

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

ABUNDANT WELCOME



July 31st. 6:00p.m.

I arrived that Monday evening at 512 Whitaker St , my new home, carrying a box of books, and was surprised to see a squad of my neighbors/friends at the house. As I walked through the door and into the living room I witnessed two of my neighbors hanging lights on the porch while another neighbor was fixing a bookshelf that had fallen apart in the front yard. Simultaneously two other people were bringing in their own furniture pieces that somehow were exactly what was needed for the living room. I stood in silence next to my roommate, who had been witnessing this scenario all weekend, and shared a moment of

voiceless communication where we concurred “How are we this blessed?”What I didn’t realize in my sleep-deprived state was that I was witnessing beloved community in action!

In the midst of all that was happening around me, the focus of my emotions transitioned from the anxiety of moving houses to gratefulness for staying in the neighborhood. In that short micro-moment I re-realized, as I have done on a weekly basis over the past three years, the power of how community, how this community, can change hearts and minds through love of one another. This is the same love that gave black youth of this segregated neighborhood the courage to stand up and fight for justice during Jim Crow segregation in the 1960’s. A love that today organizes, strategizes, and implements groundbreaking, self-determined actions to balance the market against studentification and preserve the future of a diverse, intergenerational, family friendly, affordable neighborhood for all members of Chapel Hill! This moment was just a small representation of how this community has sustained itself through “... the cohesiveness of brothers and sisters working together”- Pastor Troy Harrison.

I grew up in a neighborhood where people kept to themselves so I have had to learn how to live in a

close/connected neighborhood. I have had to learn that in Northside love for your neighbor is present even when you feel like you don’t deserve it. I have had to learn how I personally put up petty and trivial walls (one might even say a bubble) that prohibits me from creating space to love others over myself and access the freedom to experience the blessings that surround me everyday.

For everyone new to our neighborhood or returning after some time away, welcome! I encourage you from the deepest center of my spirit to tap into this abundant love that is the bedrock of our community. Visit your neighbor on the porch and open yourself up to immersive listening of the history makers that surround you. Be a voice of change, join a community coalition, volunteer your time and gifts. Help someone who is moving into a new home carry in a heavy load because that could be the same person who will help carry your heavy load down the road.

That Monday evening was the first step in making my new house into a home. It was a second abundant welcome to Northside: a community came in like a mighty wave that day and saturated the new walls of my home with love. So let the new memories begin!

—George Barrett, Northside Neighbor



OUR COMMUNITY

The place we call “Northside” includes two historically Black neighborhoods with roots 4 and 5 generations deep-- Pottersfield & Sunset (including the stretch known as Lloyd/ Broad). Just down the road off Merritt Mill are two more neighborhoods that used to blend into Northside: Pine Knolls & Tin Top. Home to renowned civil rights, labor, and education leaders and rich in traditions of intergenerational learning and mutual support, Northside/Pine Knolls represents the best in American community.

To learn more about the vibrant history beneath our feet from the people who lived it and who renew it everyday, take the “Histories of Homes” audiotour available to download here <https://jacksoncenter.info/northside-stories/soundwalk-of-northside/>. For a little context, check out <https://jacksoncenter.info/northside-stories/the-history-of-northside/>. Better yet, give a shout to your neighbor and share a few moments on your walk home: you’ll be glad you did.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are part of the broader Northside/Pine Knolls community! Welcome.

WORDS OF WISDOM SELECTIONS FROM THE ORAL HISTORY TRUST

What is a neighbor—in Northside?

August is a time of transition in Northside, as new neighbors, especially students, move in and current neighbors move away. With change comes an opportunity to renew and begin relationships. Here are some reflections on the importance of neighborhood relationships by two people with connections to Northside. Cecelia Massey-Fike was born and raised in Northside and is very active in St. Joseph CME Church. She has also worked in the neighborhood as an in-home caregiver and worked at the Community School for People under Six. Ginger Medean has spent much of her life in and around Chapel Hill. She has been a keen observer of neighborhood changes and is concerned about housing affordability.

