

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL 101 – THE QUESTIONS YOU’VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK!



Is this the same as the May Day Festival?

Absolutely—and more. For many years, the festival took its name from the end-of- school year tradition at Orange County Training School, the formerly segregated school that was erected in 1924 with private funds on the 6.5 acres of land bordering Church and McMasters. O.C.T.S. students voted to rename the school Lincoln High in 1948, 3 years before a new black high school was built on Merritt Mill Rd. and O.C.T.S. became Northside Elementary. The Northside Festival still honors Northside’s proud tradition of self-determined education. The name was changed in 2017 to declare NORTHSIDE—and to avoid the confusion around a festival in April named by the first day in May!

Why can’t I buy anything at the festival?

Because everything is free. For a few hours on a Saturday afternoon, leave your wallet and worries at home and just enjoy. You are invited to feel free to meet neighbors in fellowship and fun—and to remember the beauty of simply coming together as part of a historic, multi-generational community.

Why is there a large pole with long ribbons in the middle of the lawn?

That’s a May Pole! It symbolizes the end-of- school year festivities at Orange County Training School/Northside Elementary that Ms. Esphur Foster regales in her story below. Yes, the dance lives—and kids of all ages are invited to join!

Who’s on stage?

Our neighbors: DJ kings Avon Lassiter Jr. and Brentton Harrison; the ever-soulful Mr. Prince Taylor; Bubba Norwood on drums with Harvey Dalton Arnold (see the story on Bubba’s musical career below); the renowned Community Empowerment Fund Advocacy Choir and . . . how about YOU?? Have you got a song to sing, a poem to share? Let us know now or at the festival—and the stage will be all yours . . .

What’s with the slogan “Northside: Say It Loud, Say It Proud!”?

The Festival is a celebration of our place on the map—and at the table. It is meant to uplift all who live, worship, play, serve, and work in Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top. It is a time to revel in the strength of our extraordinary history (just listen in to some of the 200 oral histories we’ll be sharing at the festival . . . and add your comments to a timeline of local civil rights action!). It’s also a time to SHOUT OUT how Northside neighbors have always cared for each other and are continuing to grow a longstanding vision of a diverse, affordable, family-friendly neighborhood. In case you didn’t know it, in the last two years alone, we welcomed 27 kids to the neighborhood! Now that’s something to celebrate . . .

Any other questions??

Write to contact@jacksoncenterinfo or call 919-960-1670. Or just come on over and be surprised . . .

MAY DAY IS COMING

Who can believe that that time of the year is coming around the corner. Bees are buzzing and pollinating, birds are chirping and whistling, flowers are blooming, trees are bursting out all over in blossoms and the air is filled with children’s talking and laughter.

It’s time for practices of all types, especially the practices of Prince Taylor with his melodious baritone voice as he plays the handsome prince singing to and kissing the beautiful princess—and little girls practice the wrapping of the Maypole. Mothers are calling the little girls to come in the house to get their hair straightened and curled so that they will look beautiful for wrapping the Maypole.

Finally the day has come for little girls with curls in their hair and satin belts the colors of the rainbow to match their petticoats under their white organdy dresses along with white socks and black patent leather shoes to join in the dance. Oh what a sight to behold! Now the lively songs are played and the girls skip to the dance steps that they have been taught and the pole is wrapped in bright plaid designs.

--Ms. Esphur Foster

Ms. Esphur Foster has lived her home on Cotton Street in historic Pottersfield (the neighborhood between Mitchell and Church) for almost 80 years. During that time, she had a distinguished career at UNC and subsequently ran an independent stationary business. Ms. Foster currently serves on several non-profit and town boards and as secretary of the OCTS-Lincoln High Alumni Association. Here, she recalls the traditional May Day festival that capped each year at the Orange County Training School, the first public school for black children k-12. OCTS was first located at the site of what was known as “The Quaker School” at the intersection of W. Franklin and Merritt Mill. After a catastrophic fire, it was rebuilt in 1924 between Mcdade and Caldwell, where Northside Elementary is now.

