

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Affordable Housing Issue

Don't Miss "Affordable Housing: The Musical!"

The premiere of "Affordable Housing: The Musical" is just around the corner, and the excitement is building. A co-production that brings together community members and advocates from the Community Empowerment Fund, the musical is set in the fictional town of Church Mound and came together over many months, pooling the stories and the many artistic talents of many people in our community who have struggled to find an affordable place to live. Keely Kriho of the Community Empowerment Fund has been a part of the musical since the beginning: "I'm continuously honored that the cast members with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity have shared their stories with this group, and agreed to let us base the art of the musical off those stories."

Supported by a partnership with Carolina Performing Arts, the musical is made-from-scratch -- the songs, the dialogue, the staging, and all the other moving parts



of a theatrical production are original. The process of putting it all together developed from week to week, shaped by the ideas and voices of cast members in community-first production. Now the cast is ready for the "big stage" at CURRENT ArtSpace at 123 Franklin Street. The show will be performed on Sat November 23 at 7:30 and Sunday November 24th at 4:30 two days only, so make sure to get tickets early.

For more info visit: (www.affordablehousingmusical.org)

A House That's a Home

For many Northsiders, a home's value is measured not just in dollars but in its legacy. A home can contain generations worth of memories, not just of family but of community--gatherings of neighbors and family around a dining room table, cool evenings on the front porch, bountiful backyard gardens with enough fresh vegetables to share with friends.

Ms. Keith Edwards has been living in her house on McDade Street for most of her life. In this oral history testimony from the Jackson Center Oral History Trust, she talks about what home means to her:



Well, the house we grew up in, what you had was eleven kids in that house and a mother, father and a grandmother. But we were all able to pack into the house; it was a home. Within that home, there was love, there was discipline, there was respect. And that's what made it a home. And I've gone into some homes where the porch was falling down, where it rained in the house and they had buckets everywhere, the house would talk to you when the wind blows. But

you know? We didn't care. We just went in and we sat. We enjoyed our friends, enjoyed their parents and all. We didn't look at the condition of the house because that was not what you went there for. You went for what was in that house, and for what the people in that house represented and they represented a sense of community, a sense of belonging, a sense of kinship.

To hear more from Ms Keith, go to the Jackson Center's Oral History Trust: www.archives.jacksoncenter.info

Northside | Today's Progress

- First increase in African-American population since 1980
- 35 affordable units created or in process
- 60+ home repairs for long-time residents
- 70 households (avg age of 85) have received property tax support
- 420 students volunteer in Northside per year
- 75% reduction of noise/nuisance violations since 2015



"Like a puzzle coming together"

Cast members share their thoughts on the affordable housing crisis, the artistic process and the magic of community

How did you get involved in the musical?

"After I transitioned out of my position [as Co-Founder and Co-President of Community Empowerment Fund], I was looking for a way to stay in touch with the CEF community and stay involved in affordable housing advocacy. We had been sort of joking about an affordable housing musical for three or four years while I was working, but none of us ever had the bandwidth to do it. So as I was transitioning, I knew I had extra time, so I was like, it's time to do it!"

- Maggie West, Production Team

What do you hope audience members will take away?

"I hope audience members realize that it's one of our most important issues locally. We just simply need to put [affordable housing] as a top priority, and not let it be something that people just tack onto a project."

- Liz Evans, Advocacy Ensemble Cast Member

"I hope the audience takes away the fact that they're real issues, real people's lives. And we want real solutions. I think our community can do it."

- Chinita Howard

"I hope that people who see the musical will laugh, and cry, and think, and maybe even hope. But I hope the musical can, in a small way, contribute to a changing narrative surrounding affordable housing - that it's really about creating a community where everyone's needs are met, where we take care of each other. I'm inspired by this creativity, and I hope that others who come to watch are inspired, too, and can use that creativity to start thinking about housing as a human right, not just something that's nice to have, but something that's an absolute necessity."

