

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Prioritize People Over Politics, Profits, Panic, and Propaganda!

Words From our New Executive Director



George Barrett and Mother Tonya Barrett

I am honored to step into the role of Executive Director of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center. The past six years of being a MCJC staff member have groomed me for this moment. I have been blessed to learn from mentors and dear friends like MCJC co-founders Della Pollock and Hudson Vaughan. They have taught me what it means to listen, listen, and then, listen again. They have taught me what hard work really looks like. They have also taught me the powerful skill of releasing control and getting out of the way in order for community to work!

It's been a journey of a lifetime to transition from an engaged student volunteer in 2014 to an organizational leader today. The members of this community, this black community, have guided my steps, taught me valuable life lessons, and showed me what real community justice looks like.

I spent the first eight years of my life in a community of Boston, Mass, that was similar to Northside. I lived with my mother, Tonya (who many of you know and consistently compliment for looking much younger than her actual age), and my grandmother Josephine. My great grandparents, Lula Bell and Arthur Hutchins, lived down the street and helped raise me while my mom was getting her masters degree. Our house was the gathering place for every Thanksgiving, Christmas, family cookout, and other celebrations. I was surrounded by strong black leaders like my great Aunt Barbara who was a district representative for the historically black Dorchester neighborhood of Boston and host of other community activists. What I have come to realize is that I have been learning what community looks, feels, sounds, and smells like since I was born.

Twenty years later, I have the opportunity to continue these traditions in a new home place. Northside has become a home place for me as a young black man living in Chapel Hill. I am excited to continue strategizing and discussing politics with neighborhood leaders like Ms. Keith Edwards. I am honored to listen to the stories of struggle and triumph from long-term residents and civil rights heroes. I see the Jackson Center thriving in Chapel Hill/Carrboro for decades to come. We are at a critical juncture in the Jackson Center's story. Leaders, past and present, have built robust systems, programs, and relationships that will enable the mission of the MCJC to sustain for many years. I see the Jackson Center as a model for grassroot, community-first development that other communities around the world can learn from and adapt. Our work is simultaneously local and global. And I am so very lucky to work with the most amazing staff, community of volunteers and partners, and as I steward the vision of our beloved community. I hope I serve the mission well.

Your son,
George Barrett
Executive Director of the
Marian Cheek Jackson Center
for Saving and Making History

A Message from Principal Sharpless: 'The Village' Cares

As we begin the 2020-21 school year, we have the privilege to stand at the brink of greatness. The decision to succeed or give up is within our reach. Therefore, I encourage each of us to succeed. I am living proof that The Village takes care of its own. The Village recognizes its hurts, achievements, and aspirations; and refuses to stop short of anything other than triumph. The Village cares for its own and refuses to give anything less than the support needed.



I know this because The Village took care of me, recognized my genius and individuality while caring for me, and propelling me to be my best self. With that being said, please know that we are committed to ensuring that our young scholars are our priority and we are determined that our students not only stand on the brink of greatness BUT continuously operate in their greatness. This greatness is evidenced in our students' genius and individuality!!! And Northside staff is intent on cultivating, building upon, and maximizing our student's genius and individuality. In this season I am personally resolved to overcoming ALL obstacles. We are thrilled that you have allowed us into your homes while entrusting us with your most precious gifts, your children.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to share your thoughts, ideas, and/or concerns. We embrace this school year as with any opportunity to serve our Village.

-Principal Coretta Sharpless

Meet the Newest Member of the MCJC Team

Hello, dear neighbors! I've just joined the Jackson Center's team as Special Projects Director, a new role supporting Executive Director, George Barrett and Director of Operations, Yvonne Cleveland as they lead the Jackson Center onward and upward! Over the past decade, I've worked closely with Northside resident Maggie West, as a Co-Director at the Community Empowerment Fund. It's such a giant gift to be able to press forward in the work of justice with the Jackson Center, whose work recognizes the abundant and textured wisdom that lives in community experience.

I am an immigrant: originally from Hong Kong and Beijing, I now live in Durham. I grew up without a sense of rootedness, but after I came to the area as a student, community members at CEF built powerful relationships with me that transformed my life. They taught me that home is found in people. I knew that I had found home here in Beloved community and had to stay!



