

CHCCS Teacher of the Year had to overcome doubts

Kim Fearington, the CHHS Teacher of the Year, is a resident of Sunset Drive in Northside!



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.



BY JONATHAN M. ALEXANDER

Northside kindergarten teacher Kim Fearington says her first few years in the profession were tough, especially being a young black teacher.

Fearington said some parents questioned her credentials and wondered if she was certified, an issue the district has said some minority teachers have expressed concerns about. So she worked harder to prove them wrong. That hard work paid off as the now 20-year veteran was named the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools' 2014 teacher of the year.

"I feel so very honored," said Fearington, whose mother and grandmother attended the May 30 awards banquet to support her. "It's absolutely amazing. I was shaking the whole time. I was up on stage with flowers in my hand (shaking).

"When they called my name I kind of blacked out for a second. I heard the audience applauding, but I was just gone for a moment." Northside principal Cheryl Carnahan describes Fearington as a motivator and a teacher who builds strong relationships, is

supportive, collaborative and knows what she's doing. "She puts the love into school, and she's highly structured and organized," Carnahan said. "The children know she loves learning and that comes across, so they love learning. ... Right from the beginning they know she is going to be there to support them and help them achieve whatever they need to achieve.

Parents helping out in her classroom agree. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a more energetic and loving teacher," said Rebecca Essinger-Bosworth, a parent of a kindergartener in Fearington's class. "I appreciate that she has a sensitivity to all types of learners..."

This is Fearington's first year in Northside, which opened last fall. She wanted to come to Northside because she grew up in the community. Her mother and grandmother attended the first Northside school before it was knocked down...

TO READ THE REST OF THIS STORY, PLEASE VISIT CHAPELHILLNEWS.COM

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Dear Keith,
How did you feel about Dr. Maya Angelou passing away?

Well I have to first start off by saying that Dr. Maya Angelou is and will forever be someone that black women look up to. She was strong, intelligent, beautiful, and wise. She was one of those people that you just assumed never aged. In the back of your mind you always know that there will be a time for everyone's path to come to an end but some people just seem immortal. Some people have such an impact on you that you can't imagine them ever not being around, and that's what kind of person Dr. Angelou was.

The most profound thing she did was coming out about being raped. She was one of the first black women who actually spoke out about the dark side that happens to us as females. She taught us that you didn't have to be silent. That's what made us pay attention; that's what made her strong to my generation.

In the black community, little girls lack having a positive role model to look up to. Matter of fact, little girls are not even told to or pointed in the direction to have a role model. From birth they are told to be strong, to protect, and to never depend on anyone.

What they are not told is that you have to be weak before you can even learn how to be strong and that it is not their job to take care of everything or do it all. They can depend on someone else because asking for help does not mean being weak or not being independent.

Maya is so important because she gave black women another reason to be proud of their blackness. She was a true phenomenal woman. The saddest part is that she won't be around for future young girls who need someone to look up to. Yes of course her words will never die out, but they could never know how special she was to us who got to be in her presence and live in her days. So it is very sad to me but it is also beautiful to look and see how much of an impact this woman had on us all. Not just in the black community.

Vote in the Runoff Race for Sheriff!
THIS July 15th:
David Caldwell vs. Charles Blackwood

Community Board

- Birthdays in June/July: If we missed yours or someone else, call us to submit birthdays so we can make sure to remember them for the future.
 - Michelle Laws- June 2nd
 - Jason Caldwell- June 2nd
 - Ibn McClain- June 6
 - Diane Li- June 9th
 - Isabel Atwater- June 15th
 - Elaine Norwood- June 22th
 - Kevin Watson- July 5th
- Shout outs:
 - Congratulations to everyone who is graduating from college or high school in the months of June. Many kids and grandkids from the neighborhood graduated this year!
 - State Supreme Court upheld the 4-car ordinance in Northside/Pine Knolls!
 - The next draft of the Rosemary Imagined Plan just came out! Keep your eyes out for info and feedback sessions.
- 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 July's issue are due on Monday, August 4th.

Northside News

June 2014

A print-link for neighborhoods of change

Vol. IV Issue 8

Over \$650,000 for Affordable Housing!



By John Madden

"I am so glad to have a home in Chapel Hill", declares Willie Mae Patterson in the *Penny for Housing* video. The video was made by Hudson Vaughan of the *Jackson Center* and Jon Young of the *Community Empowerment Fund* to boost Orange County Housing Coalition's advocacy efforts, which resulted in \$689,000 in municipal funds for affordable housing. Just last week, Chapel Hill's Town Council voted in support of these funds that will enable more affordable rental and homeownership units and home repairs for numerous Chapel Hill residents.

Due to high property values and skyrocketing rents, many cannot afford to actually live in Chapel Hill. Theresa Smith describes feeling like a "second class citizen" in her search for scarce affordable housing. It's nearly impossible for low-income and disabled citizens, including many veterans like Bernard Minor, to find quality housing in the current market. Additionally, almost 80% of Chapel Hill's workforce lives outside of the town. Affordable housing in Chapel Hill makes it possible for the people who sustain our community to live in our town.

Victorious strides like these in the fight for quality affordable housing are crucial to the future of Chapel Hill. In the words of Willie Mae Patterson, when you have a home that looks good, "it makes you feel good too." And when we have more long-time and new Northside residents who feel good about their homes, our community becomes a more caring and loving place for all of us to call home.

A big "thank you" goes out to all those who have been a part of this effort, including Northside's own Donna Bell who helped lead this effort from within the Chapel Hill Town Council, and the many residents and local non-profits who came out to speak and share their moving stories to mobilize this positive change.

You can watch the Penny for Housing video on the left-hand side of our website: www.jacksoncenter.info

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Submitted
this month
by:
Anonymous

What did Mr.
Bynum-Weaver
& Mr. Ed Jones,
do each morning
before starting
their day?

Call in on
Thursday,
June 30th at
10am (919)
960-1670
with your
answers

Happy 89th
Birthday
Ms. Isabelle
Atwater!

