

Northside News

Springing Into Celebrations

We see cause for celebration everywhere. Over the past month, we celebrated and advocated for two proposed new affordable housing developments slated to be built next to the Northside neighborhood. We celebrated the families and kids growing up in the neighborhood by bringing them together with the Northside Music Day. We celebrated the care and support provided to the children by the Boys and Girls Club. We celebrated the return of the Wills Clinic after a two year hiatus. We celebrated the addition of our new Director of Development, Michelle Brown. We celebrated the histories of locations that are significant to local Black communities with the launch of the Places page on From the Rock Wall. And we celebrated being able to celebrate together again.

-Diana Koo, Editor

A Musical Day in Northside

Written By Caroline Englert

Music was in the air on Saturday, March 26! Members of the Student Leadership Group hosted a Neighborhood Music Day at the Boys and Girls Club located at the intersection of Craig and Gomains. Following the Halloween parade in October, neighbors in attendacne wanted to provide more joy-making events for children and families in Northside. A variety of music-centered activities and refreshments were offered. Kids decorated DIY guitars made of cardboard boxes, paint sticks and rubber bands, and maracas made of plastic eggs, dried rice and beans, and spoons. Musical picture books were read with instruments accompanying them and the Jackson Center’s very own Brentton Harrison led a special beatboxing workshop and freestyle session. Both community and on-campus organizations provided volunteer support for the event. The Carrboro ArtsCenter — a local Arts Education non-profit — led a draw-what-you-hear activity to encourage kids’ artistic interpretations of different genres of music. Students in the UNC Musical Empowerment club facilitated the event’s primary activity the instrument petting zoo. Musical Empowerment facilitates free one-on-one music lessons for children, building mentor-mentee relationships based on a shared love of music. For the event, they provided a keyboard, violin, and guitar for neighborhood residents to experiment with and gave basic guidance on how to play them. The event brought Northside residents of all ages together. The afternoon was filled with many smiles, joyful sounds, and — as with most any Northside event — plenty of dancing! We hope this event happens again to connect more families with free music and art opportunities.

Boys & Girls Club Celebration Day

Every spring we celebrate our ongoing partnerships with community partners like the local Boys and Girls Club. This year we hosted a pizza party with the club where the kids had a chance to dance, play and celebrate our exploration of local history!



Keepin’ It 100 : Housing Is A Right

Keepin’ it 100 was a day of joy, creative advocacy, and delicious hot dogs (courtesy of Game Time Hot Dogs), topped off with a special performance from the Affordable Housing musical. Our neighborhood and wider community showed up to support the Jay St. and Trinity Ct. affordable housing developments and share why there is such a need for affordable housing right now! Thank you to friends, advocates, elected officials, and neighbors for celebrating and advocating with us for 100 more units of affordable housing for our community. This event was another moment of beloved community; one that is vibrant, diverse, multi-generational, and filled with housing that is dignified, stable, and truly affordable!



Introducing Our New Director of Development!

Michelle Rolanda Brown (MRB) came to Chapel Hill as a student in 2014 and remained in the Triangle area following graduation in 2018 in order to continue work with the Silent Sam Movement. Following the monument’s toppling, MRB served as a teacher for 3 years, first as a preschool teacher, then a middle school and high school Youth Activism teacher, and most recently as a school-age Urban Garden & Kitchen teacher. MRB is passionate about building inclusive, safe and thoughtful communities, and felt drawn to the Jackson Center due to our commitment to thoughtfully and intentionally serve the community. As the Director of Development, MRB will be leading the Jackson Center’s fundraising efforts. Outside of work, Michelle dances with a local Salsa team that teaches the African roots of the Latin dance, and frequently travels for Salsa and Bachata conferences. If you see her in the neighborhood, give her a wave



Take a Walk Down Memory Lane with the Places Page

Did you ever look forward to getting a hot dog or a chuck wagon sandwich from Bill’s Bar-b-que for lunch? Did you ever shop at Berman’s Clothing Store? Did you protest at the Pines? Do you remember when 411 West was home to Hollywood Cab? Are you a proud graduate of Lincoln High School? Find out more about these and other locations that hold history for the Black community on the **Places** page of *From the Rock Wall*, the Jackson Center’s showcase website for oral histories, photos, and more that tell the story of Northside, Pine Knolls, Tin Top, and other historically Black communities in our county. Browse around and see what you find! (<https://fromtherockwall.org/places>) And if you have stories to tell or if you’d like to upload old photos, menus, church bulletins, newspaper clippings, posters, signs or more from past and present places that have mattered to you in this community, please visit the **Respond** page (<https://fromtherockwall.org/respond>) and share them there. Feel free to reach out to Kathryn Wall, our co-director of Public History at kathryn@jacksoncenter.info if you have questions, have content you’d like to share, or if you’d like to sit down for an oral history interview to tell about it!