- Keely Kriho

What's the process been like so far?

"It started from such a tiny seed. It seems so big now that it's hard to even trace back. Although I still remember the first rehearsal really well, and how everyone immediately seemed to click. Everyone was so open to it. It was kind of incredible."

- Rachel Thomas Levy, Production Team

Quotes gathered by Keely Kriho

Keeping Your House a Home: What You Should Know

Keeping Your House A Home (KYHAH) is a 1.5 hour interactive workshop with long term residents, providing them with resources for them to be able to stay in their homes. Those who have received funding from our property tax support grant are required to participate in this free workshop to not only hear of these resources but to share with other neighbors resources that they are aware of that may not be covered in the workshop. It is also an opportunity, in a group setting, for neighbors to get to know neighbors, to renew friendships and to make new friends. If a resident is unable to come to the group workshops, an individual session is scheduled for them which also allows them to share openly their needs and what would help them to be able to remain in their homes. In the workshop, we discuss the financial values of Northside homes but also the values that make for a strong foundation - family memories, family legacy, and family values. KYHAH workshops are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:30-4:30 at the Jackson Center or at a time and place that is convenient for the participant. Please contact Kathy Atwater at 919-960-1670 to schedule.

My favorite part of KYHAH was...

"... talking to someone acquainted with the history of my neighborhood." (Ms. Sherdenia Dunn)

"... learning about the tools that give direct instructions on how to save your property." (Ms. Sarita Nwachukwu)

"... asking me about what my home means to me."

(Ms Martrina Morrow)

Written By Kathy Atwater

Got History?

If you missed the Marian Cheek Jackson Center's history potluck event on Saturday, October, 12 but have items related to our community's history, we would love to set up a time for you to share them. You can bring materials like family photos, church bulletins, menus from local restaurants, newspaper clippings, obituaries, or any other documents that shed light on the history of the community to be scanned while we talk to you about the stories behind the items. Your materials will be handled with the utmost care, and you will take them home with you. Later, we'll provide you with a digital copy of your items to share with your own family and friends and the scans and your interview can become a part of our history archive. Please contact Kathryn (kathryn@jacksoncenter.info) or Wyatt (wyatt@jacksoncenter.info) or call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 to set up a good time.



Charlie, Hudson, and Maggie with surprise guest actor Danny Glover at the GNI Community Cookout

A Community Cookout

The community cookout was a great way to connect with residents new and old alike. This event is a unique and effective way to forge a campus-community connection, which is so crucial to cultivating strong neighborhood ties and creating a sense of place. I ended up staying way past my volunteer shift just because I was having so much fun talking with students and long-time neighbors (and eating Ben & Jerry's ice cream!) -Anna Patterson

LOCAL ELECTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Election Day is November 5, 2019. We vote for mayor, town council/board of aldermen, and school board. Polls are open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

- You do NOT need an ID to vote!
- If you aren't registered, you can still register to vote at an early voting site but not on election day. To register, you have to be 18 years old by election day, have lived in the area for at least 30 days and be a US citizen. Go to an early election site and bring ONE of these documents: (1) A NC Driver's license, (2) Other government photo ID with name and current address, (3) Student photo ID with school document showing student's address, (4) Any document from any government agency with voter's name and current address.
- You can get an absentee ballot by calling (919) 814-0700 or (866) 522-4723 (toll free). You have to fill out the ballot and send it by October 30, CALL NOW!
- If you are disabled, you can ask for help from anyone you choose. You can also remain in your car at the polling station and ask an election assistant to bring you a ballot.
- Early Voting begins on Wednesday, October 16, in Hillsborough at 208 S. Cameron Street. But you can vote in Chapel Hill and Carrboro beginning on Saturday, October 19.
- If you need help figuring out where or how to vote, call 1-888-OUR VOTE
- <https://www.ncvoter.org/>.

