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# NORTHSIDE NEWS

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The Marian Cheek Jackson Center For Saving and Making History

## Nate Davis: Honoring a Community Pillar

“Nate Davis epitomizes service to community. A civil servant, a mentor, a teacher, an historian, a friend--he's been all these things and more over the course of an extraordinary career. I will be forever indebted to him, for he was and will always be, THE model of selflessness and service to his community. I will always carry the lessons he taught through his example of approaching even the most difficult situations peacefully and with the wisdom of the ages. If I could only do it half as well as him....”

— Mark Kleinschmidt, Former mayor of Chapel Hill

“So much has been said about Nate Davis’ retirement and much remains to be said. The Community will miss him at Hargraves, but Nate will still be around. Truth is, Nate has touched so many lives during times when everyone else seemed too busy to reach out and touch. People will miss that.

When my family and I decided that I would heed the call to run for School Board, I called my cousin Nate. Why? Because he has been my confidante/protector since I was a teenager. I knew that he would be honest with me about the prospects for success and that he would have my back. You see, Nate knows everyone and everyone knows Nate! Truth is, to this day when I’ve worn out Stan’s ear with politics, I call Nate. Why? Nate knows.”

— Valerie Foushee, NC State Senator



“Nate is the true embodiment of the value Chapel Hill places on being a welcoming place for everyone. We are very grateful for his years of dedicated service to our community and wish him well as he moves into this next chapter of his life.”

— Pam Hemminger, Mayor of Chapel Hill

“We didn’t have a lot, but we had fun.”

Nate Davis, on growing up in Northside and at Hargraves

## An Interview with Mr. Nate

Some have called it the end of an era: Mr. Nate Davis is retiring after 47 years of service to the community he was born and raised in, mostly as director of the Hargraves Community Center in Northside. When asked what he plans to do next, he says: “Resting.” Then he adds, “I have seven grandkids, so I’ll be spending time with them.” He may not be resting for long.

Mr. Nate has dedicated his life to the young people of the community, mentoring and helping them with the many issues they have to deal with. And he is likely to keep on doing that. When he talks about his work, he still speaks in the present tense: “Someone says, ‘I don’t know what to do. I don’t have a job, I really don’t have a place to live.’ I try to find something for them to do before it gets to the point where they get in trouble. ...I don’t judge people.” His connection to Hargraves began when he was growing up. He started working there when he was 21. Recently, he took some time to reflect on his life, his community and his passion for kids.

### Hargraves: A ‘Safe House’

“Our parents would tell us, ‘Get out of the house and go to Hargraves.’ You know, a lot of people look at Hargraves as a place for recreation and education programs. But it was kind of a safe house for a lot of kids in the community, because you had parents that worked and didn’t have a place for their child to go in the afternoon. And they would come over to Hargraves and they’d say, ‘My momma told me to come over here.’ They would stay and we would take them home.”

### A Mentor’s Mentor

Mr. Nate also spoke about his mentor, Mr. Fred Battle: “When I first started working at Hargraves, If there was someone that needed some help with something, Fred Battle was the first one to jump in and help him.

“Sometimes I’d sit back and say, ‘Mr. Battle, why are you doing this?’ And he’d say, ‘Davis, if we don’t help them, no one will.’ So I had a good mentor in Mr. Battle....I just decided I wanted to be there to help people. And Fred always said, ‘Come on, Davis. Let’s go.’”

### Enduring Racism with the Help of Community

One of the first black students to attend all-white Chapel Hill Jr. High and, then, Guy B. Phillips, Nate remembers: “I was not happy at all [at school]. You know, back then, in ‘62, you ran into a lot of problems.” As the first black student on the Phillips basketball team, he says, he could not go into stores like Brady’s with his teammates. “I got called a lot of names... on court, off court.”

At the same time, he remembers how community leaders “made sure students were doing what they should be doing. People like Mr. McDougle, Mr. [Coach W.D.] Peerman, Ms. Rebecca Clark, Hilliard Caldwell, James Britton [and others], ... people were very involved trying to make sure the kids were getting the best education they could.”