I'm still learning lots about the Jackson Center and neighborhoods, and I'd love to connect with you and hear your thoughts and experiences as neighbors of Northside, Pine Knolls and Tin-Top! I love food, paddling, gardening, games, and animals, and would love to chat about any of those things! In the upcoming months, I hope to run into you in-person around the neighborhood (at a safe social distance), but you can also reach me anytime through the Jackson Center phone (919-960-1670) or at janet@jacksoncenter.info. 'Til then, wishing you health, joy & connection!

-Janet Xiao

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CONTINUE! WELLNESS WALKS/ HOT MEAL DELIVERY/ BINGO/ WELCOME



Ask Keith GET READY TO GO VOTE!

Ask Keith will be back next month. If you have a question you'd like to ask her about the community, call or email the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670/contact@jacksoncenter.info



COVID, Continued: Dr. Whitney Robinson Explains ‘Phase 2.5’

Yes, we are still doing this. As a public health researcher, I know that we shouldn’t be here: more than 185,000 people in the United States dead from COVID-19, another huge number who were hospitalized or are still in recovery from illness, small businesses struggling or closed down, tens of millions of people out of work, our children’s schools closed, a burst of cases from UNC’s bringing undergrads back to campus. We shouldn’t be here, but here we are.

One big update: On Friday, September 4, Governor Cooper moved the state to “Phase 2.5” because numbers in the state have stabilized some. But this won’t change much for people in our county. UNC’s reopening increased Chapel Hill’s coronavirus case counts a lot. So Orange County is being extra cautious and leaving most restrictions in place through October. However, there is one piece of really good news: PLAYGROUNDS WILL OPEN FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11. As a mom of two young kids, I say HOORAY!

Given how widespread the virus is now, this is all going to last for a while, probably another year with some kinds of restrictions. Now’s a good time to think about the risks that are important to you and how to reduce other risks. How will your family adapt holiday gatherings? How will you see older or high-risk folks in your life? How will you take care of your mental health and well-being?



- Below are a few suggestions worth repeating:
- Take walks outside as much as you can. The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus does not spread well outdoors.
 - Take care of your health. Don’t skip important health care appointments.
 - Keep your kids on their vaccination schedules.
 - Different masks for different purposes. For low-risk situations (grocery store, talking to a neighbor outside on their porch), I use one of my washable cloth masks. For higher-risk situations (crowded indoor space like the DMV or a busy workplace), I use one of the surgical masks.
 - Ventilation, ventilation, ventilation. If you’re riding in a car with someone who doesn’t live with you, roll down the windows and wear a mask.
 - If you’re interested in possibly being part of a trial of vaccines being developed for SARS-CoV-2, you can get more info here: <https://coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/>
 - You’ve got this. I’ve seen you taking care to prevent the spread of this virus. I see you. Thank you.
 - Dr. Whitney Robinson is an Associate Professor at UNC’s Gillings School of Public Health. She lives in Northside and is a regular contributor to the Northside News.

-Dr. Whitney Robinson

Neighbors Share Thoughts on Students’ Return Amidst COVID-19

We asked two of our neighbors who are working either on campus or other areas around town, how they felt about the campus reopening and the students returning in the midst of COVID 19. Here are their responses:

“It’s good for schools to open. Everyone needs their education, but we don’t know if this virus is gone or not and who has it or who doesn’t have it. We have to be careful.” Anonymous, Northside Neighbor

“I work in a medical building on campus and have to come in contact with COVID patients at my job, so I have to keep myself safe. I was quarantined at one time because one of my co-workers had COVID. I am a people person and that was not a good feeling, having to stay in. I see students walking around with no masks and I tell the ones I see on my street, “where’s your mask?” I know a lot of people don’t want to wear masks, but you have to sacrifice what you want to do for the people. What are you doing to help keep others safe? If you get sick or someone in your family gets sick, you can’t go to the hospital to see them. This COVID is for real. It is not a hoax! It is not a joke! It’s serious!” Cleo Caldwell, Northside Neighbor

George Barrett and Kathy Atwater

October Birthdays

10/3	Ms. Roxy Farrington
10/9	Ms. Megan Stanley
10/13	Ms. Deborah Burnette
10/14	Ms. Elaine Gordon
10/15	Rev. Albert Williams
10/22	Ms. Jonetta Roberson
10/23	Mr. James and Ms. Destiny Burnette
10/24	Ms. Teresa Shaw
10/31	Ms. Charley Norwood