The contemplations shared below were chosen because they are thought-provoking and encourage us to ask: “What can I do to be good neighbor?”

We have to search ourselves
First
Before we can even Think about
Stepping out into the community or toward
Our Neighbors.

“I think a person that makes a good neighbor is

someone who is heartfully interested in you, or what’s going on at that time or in the situation that you’re in. Someone who cares. Someone who understands. And if they don’t even understand, they can be helpful. They can be...how would I say it? They can give. They don’t have to be there, but they can give. Whoever you’re helping, whoever you’re giving to, within that community, which is a wide word, I say, the community is the wide world web.”

“Neighbors can be your— like I said, in your community, where you live, that area that you live in. But your neighbor can also be the person standing beside you in line, the person sitting beside you in church. So you walk into a store, everybody in there are your neighbors now.”

—Cecelia Massey-Fike

You know, community is making people feel safe, They can go to their neighbors They’re not afraid of their neighbors: The children are safe to play.

“I think that people do well with food. If you provide opportunities to get together over food it creates community.”
“I think community takes people talking to each other and just finding what your similar needs are.”

—Ginger Medean

Information Sessions

Saturday, August 26th 11:30-1:30pm Passmore Center 103 Meadowlands Dr Hillsborough, NC 27278	Saturday, September 9th 10:00-12:00pm Seymour Center 2511 Homestead Rd Chapel Hill, NC
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Applications are due to the Habitat office by September 29th.

You must be age 55+, currently live or work in Orange County for 12 months, and be a US citizen or legal permanent resident to qualify.

For more information contact:
Marisa Martini at mmartini@orangehabitat.org or (919) 932-7077 x232
Steve Drake sdrake@orangehabitat.org or (919) 932-7077 x213

If you’re interested in becoming a Habitat Homeowner, please come to one of our information sessions. Interpreters will be available for Spanish, Burmese, and Karen.

Applications will be distributed at the end of each orientation, and will be available at the Habitat office at 88 Vilcom Center Dr, Suite L110 in Chapel Hill beginning the week of August 28th. You do not need to attend both orientations.

Visit us at www.jacksoncenterinfo or 512 W. Rosemary Street or call us at (919) 960-1670!



Habitat for Humanity is Building
Senior Housing (Age 55+) in Hillsborough, NC!



BE A VOICE FOR CHANGE

Participate in community forums, town hall hearings, and focus groups for planning!



SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Pick up a paper route once a month! Deliver the Northside News to your neighbors. Submit your story or artwork.



CELEBRATE

Come to community festivals and host pop-up cookouts or other get-togethers on your block! Participate in story circles and art making. Look out for each others' kids.



LEAD ON YOUR BLOCK

Keep everyone up on the latest from Town Hall. Start a phone tree. Connect with home repair and organizing resources at the Jackson Center.



SHARE THE BOUNTY

Pick up, unload, sort, and help distribute the every day, grocery style offering of food for all at Heavenly Groceries/Comida Celestial, located in the fellowship hall of St. Joseph CME (510 W. Rosemary St). 5000 households are served a month with warmth and dignity.



KEEP US LOOKING GOOD

Join in community cleanups. Participate with Habitat for Humanity in "A Brush with Kindness" (exterior repairs and beautification) at a neighbor's home. Make the MCJC bloom! Please contact us if you're wanting to get your hands dirty or looking for opportunities.



DON'T BE A STRANGER

As Ms. Louise Felix always says, "Wave as you pass." Stroll around the neighborhood with community members near and far or simply start by taking the Soundwalk. Spend time with an elderly neighbor. Shovel a neighbor's walkway. Watch out for cars!



BECOME A REGULAR

Get to know the folks at your local businesses. Beat a path from your door to theirs. If you haven't yet, try: the shrimp burger at Al's Burgers, apple scones at Bread & Butter, biscuits at Mama Dip's, and flavorful curry at Vimala's Curryblossom Cafe.