In Memoriam:

Ms. Jean Swinson Thorpe passed away on September 12, 2019. Family and friends gathered for a celebration of her life at First Baptist Church, where they remembered her as a beautiful and caring spirit with a huge heart. A passionate educator, Ms Thorpe dedicated 28 years of service as a teacher to Carrboro Elementary School. Devoted to church and community, Ms. Jean tirelessly served as a speaker, missionary and committee member. As her family reflected: "She loved the Lord and was not only a devoted mother and wife, but she was also a mentor, counselor, and surrogate mother to many." This community will miss her and remember her always.



Mrs. Kathryn Faye Farrow Atwater passed away on October 2, 2019. Born in 1938 in Durham, she attended Lincoln High School in Chapel Hill and worked for 25 years at Duke University Hospital. A woman of faith who loved music, she was married to the late Nello Atwater, Jr., for 27 years and was a devoted mother to her sons. Her memory will be cherished by her siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many more family members and friends.



ORANGE COUNTY
- COMMUNITY -
REMEMBRANCE
- COALITION -

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition
invites you to join us in recognizing

Manly McCauley

A victim of racial terror lynching in Orange County 1898

We will be holding a

"Soil Collection, Libation & Remembrance Ceremony"

Saturday, November 16th

9 AM- 12 NOON

Location: TBD

Check <http://www.occrcoalition.org/>

or call the Jackson Center (919-960-1670)

for more information and event location updates

Apocalypse does not point to a fiery Armageddon but to the fact that our ignorance and our complacency are coming to an end... -Joseph Campbell

Municipal Elections on November 5: Why vote?

Throughout this month's issue of the Northside News, you've read how making affordable housing a priority is central to cultivating a community where we can all thrive and live in dignity. You might be wondering, how can I do something about this issue? How can I take care of my neighbors?

The simplest answer is: you can **vote**.

Elections are November 5th. Many of our local candidates tout affordable housing as one of their campaign priorities, and you have a say in making sure we have people sitting on our local government who will address the housing crisis in our community.

Head over to jacksoncenter.info/blog/ or check out our social media for information on our local candidates and their proposed solutions.
Written by Veda Patil

Ask Keith

Dear Ms. Keith, I have two questions this month. The first question is, do you know of any Halloween activities for children and families that are happening in the community? Also, I am a senior in the community and it's hard to get all of the falling leaves out of my yard. Do you know of any organization(s) that might have some volunteers who are willing to help?

Last year the Jackson Center co-hosted Halloween activities on Crag St. It was such a success that neighbors on Craig St will be hosting it again this year, Friday, October 25th at 5:30pm. Bring kids of all ages for food, fun, and plenty of tricks and treats! We'll be doing a cake walk again, have many candy stations, mask making, and other games for the entire family. If you can, please bring any donations of candy or decorations to the celebration or drop it off at the Jackson Center before the 25th! Even if you don't live in the Northside area, everyone is welcome. See you there!

If you are a senior in the community and need help gathering up the leaves in your yard, give the Jackson Center a call and we can see if we can help. Please let us know who you are, your address, and if you have any rakes or leaf blower. Call the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 or come by our office at 512 W. Rosemary St.



November Birthdays

- Nov 5- Billue Baldwin
- Nov 6- Eva Barnett
- Nov 11- Gwen Atwater
- Nov 16- Paul Caldwell
- Nov 18- Sallie Pendergraft (101!)
- Nov 22- Olivia James
- Nov 23- Christie Adisa
- Nov 24- Martrina Morrow
- Nov 29- Belinda Caldwell
- Nov 30- Betty Geer

A Special Birthday Shoutout

A special birthday wish goes out to Northside neighbor **Ms. Sallie Pendergraft** who is celebrating her 101st on November 18! Ms. Sallie is a NC A&T graduate who spent her working



life as a teacher and director of Holmes Day Care in Northside. She has touched so many lives and is an inspiration to all! Congratulations, Ms. Sallie!

**"Don't
Talk about it
Walk about it."**

-An African American Poverb