



ASK KEITH

Ms. Keith Edwards is a lifetime resident of McDade Street and lifelong advocate for the community. Keith is widely known as a fighter for justice and receives calls from neighbors asking her about programs and referrals for help with household and community issues. To submit questions for "Ask Keith," call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 or email us at contact@jacksoncenter.info.



Dear Keith,

Why should people come to May Day this Saturday, May 3rd?

May Day is an event we've been throwing on St. Joseph's front yard for about four years now. If you've ever been, you could just look out into the yard and see kids playing, people eating, and people that had never talked before getting into conversations with one another.

May Day is a spring event, right around when the flowers start to bloom and people start to thaw out from the winter. Leaving the bad weather behind us, and giving people a reason to come outside. We use it as a way of beginning a new life. For us, it's a preview of what's coming for the summer.

People should come to May Day because it's the kind of event that brings people together with laughter and fun. It's always great to unite over music, food, and watching people dance of all ages.

May Day has always been an event where it didn't matter who you were, or if you were from the neighborhood or not. We were all just one big community and I think that's what people need: a sense of home, a sense of belonging. In being together we build and strengthen fellowship. In building this fellowship we made working together and being together possible.

In the midst of busy lives and days full of activity it can be easy to get caught up in everything you need to get done. May Day is a place where we take a pause and really celebrate. We celebrate our work, we celebrate being together, and we imagine a better future together. I think May Day does that for people, which is what makes it such a wonderful event.

Community Board

- Birthdays in April/May: If we missed yours or someone else, call us to submit birthdays so we can make sure to remember them for the future.
 - Matthew Fearrington- April 6th
 - Brentton Harrison's grandma, Willistine McClain April 7th
 - Jackson Center Board Member, Michael Palmer- April 28th
 - Janie Alston- May 3rd
 - Jacob Lerner- May 6th
 - Jasmine Farmer- May 22nd
 - Donnie "Hollywood" Rigsbee- May 30th
- Shout outs:
 - Brush with Kindness did repairs on Kathy Atwater's home at 314 Lindsay St. on April 25th and 26th. Brush with Kindness finished the repair of Effie Merritt's home at 315 McDadee St. on April 4th. They are looking for more applications, so if you are interested in an external repair, contact us!
 - Students and long-term residents who helped put on a couple block parties for McMasters, Sunset and Starlite Dr., and McDade St We hope to help organize these on more blocks in the future so contact us if you want our help for your block next!
 - Fix-a-home has picked Barbara Foggie and Teresa Shaw's house to do a full repair.
 - Shortbeard Lofts is sponsoring classes in the Community Clay Studio for kids during the summer. If interested, or know someone who is interested, contact us.
 - Congratulations to Fusion Youth Radio for having another amazing program about the Prison System on Sunday, April 20th.
- Anything you want to share with the community; birthdays, celebrations, losses, shout-outs and other events, please send them in each month so that we can put them in the Northside News. Submit your community posts to the Jackson Center: 1-2 sentences recognizing individuals or significant events in the life of our community. Posts for May's issue are due on Monday, May 12th.

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Submitted this month by Charley Norwood

In the 50's and 60's, there where three black-owned restaurants in Chapel Hill. Name two.

Call in on Thursday, May 1st at 10am (919) 960-1670 with your answers

Northside News

April 2014

A print-link for neighborhoods of change

Vol. IV Issue 6

New Neighbors in Northside!



Whitney Robinson and Louie Rivers enjoying their new home on Craig St.

By: KAI SCHWARTZ

Whitney Robinson and Louie Rivers are two of Northside's newest neighbors on Craig Street. Both Whitney and Louie are assistant professors.

Whitney teaches in the Epidemiology department in the School of Public Health at UNC. Louie works in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at NC State. He focuses on environmental justice issues for minority communities. Whitney and Louie met when they were both living in Michigan in 2009. Whitney moved to Chapel Hill in 2010, and Louie followed last summer.

At first, they rented a home on Knolls Street, in Pine Knolls. They grew to like the area so much, they decided to buy a home nearby. After their realtor called them in February about the house on Craig Street, Whitney remembers seeing the

property for the first time.

She described seeing her future Craig Street house on a beautiful day, when neighbors were popping in and out of their houses and children were playing outside. She knew right away it was a place she wanted to call home. That week, they made an offer! Whitney, who spent part of her childhood in Memphis, said that the neighborhood reminded her of her childhood visits to her grandparents' neighborhoods.

This is Whitney and Louie's first home together, and they share it with their yellow lab, Baron. They hope to put down roots here, and are really enjoying their new home and community. Whitney can usually be seen out on a walk with Baron. Louie is a comic book buff and the family chef, but watch out if you try anything he makes: I hear it might be extra spicy!

Learn about your local landlords

By: DIANE LI

One of our goals at the Jackson Center is to build relationships with student residents in addition to long-term residents. This is an important step in our work to bring *everyone* together in community. Recently, the UNC Chapel Hill student government called the four-person housing ordinance into question.

Many students involved in our work responded with strong disapproval of this motion. They knew the pressure that long-term residents were under; knew that if the number of people allowed in a house rose, so would rent; and knew a higher ordinance would eventually make the neighborhood much more expensive for families. We also learned that many students were unaware of the reasoning for the ordinance.

We wanted to learn more about what students knew about the neighborhood and their experience living in Northside. Jake and I decided to create a research project to learn more.

We are still amidst our process of gathering and processing our data, but we have already noticed some trends after talking to a number of student residents. We have found that many of the students do not specifically know their rights as renters. Furthermore, most of them have contacted their landlords for repairs, with varying

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responses of either the landlord being very responsive or the landlords being particularly slow with the repair requests.

This project is very promising because we will be able to spotlight the landlords who treat their renters well, and those who should provide better support.

If you would like to hear more about this initiative, or any other housing programs at the Jackson Center, contact us or visit us during the week!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS RENTERS!

Unsure?

Get informed!

919-960-1670.