



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

January 2013
Volume 9, No. 5

Special Issue

www.townofchapelhill.org

On the Front Burner



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Column by Town Manager Roger Stancil

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." With these words, Dr. King urged us to persevere. In 2013, we take our celebration of Dr. King's legacy forward. Last year was a great success, giving us the opportunity to hear from many and providing multiple opportunities to serve. I encourage you to ask someone to participate this year who did not participate last year. See one of the films at Public Works, sign up for the Day of Service, check the library reading list. Do something you have not done before to honor Dr. King and his vision.

As Scott Beavers recently reminded us, ours is a calling of service in local government, creating a community where people can thrive and treating each other with RESPECT. As we reflect on this day, remember Dr. King's words, "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Employee Sharing Event

Connecting with the Dream – Moving Forward Activities

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Homework Program (3–6 p.m.) and Community Helpers Exhibit (featuring Chapel Hill Transit and Fire Department), 4–5 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Homework Program (3–6 p.m.) and Community Helpers Exhibit (featuring Public Works Department and Landscape Division), 4–5 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

Beautification Project – noon to 2 p.m., Church Street Housing Community

Thursday, Jan. 17

Homework Program (3–6 p.m.) and Community Helpers Exhibit (featuring Police Department), 4–5 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

All employees should check with their supervisors before scheduling service activities during work time. For more details and to register, please see pages 2–3.



Friday, Jan. 18

MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

Monday, Jan. 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Blood Drive, 1–6 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

13th Annual Celebration Program & Lunch

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18

Hargraves Center, 216 N. Roberson St.

Welcome – Lance Norris, Public Works Director

Musical Selection – Public Works Ensemble

Cultural Steps and Movement – Rashii Purefoy, Director, Ebony' Soul Strutters

The History of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration – Maggie Burnett

Transit Singers

The Word Project – Jeff York and poetry winners

Public Works Singers

"Why Should I Move?" – Rosa Parks play performed by Chapel Hill Transit

Closing Remarks – Roger Stancil, Town Manager, and Others

Negro National Anthem – "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Grace and Benediction

Lunch – Following the program, a light lunch of hot dogs and chips will be served.

Employee Activities to Recognize Guiding Principles

Non Violence

In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. (He was 35.) King promptly announced that he would turn over all of the money he received along with the award (\$54,123) to help advance the civil rights movement. When he returned to the U.S. from Norway, where had accepted the Nobel award, he led a nonviolent march to promote voter registration that come to be known as the Selma-to-Montgomery Freedom March. More than 25,000 people took part.

Brotherhood

Dr. King preached, and practiced, a philosophy of racial integration, and would not give ground when faced with the call for separatism. He said: "When I speak of integration I don't mean a romantic mixing of colors, I mean a real sharing of power and responsibility."

Justice

Martin Luther King Jr. made it clear that we all share a human and moral responsibility to join hands as brothers and sisters in the quest for social justice. As famous as he was, Martin Luther King Jr. was not above or below anyone. What turned out to be his final protest march was a gathering of striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn. He was there on April 4, 1968, in order to participate in the protest march the next day, when he was shot dead.

Morality

The time is always right to do what is right. ~Martin Luther King Jr.

Action

Between 1955 and 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. helped change America. He brought to the world's attention how unfairly blacks were treated. He had the help of millions of Americans, but his strong leadership and unprecedented power of speech gave people the faith and courage to keep working peacefully even when others did not. This led to new laws that ended the practice of keeping people of different backgrounds apart, making life fairer for everyone.

- **Homework Program:** An after school program will be held at the Hargraves Center from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 15-17. Town staff will spend time helping children with their homework. Contact: Jeff Clark, 968-2865

- **Community Helpers Exhibit:** Vehicles that represent a range of Town services will be on display for children to visit from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 15-17, outside of Hargraves Center. Staff members will accompany the vehicles and represent services from Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Chapel Hill Transit. Contact: Jeff Clark, 968-2865

- **Video Documentaries:** Presentations of videos will be offered that highlight the history of Dr. King, issues of social justice and race relations, and Barack Obama's rise to the presidency.

Public Works will offer the following presentations: "Martin Luther King Jr.: The Making of a Holiday," "Inauguration of President Obama," "Believe: The Barack Obama Story." Call to schedule a time for your department or group to view: Erin Kawamata, 969-5111, or ekawamata@townofchapelhill.org

Communications and Public Affairs has provided a documentary about the dedication celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill on May 8, 2005. Available for online viewing at www.vimeo.com/chapelhillgov

Melanie Miller photo



Chapel Hill Transit employees reenact the historic event in which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to make room for a white passenger.



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Melanie Miller

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of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

• **Read All About It:** Check the reading list prepared by Chapel Hill Public Library in this special issue (see pg. 4) offering selections on racial equality and civil rights.

