

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Since it now appears as though we will be “Staying-at-Home” for some time, we have decided to publish a second Special Edition of the Northside News to keep neighbors informed about the ever-changing situation and the local resources available to you. As usual, we feel it’s important to include resources to lift the Spirit to strengthen each of us and our connections to one another. Reach out when you can. Your neighbors (including the Jackson Center staff) are just a phone call, or text message, or email away.



What the Jackson Center is doing during COVID-19 Crisis

Neighborhood Walk-Throughs: We’ll be walking through Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top on Wednesdays and Fridays between 3-5 pm, weather permitting. Come out on your porch and say hello. We may even sing!

Hot meal deliveries: Every Friday or Saturday afternoon, we will deliver hot, delicious meals to neighbors in partnership with Vimala’s Curryblossom Cafe. We may add additional days. Call the Jackson Center to reserve meals.

Grocery deliveries: These are made on an as-needed basis. We can deliver food supplied by local food pantries and food banks, and we can cover delivery costs charged by local supermarkets (though you must reserve a delivery time and may have to wait a few days). We also have a limited number of Food Lion gift cards. Call for more info.

Application Assistance: If you are struggling to navigate or access an application for assistance, like SNAP benefits, unemployment, etc, please give us a call and we will try to assist you over the phone.

Emergency repairs or funding assistance: If you have an emergency home repair or an emergency funding need caused by this crisis (like a loss of job resulting in rental or mortgage assistance need), we may be able to connect you to needed resources. Call us at 919-960-1670.



Staying at Home: What it all means

The state of North Carolina has issued a Stay-at-Home order effective until at least April 30. Here are some details:

Q: What can and can’t you do now that we’ve been ordered to “stay-at-home”?

YOU CAN

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Visit a health care professional for medical services that cannot be provided virtually (call first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out, delivery or drive-thru
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, be in nature for exercise and engage in other outdoor activities - just keep at least six feet between you and others
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies

DO NOT

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Get closer than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided on the facility websites
- Travel except for essential travel and activities

Q: When will this order be lifted?

The order is valid through April 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. but will be regularly reviewed and evaluated and can be revised, amended, or extended based on recommendations from the Orange County Public Health Director and/or Orange County Emergency Management.

For up-to-date coronavirus information, go to: <https://www.orangecountync.gov/2332/Coronavirus-COVID-19> or call (919) 245-6111, M-F, 8:30-5.

An Update on Local Resources

Housing

Evictions are not permitted during the crisis.

Rental/Utilities Assistance: Orange County DSS provides emergency assistance to low-income residents. For more information, call 919-245-2490.

IFC: You must call (919) 929-6380, ext. 19, for appointments.

Town of Carrboro: The Town provides assistance with rent, security deposits and utility connection fees for low-income residents who find or have housing in Carrboro. For more information, call 919-918-7321.

Spectrum Internet is offering free broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days (March 16 – May 15) for families with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum plan. Call 1-844-488-8395 to get set up.

OWASA has temporarily suspended all disconnects for non-payment of bills.

Duke Energy will not disconnect any customer’s service for non-payment. The company will continue to read meters and send bills. Customers should pay what they can to avoid building up a large balance.

Dominion Energy will not disconnect any customer’s service for non-payment. They also offer short term payment extensions and long term payment assistance.

Major cellphone carriers, including T-Mobile, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, will keep users connected and waive late fees for 60 days.

Orange County Homeless Info Line: Call 919-245-2655.

Emergency home repairs: call Jackson Center (Hudson, George)

Income and Employment

If someone has lost their job or are laid off, here’s how they may be able to get assistance:

If any wages have changed, you can report to DSS to see whether you qualify for services. You can self-attest that their wages have changed and contact DSS by phone, email or mail:

919-245-2490.

113 Mayo Street, PO Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278

dssinfo@orangecountync.gov for FNS related questions and information.

If someone wants to know if/when they will get money from federal stimulus package:

Payments up to \$1,200 per person, with an additional \$500 per child under 17, will be made to U.S. residents with a Social Security number who earn under \$75,000.

