

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Housing Justice Pioneers: Building Our Future

I was asked, “how many years have you been a part of the Compass Group?” It actually started before I joined the Jackson Center in 2017. As far back as the 1990’s, I worked alongside a few of my neighbors regarding the issues that faced our neighborhood (The leader of our group called us the 4 Musketeers!). We went to Town Council meetings, were part of Chapel Hill 2020, Rosemary Imagine, and other town initiatives to determine what is needed for the future of the town and to make sure our African American neighborhoods are preserved in the process. We had to show up so they would know we’re still here and we’re still in the game - the game of life! The game of preserving what our ancestors worked hard to have to leave to their children and their children’s children. So I was a Compass Group member before an official name was given to what we were doing. And you will see noted in this issue the names of those who also had the same vision of preserving our neighborhoods - and there are a lot more than 4! So where do we go from here, after 10 years? We continue to follow the direction of our neighbors; listening to their concerns, advocating where necessary, helping whenever possible to preserve the character and the history of this vibrant community. We all remember what it was like to live around people who care for you, look out for you, correct you when necessary, and love you unconditionally. The 10 year anniversary is just scratching the surface of what is possible for the neighborhoods of Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top! For those who choose to live, work, worship, and play in this vibrant community, we say onward and upward! - Kathy Atwater

Honoring 10 Years of Compass Group Leadership

On Tuesday, October 11, the Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin-Top Compass Group celebrated 10 years of community self-determination with a potluck that brought together past and present Compass Group members, families that found housing through the Northside Landbank, and older residents who are part of our neighbor retention programs. The Compass Group is a direction-setting group of neighbors who determine the housing strategy of the Northside Neighborhood Initiative and lead efforts to preserve the futures of Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top. Thanks to their leadership, 53+ affordable units have been added to the neighborhood, 87 households have received critical safety and accessibility repairs, 196 property tax grants have been awarded to elderly households, and 30+ families have moved into new or newly renovated homes, including 50 children!

The event attendees helped create the “love map”, adding a flower onto a map of the neighborhood to mark where they live. They also wore boutonnieres with different colors to signify how long they’ve lived in the neighborhood, and represented their street names on their name tags. Church St. resident and Grillmaster Paul Caldwell prepared the hot dogs and hamburgers, while other neighbors contributed seafood lasagna, gumbo, baked beans, pasta salad, bulgur salad, brownies (regular and gluten-free!), sweet potato pie, peanut butter pie, and more! The Jackson Center Student Leadership Group and other UNC student service partners filled important roles throughout the event, like distributing the boutonnieres, explaining the love map, overseeing the crafts table, and serving food. For these student leaders, this was an opportunity to witness the impact of neighborhood leaders building the future they envisioned for their community.



Compass Group Members and Partners: Past and Present

- Janie Alston
Donna Bell
Anita Booth
Belinda Caldwell
Paul Caldwell
Sophia Mitchell
Carolyn Evans
Jane Farrar
Matthew Fearington
Heather Ferrell
Jane Garrett
Billy Jackson
Virginia Purefoy Jones
Louie Rivers
Loryn Clark
Christie Adisa
Elodie Deneassembaye
Kay Gattis
David Lyons
Lead Whitehead
Joshua Davis
Crystal Collins
Kathy Atwater
George Barrett
Christine Abernathy
Hudson Vaughan
Graham Smokoski
Aspen Romeyn
Lillian Alston
Jarrett Dawson
Aly Peeler
Sebastian York
Keith Edwards
William Gattis
Leo Gaev
Joyce Yao
Dan Levine
Evan Covington Chavez
Jonathan Peterson
Michael Palmer
Stephanie Barnes-Simms

Home

We pinched our prided, potent, prized penny
Before our offered coffer makes a ‘clank’
Now that our wizened fingers are many
Behold the power in Northside’s land bank
Like “home”, the heart is beaten down with time
“the magic gold which from the seeker flies”
But the prudent know aging isn’t a crime
Changes are daily and dear to wise eyes
Northside’s legacy of dialysis
Filters toxins out, infuse nutrients in
Sankofa: to retrieve, not reminisce
We go back and fetch it and then begin
I went to de chapel on de hill
An I didn’t go to stay
But I stayed for awhile
An ma soul start to smile
As I looked back into de valley
Let’s build a home with all our hands
Stack brick on brick until it stands
On this most sacred borrowed land
When our edifice turns to sand
We’ll find new hands and build again
Hum while we set in place the final joist
Lift our faces to the sky and rejoice
When the last nail rings out like a joyous voice
What can we make of 308?
and out of our hearts most beloved ache
What a beautiful eye through a lens see
To make our future project on Lindsay

by Ty Chapman

Homeowner Feature: Tiffany Watson

How did you get involved with Habitat? Did you know that the homes were going to be built in Northside?

