

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Women of the Past, Present, and Future Movements

Ms. Mae McLendon says that she’s retired, but that’s a lie. While she works part time for the Jackson Center and the Town of Carrboro, she also helps organize the annual CROP Hunger Walk, serves on the Orange County Affordable Housing Advisory Board, holds multiple positions at St. Paul A.M.E., and works the polls every election season. (There’s more I’m leaving out, but I only have so much space.) Ms. Mae has been serving this community for five decades, with the bulk of her civic activities happening after her so-called “retirement” (reTirEmeNT for any Gen-Z reading this) from the NC Department of Corrections.

Ms. Mae is exceptional, but her commitment to service and to her community is mirrored by women from all generations in these neighborhoods. There are too many to name, but you already know their names, and you will know their names. - Diana Koo

A Tale of Two Cities

A tale of two cities speaks to the building of affordable housing on Merritt Mill Rd. A fast-paced street where nestles the beatiful affordable housing complex Perry Place. Forty-eight units of one and two bedroom apartments, half in Chapel Hill, the other half in Carrboro.



Mrs. Velma Perry

The apartment namesake Mrs. Velma Perry was a resident of Chapel Hill. Like these apartments, her devotion to her city and her community encompassed both towns. She was for what was RIGHT! What hurt Chapel Hillians also hurt Carrborians. Not having a great place to live if your income was low. Trying to make ends meet at the end of the month. Trying to provide a good life for your children. Trying to give them a safe enviroment for growing, learning, and striving to be the best they could become.

Mrs. Velma is looking down from Heaven smiling from ear-to-ear. She looks down at what holds her name. Two beautiful apartment complexes. A small clubhouse with a laundry room. A small gathering area for tenants to come use the computer. Maybe watch a football game on the large TV screen. The apartments have two bedrooms with large bathrooms, one in the hallway and the other in the master bedroom. It has a laundry room for a washer and dryer. The kitchen is beautiful with marbled countertops and black appliances to match. A nice little pantry ready to store groceries. A cozy balcony with a railing is awaiting chairs so a family can sit and soak up the sun and thank God that someone thought about the struggling and wanted to make it better for them. Finally, a parent can look at their child and not feel ashamed of what their income can provide for them. They have a place to call home where they can be happy and PROUD of where they live! There is a play area with a gazebo for the watchful eye of parents while their children play. The street may be a challenge as busy cars zoom by all day and night.



Perry Place apartment bathroom.



Perry Place apartment living room and kitchen

But Mrs. Velma Perry looks down from Heaven at Perry Place. She continues to smile. She says “Thank you, God! They have done well! Help them build more!! Chapel Hill and Carrboro need them! They even remembered people with disabilities? They did good God! They did good!!”

Linda Carver

For more information about Mrs. Velma Perry, visit <https://fromtherockwall.org/people/velma-perry>

The Next Generation

Nevaeh’ Hodge and Joyah Horton are two high school students who were part of the 2022 cohort of the Sankofa Freedom School (run by the Jackson Center, IFC for Social Service, and the Southern Vision Alliance), where they and 13 other youth leaders learned about local Black activism and organizing. They put this knowledge to work as officers for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP Youth Council.

Their leadership doesn’t end there. They are both Equity and Empathy Ambassadors for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School district, where they work to strengthen district-level equity and engagement and amplify and empower student voices. Nevaeh’ also serves on the Carrboro Youth Council and the Black and Brown Student Coalition at her high school. Joyah is a James Cates Scholar who has spoken to the Chapel Hill Historical Society about her ancestor George Moses Horton. She was also celebrated with the Superintendent’s Award, Hamlett’s Heroes, as a student who consistently contributes to an enduring impact on CHCCS.

Here is their advice for the next generation of youth leaders.

The Change

In the past when we participated in or heard of a movement it was led by adults. This has changed significantly over the years as youth have started to speak up and fight for what they believe in. Although there is more space for young people to share their voices now, there is still a lot of disagreement between the youth leaders and the people who do not see the problems going on in our society. As a young person, you may often be scared to speak up or you might not think your opinion is important. This could not be any further from the truth. Young people have always been a key part of historical movements like the Little Rock Nine, and the Greensboro sit-ins.

I am telling you as a youth leader myself that you can make a significant difference by just standing up for what you believe in and not letting anyone silence you. To my youth reading this letter, there is always something that can be changed and you can either ignore it or fight for the injustice you see. Even though I encourage every young person to be a part of the movement it does come with many challenges. Some of these challenges may be from people who disagree with you or people who don’t respect you because you are young. You will have some wins and some losses but remember the smallest wins always outshine the biggest losses. It may get tough but remember you started this work for a reason and you are not just doing it for your community but for everyone in the world.



Nevaeh’ Hodge

Dear Future Youth Leaders

J. Cole once said, “Anything’s possible, you gotta dream like you never seen obstacles.” We all have dreams of our ideal world. Whether it’s a world where we are all equal, no longer facing racism, having equal rights, etc. We all want our dreams to become reality, but in order for that to be accomplished we have to work hard and have determination. We all face challenges and setbacks but it’s how we overcome those challenges and obstacles that matter most.

Many of our own activists from the past and present faced obstacles so it’s inevitable that we will face the same. I have even faced challenges in my own life when it comes to making my voice heard. It has been particularly hard being an African-American female student in a predominantly white school district. Over time I have learned that I need to create a safe space for myself and other students of color. A way of creating those spaces for myself is by amplifying my voice. As time goes on I really begin to realize and appreciate these safe spaces that have been created for me. This is because those spaces have become a way for me to express myself, feel seen, feel heard, and have people in my circle that can relate.