APPLY NOW FOR NORTHSIDE PROPERTY TAX SUPPORT

For the last ten years or more, Northside neighbors, many of whom have lived here for decades, have faced rapidly increasing property taxes. This year, the Jackson Center is offering small grants (~\$300-\$1000) to assist with property taxes for aging, long-term, low-moderate income households in Northside (includes Sunset, Pottersfield, and Lloyd/Broad). The goal of this program is to help neighbors stay rooted in this community. These *limited funds* will prioritize our elderly neighbors (over 62!). **Contact the Jackson Center for an application!**

ASK KEITH

Ms. Keith Edwards is a lifetime resident of McDade St. and a 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 us at (919) 960-1670 or email at contact@jacksoncenter.info

I am a newcomer to the Northside area and I'm very excited. Can you tell me something about the Northside community?

The Northside community, through the Jackson Center, created a newsletter to keep people in the Northside community in communication with one another within Northside and throughout the broader community. This newsletter informs you of all the activities and things that relate to our community, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro. It encourages everyone to be involved, with not only the newsletter, but also the community and its issues. We want everybody to be involved in our community, and this is one of the main ways our neighborhood connects with on another.

The Good Neighbor Initiative welcome package is delivered to many homes in this area and others, but if you do not receive one, you can get one at the Jackson Center or at UNC. These come out every year when students return and when other people move into the area because these rules and regulations effect all of us. The Good Neighbor Initiative packets provide detailed information including Chapel Hill rules and regulations such as parties, noise, etc. We welcome everyone also to please attend the Good Neighbor Initiative Block Party on Thursday, September 14th from 5-9 pm at Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St. Come meet your neighbors and receive other important information about Chapel Hill as a whole and your new community.

Welcome aboard, and we hope to see you soon!

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

Who were the historic rock masons who built the Welcome to Chapel Hill signs?

Think you know the answer to this month's archive trivia? Call the Jackson Center anytime after 9am to win a prize! Last month's answer: David Caldwell

COMMUNITY BOARD

8/1 Jason James	8/16 Reverened Kevin Brown
8/2 Sheila Alston	8/18 Shannon Dwyer
8/5 Kathy Atwater	8/22 Kathy Watson
Kathy Wilson	8/28 Rosalyn Alston
Steven Pendergraph	Sherdena Weaver
8/11 Seth Murray	8/29 Keith Edwards

august birthdays

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gimme Shelter Dance Party: A Benefit for PeeWee Homes

Saturday, August 26th | Bar opens at noon; DJ from 10-2 am The Station Carrboro at 201 E Main St, Carrboro, NC

Hit the dance floor to support a great cause, with classic hip hop, electro, and house from DJKB! Enjoy specialty cocktails served to you by special guest bartender Damon Seils. Entry is free but donations are encouraged and appreciated. Proceeds to be donated to PeeWee Homes, a community effort to build tiny homes in Orange County and increase the supply of affordable housing for community members without homes!

Tar Heel Downtown | FREE

Friday, September 1st | 6:00 - 9:00 pm 140 West Franklin St

Football season is here and it's time to bring the Carolina game day spirit to the heart of downtown Chapel Hill! Tar Heel Downtown is an awesome pregame fan experience on Franklin Street, featuring a live outdoor concert, activities for kids and families, and face painting. The UNC Marching Tar Heels, cheerleaders, and of course...Rameses will be there too!

Neighborhood Night Out and Block Party | FREE

Thursday, September 14th | 5:00 - 9:00 pm Hargraves Community Center

The annual GNI Neighborhood Night Out and Block Party is just around the corner! Come out for free food and fun for everyone. There will be Buns, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream and more from local businesses and restaurants at the block party. In addition to the free food, you'll find games, music and prizes for all ages! Everyone in the community is welcome to join!