We’ll honor the OCTS spring festival by braiding our own Maypole at the Northside Festival. Everyone is welcome to share in the springtime joy!



JOIN US ON THE PORCH

EXPLORE COMMUNITY HISTORY IN THE ORAL HISTORY TRUST

When you’re at the Northside Festival, be sure to stop by the porch of the Jackson Center and listen to community stories in our new online Oral History Trust! We are excited that people of all ages will be able to learn about Northside history by opening up their web browser or listening to interviews on their phone. In addition to interviews – over 100 from the Jackson Center and over 50 from the Southern Oral History Program – the Oral History Trust has fantastic photographs. The new website is very much under construction so stop by and tell us what you would like to see and hear as we continue to build. We hope the site will be a place of community engagement with the past, present and future. At the festival, we will have a computer listening station on the porch of the Jackson Center. If you have done an interview with the Jackson Center, you will have an opportunity to write a short biography and to get your photo taken if you choose. You can also sign-up to share your history in an interview, to contribute photos or other items, or to refer us to someone we should hear from!

PORCH REVIVAL TOUR KICK-OFF

In Northside/Pine Knolls, the front porch is more than just a physical place. It is a restorative space where residents share life history, welcome new neighbors, and celebrate home; a place where many long-time Northside residents have made and continue to make history. Taking place once a month, the Porch Revival Tour is a celebratory series of events housed by neighbors on their porch, lawn, or favorite outdoor space. To kick off the series, three neighbors will host porch celebrations on Friday April 20th and Saturday April 21st.

Come grab a hot dog, play some corn-hole, and meet your neighbors at one or ALL of the porch celebrations!

Friday April 20th 5:00-7:00 pm:
226 N. Graham Street
324 McMasters St.

Saturday April 21st 2:00-4:00 pm:
121 S. Merritt Mill Rd.

BUBBA NORWOOD, A NATIVE OF NORTHSIDE

This year we are very excited that James "Bubba" Norwood will be performing at the Northside Festival. He will be joined by Harvey Dalton Arnold. Bubba grew up in Carrboro and started playing drums at an early age. In an interview last fall he recalled "when I was real small I used to pull limbs off of trees and beat up our furniture, our antique furniture we had. I got lots of whoopings for putting some scars on the furniture. I was around I guess 4 or 5 years old. I just wanted to beat on things. I would take an apple and put it on a popsicle stick and beat on the tub, a wash tub. I guess drumming was something that was meant for me to do, it was my gift." At Northside Elementary he was part of a rhythm band and "played a little drum with a little rubber tire over the top of it." Before long he moved to more sophisticated equipment. When he was in junior high he was moved to the senior band because he was so good on the snare drums. In high school he sharpened his talent when the Lincoln High School band would compete with Hillside High of Durham. But he had no idea the turn his life would take after high school.

When he was 17, Ike and Tina Turner came to Durham to play. They were not very well known at the time, but Bubba had picked up their album at the record store. He learned their music by listening. As fate would have it, they needed a drummer. They asked Doug Clark of Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts, another Northside native, but he was experiencing success with his group so he suggested Bubba. He auditioned, they hired him, and before he knew it, he was on tour. He remembered he "rehearsed one day and was gone the next, with no chance to tell his friends. That was the beginning of a lifelong adventure. He was with Ike and Tina for 8 years. After that he played with Gladys and the Pips, Albert King, Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions, Marvin Gaye, and many other artists. Over the years his repertoire expanded and he became an extremely versatile player. He played blues, R&B, country rock, pop, and other genres. He is now back in Chapel Hill. He plays regularly at First Baptist Church and books performances through the Music Maker Relief Foundation. We're looking forward to hearing what he brings to the stage on Saturday April 28th!



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

Is the Jackson Center doing anything for the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr?

The Jackson Center acknowledges the great and extraordinary achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, a man who inspired a nation through faith and hope for a better tomorrow. We honor his legacy during the Northside Festival by everyone holding hands during a moment of silence and afterwards releasing balloons of peace, love, and hope for a better world, as well as your own personal wishes. The Jackson Center encourages everyone to come out and participate in the special dedication to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the many activities at the annual Northside Festival.