The biggest key to overcoming obstacles and accomplishing our goals is to believe in yourself. Be that young man or young woman who will take a stand and encourage others to do the same. No matter what, whether alone or with a group of people, it’s important to stand for something and not fall for anything. We have to stop waiting for things to happen or for people to give us what we need. Instead be that voice that is willing to make a change and make a difference.



Joyah Horton

“Without The Past, We Have No Future”: Black Muslim Women Trailblazers

As Salamu alikuam! I can’t believe it’s already been a year since we were last talking about Ramadan and Eid in the Northside News. As your unfriendly neighborhood Muslimah it’s one of my favorite times of the year! Since Ramadan 2023 is around the corner it’s time to reflect on life as we know it. What better way to do that than to think about the impact of Black Muslim women? Today we’re going to focus on Queen Amina of Zazzau and Halima Aden.

Queen Amina of Zazzau was a West African warrior queen based in the North-West region of what is now Zaria, Nigeria. Her father was the King during her life, then her brother ruled and she followed behind them in quick succession. She was a warrior queen that ruled between 1567 to 1610. During her tenure as queen she expanded the Zazzau borders more than ever before. She was known for being a brave, smart and talented leader. She became a symbol of the power of Black women and the basis for many modern intersectional feminists.



Halima Aden at Paris Fashion Week A/W 2019

In 2019 Halima Aden was the first woman to be featured in Sports Illustrated annual swimsuit edition wearing a hijab or burkini. She is a model, fashion influencer and has been featured on the covers of Allure, British Vogue and Glamour Magazine. Halima is a scholar of Black Muslim fashion. She believes that folks find power and identity in their use of clothing. She has consistently been providing space for other hijabi models such as Ikram Omar Abdi, and Amina Adan in more mainstream fashion.

These women and a multitude of others have impacted what it means to be a Black Muslim woman. I, for one, am excited to hear about strong willed, powerful, strong, passionate, beautiful and kind women. Through the uplifting of each other we are all able to rise.



Statue of Queen Amina in Lagos

That’s all for now.
Sister Aisha

COMMUNITY IFTAR

JOIN US ON FOR A INTERFAITH MEAL

Thursday, March 30th, 2023
6:45 – 8:45 PM
Binkley Baptist Church,
1712 Willow Dr., Chapel Hill

RSVP HERE!!

SCAN ME

<https://forms.gle/VPK34WTKMSDWBYAA>

WHAT IS AN IFTAR?

During Ramadan Muslims across the world fast from sunrise to sunset. During this time folks are unable to eat or drink and practice balanced behaviors during the hours of their fast. To break their fast there is a small item eaten, usually dates/fruit and water. Then folks pray and have another meal to end their fast called iftar. There is both beauty and blessings in breaking fast with someone. Together as a community, we are celebrating the beauty of fasting this Ramadan with a community iftar. Folks from every walk of life are welcome. We hope to see you there!!

Call 919-960-1670 or email Aisha at aisha@jacksoncenter.info if you have any questions or concerns!!

Northside Festival

Please join us for a celebration of spring and community. Bring your family and bring a dish to share with others!

PLEASE RESERVE SAT, APRIL 29TH FROM 12-3:30 ON YOUR CALENDAR

512 W Rosemary ST.

Good Friday Service at Parrish Mountain

April 7 at 12PM
Open to All

In Memoriam

Mr. Kent Carver, Jr.
May 12, 1955 ~ February 12, 2023

Mr. Anthony Arizona Delorie Feaster
April 29, 2005 ~ February 8, 2023

Mr. Claude Bowen Jr.
November 11, 1945 ~ February 5, 2023

E3 Camp

Empowering Excellence thru Exploration

Mission: To expose African-American middle and high school students to the Arts and STEM fields thru hands-on activities, educational field trips and presenters necessary to be productive citizens in the 21st century workforce.

July 6th-July 7th
July 10th-July 14th
July 17th-July 21st
July 24th-July 28th

9am-3pm
Location: Chapel of the Cross
304 E Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Cost: FREE

Students will be exposed to the current and historic work of black artists, inventors, and scientists through hands-on experiences with aerodynamics, coding, electricity, engineering design, forensics, math, music, poetry, solar power, and videography that engage curiosity, imagination, and observation.

Sponsored by E3 Camp e3camp.com

For more information, contact Anissa McLendon at 919-932-5321 or empoweringthru@gmail.com

Join the Town of Chapel Hill's Summer Youth Employment Program

Calling Chapel Hill & Carrboro Youth Ages 14-18!

This summer, work for the Town of Chapel Hill! Positions are about 20 hours/week for 8 weeks, offering flexible scheduling and job skills workshops.

Families must live in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School District and meet income guidelines (earn less than 80% of median income for Chapel Hill)

Learn more:
www.townofchapelhill.org/summeryouth
Apply online:
www.townofchapelhill.org/jobs

Great first job! Applications Open NOW!

March Birthdays

March 4 Waylan Farrington
March 6 Jane Garrett
March 8 Carolyn Evans
March 10 Wade Farrington
March 11 Patricia Jackson
March 12 Maggie West
March 18 Nate Davis
March 23 Deloris Bynum
March 24 Regina Merritt
March 29 Mrs. Kuma Thompson (95 years young!)