

Carolínians share resolutions for 2004

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ing as much as I used to. I just changed jobs and I'm working [as a groomer] at a little pet shop in Denver, N.C., and I love it. I've been traveling. I'm just doing my best to be happy and enjoy my life."

Rev. Wanda Floyd, 39, is the pastor of Imani Metropolitan Community Church in Durham, N.C.

One of her goals for 2004 is to increase Imani's membership from around 60 to 100, but her New Year's resolution is actually focused away from her vocation.

"I want to be more intentional about building relationships outside of the ministry. As far as my friendships are concerned, most are connected to the church. I want to build some relationships separate from the ministry and the church. I want to be more well-rounded."

Potential new friends will find Floyd to not only be a woman of integrity and responsibility — such as the way she's led Imani since 1997 while simultaneously nurturing an eight-year domestic partnership — but they'll also discover someone who loves to laugh and have fun.

Imani MCC meets Sunday afternoons at 3

p.m. at the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4907 Garrett Rd.

Sheila Morris, 57, is a branch manager with H&R Block Financial Advisors and a longtime LGBT rights activist in the Columbia, S.C., area. In 1993 she and three others founded the SC Business Guild, a networking organization for LGBT business owners and professionals.



Her resolution highlights her civic-mindedness.

"Let's see, I lost weight last year so that's one I actually kept. I could resolve to work harder, but I'm not sure how I could work any harder than I do. I know, I'm thinking of making a run for public office this year, so I'll say that I resolve to explore that possibility."

Morris explains that the Richland County Council incumbent from her district has opted to run for the state house this year so she has been asked to consider stumping for the vacant seat.

Campaign Research Associates, a gay-owned firm in Columbia, have been hired to conduct an exploratory poll for Morris to assess her chances. Her decision to

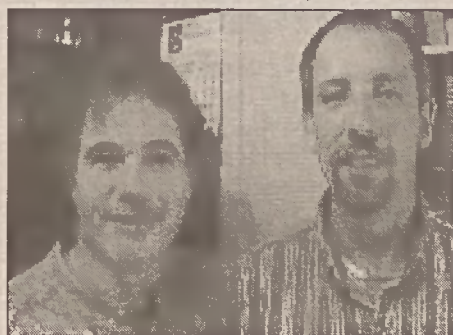
enter the race will likely hinge on the company's findings.

Neil Stovall, 43, and **Harry Irby, 35**, are a 10-year couple and co-owners of Twin Oaks Campground in Bonlee, N.C.

Their joint resolution reflects the hard work they have put into their business over the last two years.

"Our New Year's resolution is to have a prosperous year in 2004 and spend a little more time relaxing and enjoying our place and getting to know our customers."

Irby says that he and Stovall had dreams of opening a place like Twin Oaks "for quite a long time" but it wasn't feasible in their home state. After visiting the Raleigh area for two weeks both were sold. The couple — with Stovall's mom in tow — packed up and

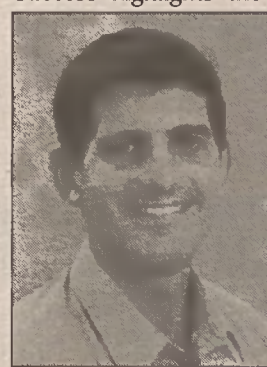


moved to the Triangle where an exhaustive two-year search culminated in the purchase of the 26.6-acre Twin Oaks property.

These days Irby and Stovall stay busy renovating their 143-year-old Greek Revival

style home, maintaining the campground, which currently features 15 campsites and six RV sites, and overseeing major improvements like the pond that is being dredged for swimming, fishing and canoeing.

Mike Nelson, 39, has served as the mayor of Carrboro, N.C. since 1995. His success highlights the political progress



the LGBT community has made in N.C. during the last decade.

He hopes to put more emphasis on his home life in 2004.

"I resolve to spend more time with my boyfriend."

We're both very busy people and we don't spend enough time together. It's important for us to nurture our relationship."

Nelson's resolution isn't surprising if you think about it. Finding the time to stoke the flames of domestic bliss must be a challenge when you're the leader of a thriving Triangle city.

And after four terms, his boyfriend, Chapel Hill council member Marc Kleinschmidt, is probably eagerly counting down the days until November 2005. That's when Nelson's current term ends — and he says he won't seek reelection.

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