

The Heart of HILLSBOROUGH

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Connecting Our
Community

AN EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR HILLSBOROUGH-AREA RESIDENTS

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Buehler*

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Emily Jane Buehler

By Christina Hallock, Content Coordinator
Photos by Barbara Bell Photography

If you were to describe Emily Jane Buehler using three words, those words might be “books, bread and birds,” but there is a whole lot more to this 45-year-old, who sports blue eyes and a bright smile.

Emily moved to her current neighborhood north of downtown Hillsborough about 12 years ago because she wanted to be able to walk or bike downtown since she did not own a car for many years.

“I recently found out my neighborhood is called Turner Heights,” Emily said. “Living near town helps me feel connected. I think I’d feel isolated if I were out in the country.”

And connected she is. Although she currently works from home, Emily can be seen all around town enjoying much of what it has to offer.

Emily, who hails originally from Connecticut, earned a bachelor degree in chemistry with a minor in fine arts from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a doctorate in chemistry from UNC-Chapel Hill. Later, she put some of those chemistry skills to work as a bread baker for Weaver Street Market. She spent 18 years there, first as a baker and then in the marketing office.

Now she is a freelance copyeditor and writer who has self-published two nonfiction books, one on the science of bread making, and a memoir of a cross-country bicycle trip. Emily is currently writing progressive fantasy romance novels which include empowered heroines, and she stays close to her love for bread by teaching a bread making class at the John C. Campbell Folk School in western North Carolina.

“I spend much of my free time reading and writing,” Emily said. “I love writing old-fashioned paper letters, and I often reward myself at the end of a busy work week with a visit to Cup A Joe on West King Street to write a letter.

“While I’m glad for all the new technology we have these days, I’m also glad I grew up before we had it,” she said. “Sometimes it’s good to be able to put down the screens and do things like go for a walk outside or write with a pen on paper!”

When she isn't curled up inside with a book, Emily loves to enjoy the outdoors. She hikes many trails near Hillsborough and loves to visit new places for camping and hiking, especially at state and national parks. Last year, she visited the Blue Ridge Parkway during azalea season and hiked up Mount Mitchell later in the summer. She also recently discovered bird watching.

"After being in Florida during a whooping crane 'flyover' event, I grew interested in bird watching," Emily said. "My small yard has four oak trees and since I put out a bird bath and feeder, I have a lot of birds swooping about.

"My favorites are the woodpeckers," she said. "Once I saw five Northern Flickers in my yard at once."

Those birds better watch for cats, however. Emily has also taken care of a lot of stray and feral cats over the years, getting them fixed and vaccinated. "Sometimes they warm up to me and start coming inside and become more like real pets," she said. "At one point I was feeding five at once. At the moment, though, I only have one senior cat named Scruffy."

Emily stays busy connecting with people as well, even though she identifies as somewhat of an introvert. She volunteers on the board of the Eno River Farmer's Market in downtown Hillsborough and is an online classroom moderator with one

of her writing groups. "I also attend the 'First Monday Classics' book club at the library, which is great motivation to read (or re-read) some of the books that might only be read in school," she said.

Sometimes she attends the Hillsborough Friends Meeting, which is a Quaker church and meets in the art studio on West Margaret Lane.

"If you're not familiar with a Quaker service, it involves a lot of silence" she said. "Since I often don't make it out on Sunday, I try to have some silent time each day at home."

Emily said she has a group of friends who meet for the full moon (weather permitting) at sunset to watch the moonrise before walking to Whit's for dessert. When she isn't at home or out walking town or hiking a nearby trail, Emily spends some time with her parents, who also live in town. Her mother is an avid quilter and her father is a "life master" of bridge.

"I love living in Hillsborough. I like small towns because of their quietness and quaintness, and Hillsborough feels small but at the same time there is always something going on," Emily said. "I like the diversity of people in town ... where a farmer might be in line for coffee next to a lawyer and an artist.

"Everyone in my neighborhood waves



when they pass, which I love," she said. *Read more about Emily Jane Buehler's books and bread and find recipes at her website emilybuehler.com.* ♡

Do you know
of an individual or family in your community who would make a great cover story? Want to nominate them to be featured in an upcoming edition? Contact Christina Hallock at CHallock@BestVersionMedia.com.

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