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

We're excited to reveal our Oral History Trust during the Northside Festival on April 28th! What was the big reveal during last year's Festival?

Last month's answer: The May Pole Dance was an OCTS end-of-year celebration and springtime tradition

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

SERVE & PLAY AT THE NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL

ENJOY AN HOUR LENDING A HAND: ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS ON THIS HISTORIC LAND!
BELOW ARE THE AVAILABLE SHIFTS FOR YOU TO SERVE AND PLAY THIS YEAR AT THE FESTIVAL.



EVENT SET-UP

Decorate and Beautify the Space!

April 27th // Day Before Festival
2:00 - 3:00 pm
3:00 - 4:00 pm
4:00 - 5:00 pm

April 28th // Morning of Festival
9:00 - 10:00 am
10:00 - 11:00 am
11:00 - Noon



FOOD SERVICE

Serve Up Hot Dogs, Sides, Desserts, and Drinks!

April 28th
12:00-1:00 pm
1:00 - 2:00 pm
2:00 - 3:00 pm
3:00 - 4:30 pm (includes clean-up)

To sign up for shifts or for more information, please call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 or email George Barrett at george@jacksoncenter.info. See you at the Northside Festival!



KIDS OF ALL AGES

Enjoy Field Games, Planting, Maypole, and More!

April 28th
12:00 - 1:00 pm
1:00 - 2:00 pm
2:00 - 3:00 pm
3:00 - 4:30 pm (includes clean-up)



EVENT CLEAN-UP

Break It All Down!

April 28th
3:00 - 4:30 pm

COMMUNITY BOARD

- 5/3 Janie Alston
- 5/17 Garland Foushee
- 5/19 Richelle Watson
- 5/24 Josh Davis
- 5/30 Donny "Hollywood" Riggsbee

may birthdays

Northside Phonetree

Stay connected to your neighbors!

We're building a phone tree for the neighborhood to keep neighbors informed about important town meetings, community events, and emergency situations in the area!

If you'd like to be included, Please contact:

Kathy Atwater
919-960-1670
kathy@jacksoncenter.info
-or-
Miah Pankey
mepankey@live.unc.edu

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Policy on Non-Working Vehicles (Junk Cars) in Northside

The Town of Chapel Hill is increasing enforcement efforts, especially with onsite parking regulations. There is a regulation stating that "non-working vehicles" may not be stored anywhere on any property. From the state's definition, a "non-working vehicle" is any vehicle that cannot move under its own power or creates a hazard. Code Enforcement for the Town of Chapel Hill will be sending out a postcard notice to properties in the areas where they have either witnessed or received reports about the storage of "non-working" vehicles. We can let you know of resources available that will purchase your vehicle for cash and remove it from your property. Contact Kathy Atwater at the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 for available resources or Town Enforcement at 919-969-5036 for more information on the regulation.

Food Distribution Center at St. John

On the first Saturday of every month throughout December 2018, St. John Church will be distributing pre-bagged food. Please call the church at 919-967-2318 for further details. The next distribution date is May 5th from 11:00-12:00 pm. It is located at 607 Pine Acres Rd, Chapel Hill.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Fashioned Quilting Made Fun!

Thursdays | 5:00-7:00 pm
Community Empowerment Fund
204 N Columbia St, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Work towards making your own personal quilt! Open to anyone who wants to have fun and learn quilting. No quilt experience is needed! Call (919) 200-0233 for questions | Leave a message for David
Donations of fabric and crafting supplies are welcome! Please drop off at CEF.

Rodeo on Rosemary April 22, 2018 | 12:00-4:00 pm

Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Downtown Partnership and the Raleigh Durham Mobile Food Association (RDUMFA) will be hosting this Food Truck Rodeo on the block of East Rosemary Street between Henderson and North Columbia Streets. The Rodeo on Rosemary features some of the Triangle's favorite food trucks.