



Northside News



September 2015

A print-link for neighborhoods of change

Vol. V, Issue 8



community without walls



Martin Luther King, Jr. at Hargraves Community Center in 1960



Civil Rights Weekend at Hargraves in 2012

Mrs. Emma Mason, a dedicated, life long member of the Northside community passed away on August 17th, 2015. Mrs. Mason played the piano at St. Joseph CME Church for seventy two years and was a founder of the Social Interest Civic Group, Chapel Hill's oldest African American Women's organization. She was devoted to children and committed to the education of young African American women. The community will miss her beautiful smile, her willingness to help anyone and seeing her walk hand-in-hand with her lifelong love, Mr. David Mason, Sr.

In Memoriam

We want to honor several neighbors who have passed this last month.

Thank you very much to the families who submitted their memories of loved ones. If someone in your life has passed and you would like to celebrate them in the Northside News, please contact us.

Mrs. Esther Thompson, the longtime community member who lived on Broad Street for decades and hosted so many big dinners for her neighbors and church family just passed peacefully July 22nd at the age of 93. Ms. Thompson, the widow of Mr. Vance Thompson, was a member of the Carrboro First Church of God in Carrboro and a wonderful neighbor. She lived these last few years in Charlotte under the care of her nephew Mr. Glover, but will always be remembered as a dedicated resident of our community deeply committed to the education of all young people.



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 do we continue to hold the Block Party at the start of every school year? What do we hope to accomplish as a community?

The only way for us to see the complexity of change is to listen to each other. My generation has come a long way, but there is work left, and we know that young people's power has always been a critical part our community's struggle and social fabric.

We live in a very diverse neighborhood, so we see our collective potential when people of all backgrounds participate in the Block Party. This event is a chance to embrace our differences and break down assumptions. It is a time to communicate, smile, share food, tell stories, and ask anything. These simple acts are the heart of community. When we build trust and help each other because it wouldn't make sense not to, we can grow together.

Be yourself and find your place here among others, whether you just moved in or have lived here your whole life. I have great hopes for this year!

“Learning the history of Northside was like being startled awake...It was not until I got to know people in Northside that I felt fully invested and immersed in my education at UNC.” – Alexander Stephens, Class of 2010

“A Challenge to All”

When, in March 2014, we asked neighbor Don Mason “How do we rebuild ‘the village’?” he responded, “It takes a bond through the generations – treating the neighborhood like an **extended family**.” His father, David Mason Sr., was a Northside hero who lived on Craig Street and was tirelessly dedicated to his family. He worked at the Pi Kappa Gamma fraternity house for decades, where he was so beloved that he was named an honorary member in the 1960s – becoming the first African-American in the fraternity.

The connections between the university and Northside abound. When students moved in two years ago, Jackson Center deputy director Hudson Vaughan reminded us of the social fabrics of Northside: “You may live in and will at least see homes built by and lived in by the same masons who built the walls around UNC and created its historic structures. And most importantly, you will hopefully meet many of the families who still live here and have for generations sustained this community, town, and university. Indeed, the ground you walk on here has generations of history – of struggle, of pride, of education, of family, of faith, and of community.”

As a resident, whether you moved in a week ago or sixty years ago, you are inherently implicated in this community. Your presence matters, and you can decide what your presence will mean to others. As you consider that decision, remember that community does not mean conformity. Northside has a rich history; it is made up of countless memories, perspectives, and everyday interactions. And you have the privilege to bring your unique qualities to the story!

People here look after each other, making it a safe and respectful home, and we hope you open your arms to Northside’s supporting atmosphere. A series of events in February 2014, observed by student and Northside resident, Zack Kaplan, demonstrates the risk and potential of new

neighbors who must decide how they will relate to others:

“An 80-year old woman was woken up in the middle of the night by a yard-party of students nearby. She ended up in the hospital the next day. Just across the neighborhood, a couple student-residents noticed the smell of gas coming from the next-door neighbor’s house. Instead of ignoring it, they went next door and helped save the 93-year old resident from intoxication. While these stories are the extremes, they represent the continuum of action that we hear about often at the Jackson Center: students, like all residents, choose how to be part of the community. While students are temporarily here, our presence continues beyond our time. We all take part in shaping what that presence looks like and what our legacy is.”

Let Northside be your village, your safe haven, your awakening, your opportunity to discover yourself and the world around you! We want to extend a warm welcome to the many new neighbors of Northside this fall, and we want to extend a challenge to all of you. Lifetime resident Keith Edwards always says that there is a difference between a house and a home. Structures here are called houses. **But houses – of residence, of education, of business, and of worship – that we enrich with our time, energy, love, generosity, and history: these places become our homes.** We hope that you will make Northside a home; we promise it’s worth it.



Over 45 students from UNC’s Campus Y service group experienced the neighborhood, many for the first time, through the Soundwalk audio walking tour on August 29.

WANTED: Youth Workshop Leaders

Are you interested in history, eager to get involved in the community, and excited to work with young people? If so, we need your help! Each year, The Jackson Center welcomes many K-12 students into Northside for our civil rights oral history workshops.

- **Long-term residents** of Northside, your presence, leadership, and stories are what make this community rich. We invite you to join our team of community mentors and share your experiences and lessons with youth.
- Northside **students and newcomers** can also learn this community’s unique history and serve as tour guide assistants! Our first workshop is **October 16**, with shifts from 10am-noon, and 1pm-3pm. If you have any questions, or would like to hear more, contact rachel@jacksoncenter.info!

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Submitted this month by:
Anonymous

Who was the first African-American woman from Chapel Hill to enroll at UNC as a freshman?

Call in on Thursday
September 10th
(919) 960-1670
with your answers!

Community Board

Birthdays in September (let us know if we missed any!):

- Stephanie Barnes-Simms (Self-Help partner and Jackson Center advisor)– September 24th
- Jane Farrar (see her on Sunset Drive!)- September 29th

Amity Station, the proposed 9-story student rental development at the corner of Amity Ct and Rosemary St will present its concept to Town Council on September 21 at 7 pm at Town Hall. Come see the concept and give your feedback!

- **Good Neighbor Block Party: Thursday, September 10th, 5-9 p.m. at Hargraves Community Center.** Come together as neighbors for food, fellowship, music, and more!

To submit your community posts to the Jackson Center, send us 1-2 sentences recognizing individuals or significant events in the life of our community.

Is Your Home Protected with Smoke Detectors?

Volunteers from the Red Cross will be installing smoke detectors on **Saturday, Oct. 3** at no charge. If you are interested, please call 984-355-0274 to leave your name, address, and preferred time for a 20-minute installation.

Through this campaign more than 95,000 smoke detectors have already been installed throughout the U.S. , which has already saved at least 15 lives.

Want to be a student writer?

Do you have opinions or reflections to share in your community’s newspaper?

Northside News is looking to incorporate reoccurring articles written by students in the neighborhood. Students are a part of this dynamic community, and can contribute with their writing. If you are interested email contact@jacksoncenter.info and get plugged in!