I heard they were having an interest meeting at Hargraves and the neighborhood they were building in was the Northside area. I thought it would be good to attend and submit an application. We already lived in Northside and thought it would be great for my first house to be in a neighborhood I knew well.

Do you remember the moment that you were accepted to Habitat? What happened? What went through your mind?

We took a family trip to Myrtle Beach in 2016 and I received a call while I was laying out in the sun that I was accepted. It was a great feeling! All I could think about was how was I going to decorate.

What is one memory you have from being on the construction site while building your home/your neighbors homes?

I remember one day we were assigned to help with roofing. This was my first time ever being on a roof and I was terrified. Brian was amazing! He made myself and all the volunteers that had also never been on a roof feel very comfortable. That day we completed half of the roof and Brian said that was one of the best roof experiences he’s had with volunteers. It made us feel really good!

Is it meaningful to you to be able to live in Northside (as opposed to somewhere else)? If so, why?

I moved to Northside my freshman year of high school I believe and to be able to continue to live in a neighborhood you kind of grew up in is comforting. I love meeting new people, but because my kids also knew the area well I didn’t want to leave this amazing community!

What makes this neighborhood special to you and why do you want to live here?

This neighborhood is special because I have made so many memories here. From visiting and having family gatherings at my Aunt Kathy’s house on Lindsay Street to visiting my Aunt Sis (Marie Lyons) over on Graham Street. We, my brother and friends, were always running through the neighborhood. And who wouldn’t want to live a few streets over from Franklin Street. I’m a huge Tar Heel fan and being so close to the action and hearing the cheering during games is an experience you can’t get anywhere else. With the college student moving in it has changed a lot, but we are a close knit community and we take care of and watch out for our neighbors.

If your name is missing, please email christine@jacksoncenter.info so we can add a correction in next month’s issue!

steer and steady

You’ve encountered
winds, yes
but they did not
steal your sail
they did not
sink your ship
nor sour
your senses
You have yet
to lose
your power
to steer
and steady
the course

by Cortland Gilliam

Social Host Ordinance

A social host ordinance is an evidence-based strategy to address high-risk drinking and improve residential quality of life. If a disruptive gathering violates a social host ordinance, the hosts (and their landlord in subsequent violations) can be fined.

Why has this been proposed for the Town of Chapel Hill?

- 1. To deter residents from throwing loud and unruly parties, especially in neighborhoods around campus where students and long-term residents co-exist. These parties harm the quality of life for families, elders, and other community members.
- 2. This has been a challenge especially in Northside, a historically Black neighborhood, where over 70% of the student households throwing these comprehensively disruptive parties are majority-white (and <1% of student households are majority-Black).
- 3. The current noise ordinance has little incentive for property owners to hold tenants accountable for disruptive behavior, resulting in some properties becoming trouble spots for loud parties year after year.
- 4. To reduce harm from high-risk drinking behaviors.

Who is proposing this ordinance?

The idea for a social host ordinance is put forth by the Campus & Community Coalition (CCC), alongside its partners (including the Jackson Center). The CCC is a collaboration between the Town, University, and community partners to reduce the negative outcomes associated with high-risk drinking while promoting a vibrant downtown community. The Jackson Center brought forth the perspectives and lived experiences of long-term residents in Northside, one of the neighborhoods that has experienced the most comprehensive harm from loud and unruly parties.

If you are interested in learning more about the ordinance and providing your input, the CCC will be hosting a forum at the Hargraves Community Center on Thursday, 11/3 from 6-8pm. This will be a space for community dialogue. For more information, email george@jacksoncenter.info.

THIS HALLOWEEN WEEKEND, YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

A SOBER NEIGHBORHOOD DANCE PARTY + FUNDRAISER

THERE WILL BE CIDER, HOTDOGS, AND S'MORES!

BEATS BY DJ SPHINX

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH

7:30 PM TO 10:30 PM

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!