If you receive Social Security, your stimulus payment should be deposited directly into your bank account in the next two weeks. If you usually get a paper Social Security check, you will get a paper check in the mail.

If you are low-income and haven’t filed a tax return in the last two years, you will have to file one to get your payment. You can do this online if you have a computer. Go to: <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>. You will need direct deposit information for your bank account. You have until the end of the year to file, but don’t wait.

If you don’t have a bank account, things aren’t clear yet. You qualify for a payment, so it’s best to contact the financial services companies that supply your prepaid debit cards for SNAP.

For more info on how to get your stimulus check, go to: [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)

Call the Jackson Center if you need assistance. (919) 960-1670.

Food

IFC: You must call (919) 929-6380, ext. 0, for appointments.

Rogers-Eubanks Community Center: (919) 918-2822

School district: (919) 967-8211

Any child can get meals every week day at:

Northside 12:00-12:30

Craig/Gomains 11:30-12:00

Rogers Road 12:15-12:45

Crest 11:30-12:00

Food Banks of Central and Eastern NC

(919-968-2850) have drive-thru food pick-up at Hargraves on Wednesdays:

April 8: 10-12:30

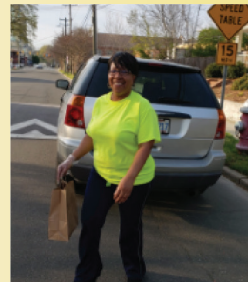
April 15: 10-12:30

April 22: 12-3:30

April 29: 11-2:30

Harris Teeter has times reserved for SENIORS ONLY. They are:

Mondays and Thursdays, 6-8 AM.



Other:

Mental Health 24 Hour Crisis Line: Cardinal Innovations crisis or referral hotline at 1-800-939-5911.

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Rev. Dr. William Barber: A Call for Action

The Rev. Dr. William Barber declared April 4, 2020, “A Day of Prophetic Mourning & Action,” in memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s address on April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City. Fifty-three years ago, Rev. King declared that the nation “must undergo a radical revolution of values.” This message is relevant more than ever right now. Rev. Barber is urging people to sign an electronic petition to demand a **moral** stimulus package with funds to aid the 140 million people in America who are poor or are one crisis away from poverty. For more information, go to: poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget.

“Epidemics emerge along the fissures of our society, reflecting not only the biology of the infectious agent, but patterns of marginalization, exclusion and discrimination.”

*Rev. Dr. William Barber and
Rev. Liz Theoharis*

In Memoriam: Ms. Deanna Carson



The Jackson Center is mourning the passing of the extraordinary Deanna Carson. We’d like to share the message posted by the colleagues who loved her and had the privilege of working with her at Community Home Trust. Her legacy will be held up by all of those who know how tirelessly and lovingly she pursued justice for all. Our prayers are with her beloved family: “Every person fortunate to work with or simply be around Deanna, was treated to her sweet smile and upbeat spirit. She approached life with selfless motivation, always putting the needs of others before her own. She had a super-power of remembering every applicant and client with whom she had ever worked. She didn’t just remember their names; she remembered where they worked, the names of their children, and their own personal story of why they needed secure, affordable housing. Deanna wore her heart on her sleeve and gave of her time generously, especially to those who dared to dream of owning a home for the first time.”

ASK KEITH

In these confusing times, Ms. Keith’s advice is more important than ever. Here are some answers to a few very important and urgent questions:

- Q: Where can I get masks and gloves?**
A: The best solution for masks is to make your own. You can double up any cotton cloth, bandana or scarf and tie it across your nose and mouth. You can also go online and find easy instructions for making one with an old t-shirt and rubber bands. (See picture below!) Surgical gloves are hard to come by. You can wear normal rubber gloves; just make sure you wash them with soap and water before and after use.
- Q: Where can I get toilet paper?**
A: You can call stores and ask when they get their shipments. Trader Joe’s keeps them behind the counter and will sell you one package if you ask for it.
- Q: I’ve been getting lots of calls from people claiming to offer financial assistance. What do I do?**
A: It has picked up more over the next few weeks. People are calling you hoping that you are emotional and want you to have them help. They will want your credit card number to “donate.” Don’t give out your credit card-- or any personal financial information-- over the phone.
- Q: What about ordering food?**
A: You have got to be cautious of who you are ordering food from. Only order directly from the restaurant or food delivery companies that are well known and trusted like Takeout Central. Right now, you can get \$10 off any order over \$20 at many local restaurants including Jersey Mike’s, Mama Dip’s, Monterrey, IP3 Pizza, and many more. Just call Takeout Central (919-942-7678) and tell them you’d like the CH Downtown Partnership discount. You can order online at <https://www.takeoutcentral.com/chapel-hill/restaurants/delivery>. Enter Promocode: #ShopDowntownCH.
- Q: How do you feel about people going to church during this time?**
A: You have to look at it this way: the one thing that God says is that you’ve got to have some sense.

Reducing Risk When Food Shopping: A few tips

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease passed mostly from person-to-person not by touching boxes. But you can also pass the virus from a surface to your face. Always wash or disinfect your hands before and after shopping. The most important thing you can do is to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. Wear a mask and gloves. Check out how to make one very easily in this issue of the Northside News. Wipe down your grocery cart handle with disinfectant wipes. Most grocery stores provide them. If you can, use self check-out. You can swipe an item without setting it down and then place directly into bag. Use your own bags only if you wash them after each use. When you get home, put groceries on cleanable surface. Wipe down glass, cans, and plastic containers and bottles, and you can transfer contents like cereal to a clean container. Always wash off all surfaces that have come in contact with groceries, wash your gloves with soap and water (or dispose of them), and wash your mask after each use. If you are a senior, you can shop during seniors-only times at Harris Teeter, from 6-8 am every Monday and Thursday.



The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strongly recommends people wear masks when they go out, especially when going shopping. Check out this video from Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams (the masked man in the picture) explaining how you can make a surgical mask from an old t-shirt or cloth and 2 rubber bands. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPx1y-qvJgf4>

What to do at home

Here are some suggestions inspired by our Northside, Pine Knolls and Tin Top neighbors:

Make something. I talked with one neighbor who told me joyfully that he is working on numerous quilts. I know many sewers, crochers, beaders, embroiderers, artists, woodworkers, and DIYers who are not at all bored these days.

Cook something. Where to start? There are more legendary cooks in this community than anyplace else this side of the Mississippi. We just recently featured Ms. Odessa Wilson’s Chicken and Dumplings and Mama Dip’s Apple Cake recipes in the Northside News (you can find them on our website: www.jacksoncenter.info/blog/blog.) Not everyone feels like cooking these days. Some neighbors have told me they don’t have the energy and they shouldn’t go grocery shopping. If you need someone to get food for you or would like one of our weekly hot meals delivered to you, please call the Jackson Center, 919-960-1670.

Plant something. Or prune something. Or pull some weeds. There are so many stories from neighbors in our oral history archive about their Northside gardens-- the fruits, vegetables and flowers. Ms. Jane Farrar, just to name one shining example, once told me all about her beautiful begonias and “hens and bitties.” And Ms. Willie May Paterson’s front yard is part of her legacy, not just because of the stone wall that started a movement, but the beauty and whimsy that brings joy to humans and animals alike.

Learn something. I love the story about how Mr. R.D. Smith learned how to build his house by reading a book. At least one of our Pine Knolls neighbors has challenged herself to learn some internet skills and proving that you can teach an old (or, better stated, senior) dog new tricks.

Do something for someone. Or ask someone to do something for you. One neighbor told me how her neighbor does her grocery shopping for her. Another neighbor told me how happy she was that her nephew-in-law mowed her lawn for her. If you are reluctant to ask for something, think of it as giving someone else a chance to help. We all know how good it feels to be able to help someone even in a small way. That’s always been the Northside way.

Repair something. Where to start? Maybe just tightening a few screws. Everyone’s got some loose ones somewhere.



Ms. Yvonne Cleavelands DIY “Calvary” (above); Ms. Willie May Patterson’s legacy: her garden and rock wall (below)



Andrea Wuerth