Mr. Nate sat down with the staff of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center on January 11, 2019.

Most caring and loving person to be placed in the lives of children and families.  
Right there in our community and neighborhood, what a gift!  
Never more than a telephone call away if and when needed  
always willing to help when help was needed, whether asked or not  
taking time to always give hugs and encouraging words to our children and us parents  
engaged in their interests.  
Divinely guided and inspired  
affirmed and demonstrated emotional support and encouragement for families  
Valued by the Carrboro-Chapel Hill communities and neighborhoods beyond measure  
idyllic childhood he would have provided for all children had he been given the opportunity  
Sense of great indebtedness we owe to you, Mr. Nate. THANK YOU!  
We love you,  
The Foster-Norwood-Parrish Families

“At Hargraves we’d have dances, they’d have programs. And where the kitchen is, there was another room where we had the pool tables. The daycare center was downstairs. We didn’t have a lot of space, but we didn’t know that. — Nate Davis”



Ms. Gladys talks love

What is love? Love is one of the most used words in the English language. Love can make you feel good, and it can make you feel hurt. The number one love is God's love. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." And God's love is always unconditional. I would define love as joy, peace, and not keeping score.



But the biggest thing is to love yourself. If you don't love yourself you cannot love anyone else. And that's what self-love is. For young people, first understand that love is not always easy, you have to search in your heart for what's for you.

But love is a verb, and you're supposed to act on it. If you've forgiven seven times and need to go back to make things right, forgive seven more times. Be good. Be kind. 'Cause it don't cost a dime. Be willing to share yourself to help someone else. As Galatians 5:14 says, "Love thy neighbor as thy self." Love can make you happy, love can make you unhappy, love can make you kill, love can make you jealous. But your heart has to be in the right frame to accept love. Always question what your motives are for love.

— Gladys Pendergraph  
Brandon

Happy Birthday, Mrs. J

On February 12 2019, we recognize the birthday of Mrs. Marian Cheek Jackson, who passed on in March 2017. Former historian of St. Joseph C.M.E., Mrs. Jackson is the namesake and abiding inspiration for the Jackson Center for Saving and Making History. The daughter of a freed man from Warren County who lent his masonry skills to the stone walls that surround

UNC and the daughter of one of UNC's first labor leaders, Mr. Kennon Cheek, Mrs. Jackson carried her family legacy with fierce determination, courage, faith, and love. Even in grief she saw renewal. "Let it rain," she'd say. "The grass can't grow unless it rains." Love you too, Mrs. J. Happy Birthday.

— Della Pollock

Ask Keith

**Q:** Do you know of any scheduled events happening in our local area during Black History month?

**A:** **Black & Blue Tour with Robert Porter (Part 2) @ UNC Visitors Center Lobby**  
250 E. Franklin St. Chapel Hill, NC 27514. 919-962-1630  
Friday, February 13th @ 3pm-4:30pm.  
This distinctive walking tour provides an African American history of the University, with emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Women's Basketball Black History Month Celebration @ Carmichael Arena**  
310 South Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Thursday, February 21st @ 7pm.  
Join Carolina Women's Basketball as the Tar Heels host their annual Black History Celebration game, in conjunction with the Carolina Black Caucus.

**Black History Month Read-In @ United Church of Chapel Hill**  
1321 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC. 919-942-3540  
Thursday, February 21st @ 6-8pm.  
Members and special guests will read a passage or poem from one of their favorite Black writers.

Northside Trivia

**This month's question:** Which Northside civil rights movement leader said: "Man this town is hard to crack. It's called a liberal place but that's a mirage, man. When you go to get water, all you get is a mouthful of sand"? Call in if you think you know.

**Last months answer:** Last month's trivia question asked readers to name their immediate neighbors on both sides, so answers will vary! If you haven't done it yet, find out who lives next door to you!

