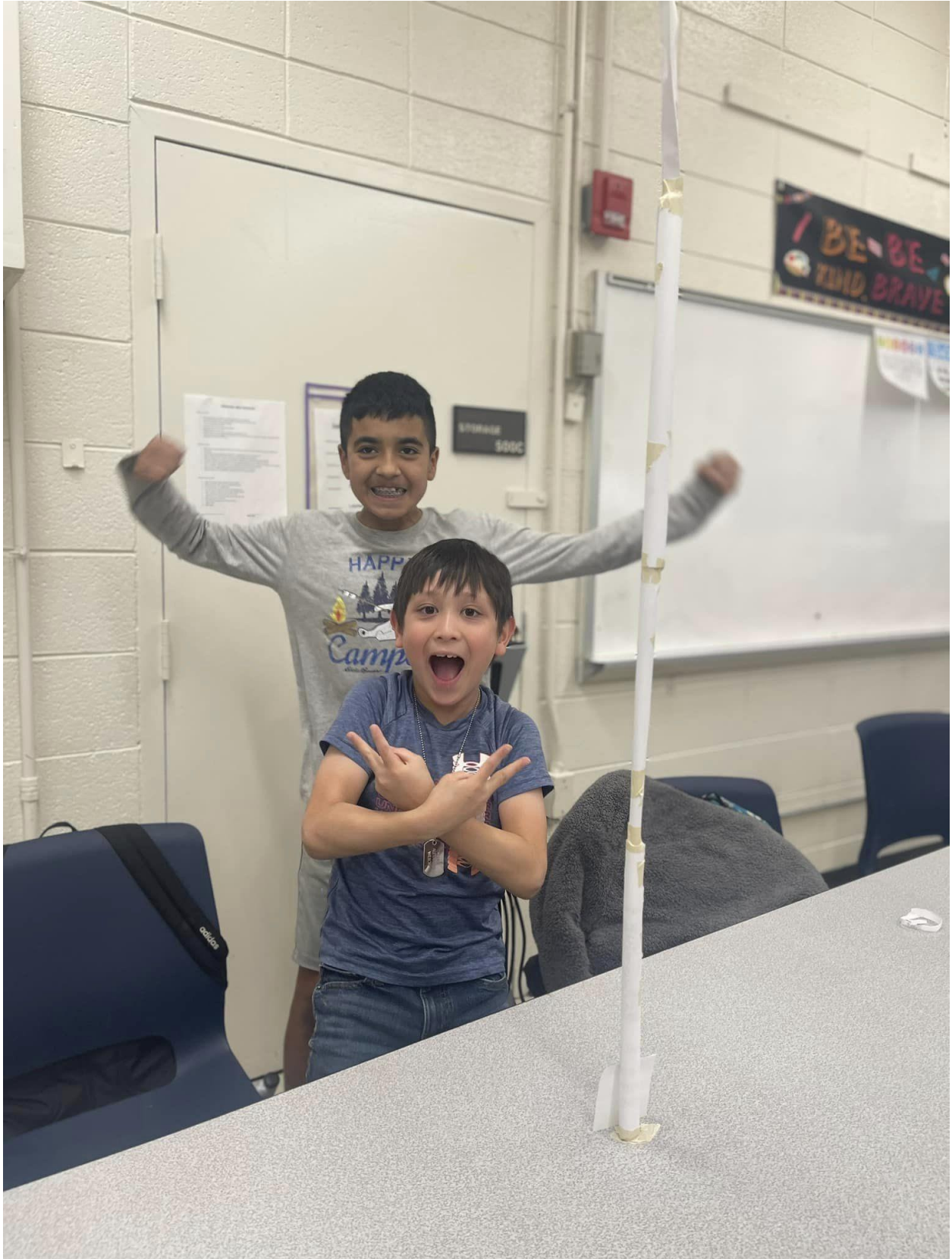
With our assistance, [Insight](#) provided some preliminary cost estimates to the County for areas around Chicken Bridge and Goldston. They are going to refine their numbers. I also sent them a suggestion to look at Bonlee if they want to have another area for consideration. Bonlee seems to be in the same situation as Goldston.

Also, with our help, [Duke Tech Solutions](#) presented about their cost estimating and planning tool to the County and also discussed assistance with telehealth programs. I connected them with Julie at the [Chatham Health Alliance](#) and they have started discussions.

I continue to get a few inquiries about the [FCC National Broadband Map](#). It is still important that everyone check their address and ensure that there are no errors that would make it seem as though there is internet available when there isn't. The map seems to be updating, so it may be worth your time to check it periodically, particularly if you do not have great internet.

STEM Club

We held the first of our STEM Club sessions at the [Pittsboro Boys and Girls Club](#).



We have planned 6 sessions in April and May, each Monday afternoon from 3:45pm to 5:45 pm. Erin Denniston will be leading this and we have 3 new volunteers to help her: Mike Mannshardt, Jody Savage, and Jan Nichols.

PBO Boys and Girls Club STEM Club sessions						
Mondays, 15:45 - 17:45						backup
	Erin	Jody	Mike	Burney	Jan	
4/3/2023	Y			Y		Paper Towers / Paper Bridges
4/10/2023	Y		Y			Hurricane House / She-shed, He-shed
4/17/2023	Y		Y		Y	Paper Airplanes / Marble Rollercoaster
4/24/2023	Y	Y	Y		Y	Ciphers & codes/ Marble Rollercoaster
5/1/2023	Y	Y			Y	Light Switches / Circuits
5/8/2023	Y		Y		Y	Bristle Bots / Circuits

The Club event was attended by 20 kids(!), from 3rd to 6th grade age.

Given the success and enthusiasm, we are considering expanding to the Siler City B&G Club, perhaps in June.

Also, after I was contacted by the Bonlee School Librarian, and we helped her for a half day, Erin has helped her run the STEM Club projects now with multiple classes.

Marketing

Alex Centeno with [Merkados](#) has created a new logo (at the top of the first page). How do you like it?

And we are working hard on a new website look. We are making edits and improvements and will launch the new website later this month.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always interested in having additional volunteers. In most cases, we prioritize opportunities based on volunteer interest. So, let me know if you would like to help with any of these things (or suggest opportunities):

- Technical topic presentation – we need and topic and presenter suggestions
- STEM Club – we need volunteers to help with our sessions, probably weekdays 3:45-5:45 at Boys and Girls Clubs in Siler City, June-July timeframe.
- Instructor’s aides for basic computer classes

- Tech Career Fairs – always need a list of people to describe and discuss their tech careers at various high schools
 - Science Fairs Judges – needed for fall and spring to judge science and engineering projects while encouraging kids
 - Help with an ACP event – we would like to hold a few events to help folks complete Federal discount program for internet access. This requires a couple hours of free online training.
 - Congressional App Challenge – we would like to help middle and high schoolers build their own simple software app that they can submit for recognition in a contest
 - Search-engine optimization help, social media help
-
- The Board will soon need a new Treasurer and Secretary.

Please let me know and we can chat further about your interests.

You are very welcome to share this newsletter with anyone you like.

Thanks for your membership and participation!

Burney Waring

Innovate Chatham President