FENCED-IN YARD BEHIND 308 LINDSAV STREET

\$5-\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION

PROCEEDS GO TO THE JACKSON CENTER

HOSTED BY LINDSAV ST. NEIGHBORS TIZ + AIDAN

MARIAN CHEEK JACKSON CENTER

COMMUNITY : JUSTICE

UNC SAGA

LGBTQ Pop-up Center of Carrboro

ONE VIBE

SPHINX

Saturday NOV 12 2022

Black STEAM Fair

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics

Black youth from 10 to 17 years old

10:30am to 1:30pm

Hargraves Community Center's Gym

216 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Sponsored by E3 Camp, Empowering Excellence thru Exploration Camp

E3camp.com

In collaboration with Hargraves Center

November Birthdays	
Nov. 5 - Billue Baldwin	Nov. 23 - Chandler Alston
Nov. 6 - Eva Barnett	Nov. 23 - Jakini Adisa
Nov. 11 - Gwen Atwater	Nov. 25 - Joseph Farrington
Nov. 14 - Aisha Booze-Hall	Nov. 27 - Colleen Rogers
Nov. 15 - Mattie Helen Galbreath	Nov. 28 - Louis Wijnberg
Nov. 16 - Paul Caldwell	Nov. 28 - Margaret Stone
Nov. 18 - Sallie Pendergraft	Nov. 29 - Belinda Caldwell
Nov. 19 - Rufus Cotton	Nov. 30 - Betty Gear
Nov. 22 - Olivia James	

Editorial: A Student Perspective on the Social Host Ordinance

My name is Bergen Murray and I am the President of the Jackson Center Student Leadership Group. The Marian Cheek Jackson Center is a community-based organization whose mission is to honor, renew, and build community within the historically Black neighborhoods in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The Student Leadership Group is a coalition of UNC students that are partners in service and advocacy for the interests of these neighborhoods, bridging the gap between UNC and residents. As students, our group supports the proposed “Social Host Ordinance” because we have heard from neighbors and seen firsthand how their quality of life has been impacted by students throwing loud and unruly parties.

One of our group members lives in Northside, and he shared that last month, two of his friends who are long-term residents were affected by the loud noise and disruptiveness of student neighbors throwing parties. These neighbors live in two separate areas in Northside and these parties were hosted by two different student households. They voiced their concerns to the students, but the student neighbors did not accommodate the requests of these neighbors. Ultimately, one friend was unable to put his child to sleep due to the loud noise and the other felt their house shaking till 3am due to the unnecessarily loud bass. I went to talk to the students who threw one of the parties the following week, and I left feeling upset and angry at how defensive and unapologetic they were about their party. I realized that this is just a tiny bit of what neighbors who have been living here for decades must have experienced.

Both these parties took place the same weekend, which makes you wonder, how many unruly parties does each household put up with each year? For a student, it’s just a few parties a semester, but residents have multiple houses on their block throwing parties every year, not to mention drunk shenanigans when students are walking through the neighborhood to and from these parties. 4th generation Northside resident Ms. Kathy Atwater and other neighbors have experienced “intoxicated party-goers urinating in yards, throwing red cups, beer bottles and cans, screaming and yelling to the top of their lungs at 3 in the morning.”

The current mechanisms to address nuisance issues in Chapel Hill have not prevented these problem gatherings. We obviously don’t want to stop other students from having fun, but we support limitations on the unruly parties and disrespectful drunken actions that detrimentally impact the lives of community members.



Introducing Housing Justice Intern Michael Jones

Hello! I’m a native of New Orleans, Louisiana (root for the Saints and Pelicans, of course) who is proud to now call Durham, NC home. I am the husband to Nicole and the father to 15 year-old boy/girl twins, Carter and Camille, and an adult daughter Tonnica. I retired after a 30-year military career. My call to faith began as a teenager but has only been fully realized in the past 6 years with a call to Divinity School and the ministry of preaching. I am simply, “a sinner saved by Grace!” I’m excited to be working with the Jackson Center in the area of housing justice. My experience in New Orleans pre and post-Katrina, and my time in Durham has deepened my commitment to the fight for affordable housing and the flourishing of all. I look forward to building and sustaining relationships with the greater Northside community.

In Memoriam



Mr. Joseph Bernard “Squeak” Lassiter
October 28, 1967 ~ September 11, 2022



Mr. Robert Allen Merritt
July 11, 1960 ~ September 19, 2022



Mr. Larry Reed Foushee
May 3, 1946 ~ September 21, 2022