**How it works:** If you think you know the answer, call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 any time from 9-5 to win a Northside button! Whoever ends the year with the most buttons will be our Northside News Trivia Champion and receive a trophy!

March Birthdays

3/11 Pat Jackson	3/18 Nate Davis, Stella Farrar
3/12 Maggie West Vaughan	3/23 Delores Bynum, Anita Wilson
3/14 Billy Hemmingway	3/24 Regina Merritt
3/17 Claudia McLain	3/28 Dustin Rawlings

If you are interested in receiving a digital copy of the newsletter, send us your email address! [contact@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:contact@jacksoncenter.info)

True Love Forever!



Since this is the month we celebrate Valentine's Day, we just want to share words of wisdom from our neighbors on what it takes to have long lasting love. Mr. Clarence and Mrs. Jane Farrar will be celebrating 59 years of marriage on February 27th, and they say the number one thing that has kept their marriage strong is PRAYER! Also being able to listen to each other and put your priorities in the right place. #2. Don't stay out all night - unless you're together! #3. You're going to have disagreements, but somebody has to give in. Don't go to bed angry. #4. You have to have strong Christian faith! As long as you have God first, He's going to work it out. He's the One who invented marriage!



Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Lucy Fearington would have been married 71 years before she made her transition to heaven in May 2017. Their wedding anniversary was May 20th. Mr. Joe still recalls how he first met his wife. A friend of his was dating Mrs. Lucy's sister. Mr. Joe went with his friend to visit, and he and Mrs. Lucy started dating. Mr. Joe's friend and Mrs. Lucy's sister did not get married; but Mr. Joe and Mrs. Lucy did! Mr. Joe recalls that because they loved each other and worked together, their marriage succeeded. They didn't boss each other around and learned to listen as well as share information. Loving each other and working together - Mr. Joe says that's the key to a long lasting love!

— Kathy Atwater

“Love is an action, never just a feeling.”  
— bell hooks

Community Board

<b>Town of Chapel Hill Summer Camp</b>  Register now!  Go to <a href="http://www.chapelhillparks.org">www.chapelhillparks.org</a> to register. Camps fill up fast, so don't wait!  For information about other summer camps, check out: <a href="http://chapelboro.com/summercamp">chapelboro.com/summercamp</a>	<b>Town of Chapel Hill Youth Employment</b>  Apply now!  Open to all Chapel Hill/ Carrboro residents who meet the HUD income guidelines. You must be: - Age 14-18 - Earn less than 80% median Chapel Hill income Job pays \$8-9/hr working 6-7 weeks <a href="http://www.bit.ly/CHyouthjob">www.bit.ly/CHyouthjob</a>	<b>Interfaith Devotional at Rogers Road</b>  February 23, 2019, 11AM-12PM  Rogers Rd. Community Center  101 Edgar St. Chapel Hill 27516  Future dates: March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29. Call Rogers Road Community Center for more info: 919-918-2822
<b>St. Paul Village Community Walk/5K</b>  March 2, 2019 9AM  Registration: \$25/person, \$45/family.  Run begins and ends at McDougle Middle School. There will be awards, door prizes, food and family-friendly fun activities. This event benefits the St. Paul Village. For registration and info, <a href="http://stpaulamechurch.org">stpaulamechurch.org</a> .	<b>Orange County Senior Games</b>  April 6-May 4, 2019 Celebration: May 8  OCSG celebrates artists and athletes! If you're over 50 and into arts or sports— from quilting to horseshoes, register now! Early bird fee:\$13 til March 1. Final deadline- March 22. Call Myra Austin, 919-245-2020 or <a href="mailto:maustin@orangecountync.gov">maustin@orangecountync.gov</a>	<b>Seymour Center Fitness Studio</b>  Memberships available!  If you're 55 or older join the Senior Center Fitness Studio today! Membership includes a free annual Personal Training session and access various exercise, strength-building machines.  \$15/month; Scholarships are available. Call 919-968-2070 Seymour Center front desk.