The Wills Clinic

Ms. Kathy Atwater

It has been determined that one of the main causes of loss of black owned property nationwide is lack of documentation. Wills and other documents are important so the property owner’s wishes can be carried out after they pass. Otherwise it is left to the decision of the courts. In the case of multiple heirs, it can be difficult for surviving family members if all the heirs are not located and the property is left to the estate. In times past, the Jackson Center has sponsored wills clinics which allowed neighbors to have their wills and other documentation prepared by law students and board certified attorneys, at no cost to the residents! We were hoping to provide this service two years ago but because of the pandemic and the covid restrictions, we had to wait until this could be done safely for all involved. This year we partnered with UNC Law Students and Legal Aid of North Carolina to provide this service again! With the approval of St. Joseph Church’s administration, the wills clinic was held in the church’s basement on Thursday, March 17th from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. We were able to schedule 15 residents during that time period and have a waiting list for those still interested in having their wills done. We hope to be able to provide this service again in the fall, so be sure to look out for the announcement in future Northside Newsletters!

One of the students helping with the Wills Clinic was Kate Shurtleff, a second-year law student who began serving at the Jackson Center her senior year at UNC-CH. She said, *“I was ecstatic to see an opportunity to use my legal knowledge to help members of the community. The Wills Clinic creates a sense of security for the clients and their families which can make a world of difference. On top of that, connecting with elders in the community beyond the university is an extremely valuable experience. This work connects to the initiatives I have worked on and supported as a service partner and member of the student leadership group. Helping community members keep their homes and personal items in their families works against gentrification and university encroachment on the neighborhoods. It means a lot to me to support the Jackson Center as my skill sets evolve.”*

Here are pictures from the event and a few comments from residents who attended:

“The Clinic was very good! (The students and attorneys) were very thorough, very polite, and very patient! All my questions were answered. I would definitely recommend the wills clinic to others!”

“My family had been discussing having this done, and I was glad I got scheduled before it filled up! Everything went well! The attorneys and students were good, answered all questions, and were very professional! I would definitely recommend everyone get their will done, especially if they have assets!”



In Memoriam



Mr. Jonathan Davis
June 26, 1971~March 26, 2022



Ms. Shirley Edwards
March 22, 1938~March 24, 2022



Mr. Sampie Atwater
Sept. 1935~March 2022



Mrs. Motaver (Farrington) Eubanks
October 13, 1930 ~ April 5, 2022

COMMUNITY BOARD

Music Maker Event: Freight Train Blues Series
Every Friday from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, May 13 - June 10, 2022

Carrboro Town Commons

The Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, will present the Music Maker Foundation’s Freight Train Blues series of live concerts every Friday evening between May 13 and June 10 at the Carrboro Town Commons, 301 W. Main St. The series is a collaboration among the Town of Carrboro Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Resources; the Music Maker Foundation; and WUNC 91.5FM. The concert series was held virtually the past two years in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic safety measures. More information: www.freighttrainblues.com

Come Out on May 20th - Sacred Soul of North Carolina Revue
Weaver Gospel Singers Tribute

Junior members of the Weaver Gospel Singers in song and with an oral history – will pay tribute to group leader Mrs. Susie Weaver, who passed away in 1984. Mrs. Weaver’s original song “Freedom Comes To Chapel Hill” was recorded live at First Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina by JCP Records during the Civil Rights era. In addition to singing, Mrs. Weaver along with her husband Mr. Bynum Weaver owned a funeral parlor and was active in the Civil Rights movement. The music will be accompanied by praise dancer Joshua Weaver, Mrs. Weaver’s grandson. This set is presented in partnership with the Marian Cheek Jackson Center.



Thurs. April 28th
5:30-8:00PM Open House Carolina Square Food provided at event
Fri. April 29th
9:30-11:30AM Developing sites bus tour Hargraves Community Center Register online
11:30-1:30PM Open House Hargraves Community Center Food provided at event
1:30-3:30PM Soundwalk of Northside Historical Walking Tour Hargraves Community Center bring headphones wear walking shoes dress comfortably
5-7PM Shape Downtown! Carolina Square
Sat. April 30th
10:30AM-1:30PM Open House Hargraves Community Center Food provided at event



CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO AREA ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. AS WE HOST THE INAUGURAL

**ORANGE-CHATHAM
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 • 10 AM-2 PM
750 S. Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill, NC. • FREE and Open to the Public.

Join us for a family-centered festival curated to highlight and celebrate African art, culture, and cuisine. Performances by local musicians, dancers, poets, artists, vendors, food trucks and more

The address Licolon Center

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Janie Alston
- 3 - Cleo Caldwell
- 6 - Diana Koo
- 7 - Valerie Foushee
- 9 - Crystal Collins
- 17 - Garland Foushee
- 18 - Kay Gattis
- 19 - Richelle Watson
- 24 - Josh Davis
- 29 - Jennette Farrington
- 30 - Donnie “Hollywood” Riggsbee
- 30 - Gladys Pendergraph-Brandon

“Live for yourself and you will live in vain. Live for others and you will live again.”
-Bob Marley