In Memoriam

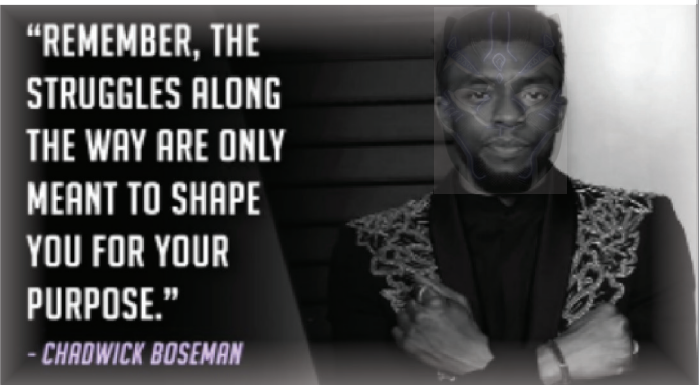
Calvin Lamont Farrington, Sr.
February 11, 1952- August 17, 2020



Walter Douglas McMillan
September 4, 1951 - August 24, 2020

Remembering Professor Randall Kenan

This month in his online journal, *Stone Walls*, our Pine Knolls neighbor *Mike Ogle* writes about the legacy of UNC Professor Randall Kenan, who passed away last week at 57. Kenan was known for his fiction that explored what it meant to be Black and gay in the South. Check out Mike’s article and many others on race and local history at stonewalls.substack.com.



FREE COVID TESTING
Every Wednesday from
10 am–2 pm
R7 Parking Lot,
725 MLK Jr. Blvd.

Chapel Hill (next to Town Hall)
Sponsored by Orange County

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!
IF IT DIDN’T, WHY WOULD PEOPLE KEEP TRYING TO TAKE IT AWAY
-REP. JOHN LEWIS

YOUR VOTE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

November 3, 2020 is an important date. It is the date we vote to determine the political leadership on the national, state, and local level. There are methods to vote if you do not feel that you want to vote in person on November 3rd.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

If you are not registered to vote in NC and lived in state for at least 30 days, you can register by completing and submitting a voter registration form to Orange County Board of Elections (OCBOE). You will need a government issued photo ID with your current address on it. If ID does not have current address, you must have a bill with the correct address along with your name. Registration forms are available online at Board of Elections’ website, public libraries, or DMV website and offices.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter in NC can request an Absentee Ballot application NOW. The Board of Elections has already started to send out ballots to voters who have submitted their completed form. You can request a form at www.orangecountync.gov , by telephone 919-245-2350 and by email at vote@orangecountync.gov . Follow instructions carefully. Completed request form should be returned to OCBOE by USPS. Orange County Board of Election, PO Box 220, Hillsborough, NC 27278, by DHL, FedEx or UPS to Orange County Board of Elections, 208 S. Cameron Street, Hillsborough NC 27278, by FAX 919-644-3318 or by email at vote@orangecountync.gov or at early voting sites when they open in October.

EARLY VOTING

During early voting, in addition to voting, you can register, change your address, and turn in completed absentee ballots.

SITES:

Orange Works at Hillsborough Commons: 113 Mayo St, Hillsborough
Carrboro Town Hall: 301 W Main St, Carrboro
Chapel of the Cross: 304 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill
Efland Ruritan Club: 3009 Forrest Avenue, Efland
Seymour Senior Center: 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill
University Mall: 201 S Estes Dr, Chapel Hill

DATES AND HOURS:

Thursday–Friday, October 15–16	8 am –7:30 pm
Saturday, October 17	8 am –3 pm
Sunday, October 18	12 pm –5 pm
Monday –Friday, October 19 –23	8 am –7:30 pm
Saturday, October 24	8 am –3 pm
Sunday, October 25	12 pm –5 pm
Monday -Friday, October 26-30	8 am -7:30 pm
Saturday, October 31	8 am -3 pm
Monday –Friday, October 26 –30	8 am –7:30 pm
Saturday, October 31	8 am –3 pm

Housing Assistance: A Message from Orange County

Emergency Housing Assistance requests continue to increase. We are seeing more repeat requests and a need that exceeds the \$4000 cap they had put into place a few months ago. Based on discussions with the other jurisdictions, we are increasing the maximum amount to ~\$6500 (equal to roughly 6 months of fair market rent for a 2 bedroom apartment) and unlimited requests up to this maximum. -- OC