• **Beautification Project:** Join employees in planting flowers from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at Church Street Housing Community. RSVP: Robert Minick, rminick@townofchapelhill.org

• **Rosa Parks Play:** A drama reenacting the historic event on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, in which Rosa Parks refused to obey bus driver James F. Blake's order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. The play will be performed by Chapel Hill Transit employees at the celebration event for employees on Friday, Jan. 18.

• **The Word Project** in Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Town employees once again sharpened their pencils and wrote poems in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The submitted poems emphasized the values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action), were based on the life of Dr. King, or referenced a direct quote from Dr. King.

Winners will read/perform their poems at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Employee Celebration on Friday, Jan. 18. They will also have their poems displayed on bus cards in Chapel Hill Transit buses from January through March 2013. All the poems submitted will be displayed at Town Hall during the month of February.

Entries were judged by special guest judge C.J. Suitt, founder of the Sacrificial Poets, a national youth poetry organization. The winners are:

- 1st: Untitled Homage to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Dave Almond, Stormwater Management
- 2nd: Finding Brotherhood – Emily Cameron, Public Works
- 3rd: From Where I Sit – Faith M. Thompson, Ombuds Office
- Honorable Mention - Free At Last?? – Lisa Baaske, Parks & Recreation

Winning entries receive the following awards: First Place - \$100; Second Place - \$50; Third Place - \$25; Honorable Mention - \$15

The Word Project is organized and sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill Public & Cultural Arts office in conjunction with the Chapel Hill Transit, Parks & Recreation and Public Works departments..



Did You Know?

Monday, Jan. 21, 2012, will mark the 25th time (since 1986) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be observed as a U.S. federal holiday – and the 28th time (since 1984) that Chapel Hill observes the day as a town holiday. Chapel Hill was one of the first communities in North Carolina to declare Martin Luther King Jr. Day a municipal holiday.



• **Oral Histories:** Help us design and launch an exciting new project: A Civil Rights Oral History project for Town Employees. Inspired by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Employee Celebration we believe there is infinite value in gathering and preserving the voices and memories of our employee community. We are also collecting names of employees who are interested in telling their stories. Contact: Maggie Hite, 932-2947 or mhite@townofchapelhill.org

• **Blood Drive:** Donate blood! The blood drive, organized in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae Chapel Hill Carrboro Chapter, will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. at Hargraves Community Center on Monday, Jan. 21. Visit redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment.

“Ask someone to participate this year who did not participate last year.”

–Roger Stancil

ment. Contact: Nate Davis, 932-2965 or ndavis@townofchapelhill.org

• **Day of Service – United Way:** Volunteer registration for the Triangle's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, sponsored by United Way of the Greater Triangle, has begun. The 8th annual MLK Day of Service will be held Monday, Jan. 21, and individuals, groups and families may sign up at <http://unitedwaytriangle.galaxydigital.com>.

The nearly 30 projects for 2013 are spread throughout various nonprofit agencies in Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties.

Those who register on the website will receive an MLK Day of Service T-shirt when they check in on Jan. 21. The signature projects run from 9 a.m. until noon. A Martin Luther King reading and a moment of silence will be part of the day at each signature project location.

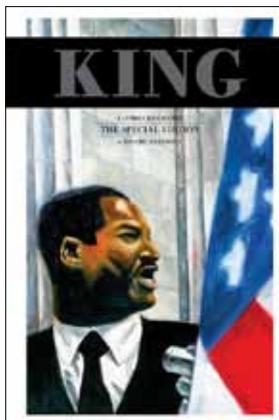
Reading Recommendations from Public Library

At the Chapel Hill Public Library we have more than just books — we have audiobooks on CD, DVDs and even eAudio and eBooks that can be downloaded to your MP3 player, eReader device or computer. Below is a short list of items about Martin Luther King Jr. in each of these formats with the call numbers to match them.

Don't forget: every Town employee can have a free library card, even if you don't live in Chapel Hill or Orange County.

Adults and Teens

- *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement*
Series writer, Steve Fayer. (DVD)
- *A Call to Conscience : The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Edited by Clayborne Carson and Kris Shepard. (Book 323.092 Kin)
- *All Labor Has Dignity*
Martin Luther King, Jr.; edited with introductions by Michael K. Honey. (Book with CD)
- *Hellbound on His Trail : The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the International Hunt for His Assassin*
(Book, CD, eAudio or eBook download)
- *April 4, 1968 : Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America*
Michael Eric Dyson. (Book)
- *At Canaan's Edge : America in the King Years, 1965-68*
Taylor Branch. (Book)
- *Martin Luther King*
Godfrey Hodgson. (Book)



- *King : A Comics Biography*
Ho Che Anderson (Book—Graphic Novel format)
- *Going down Jericho Road : The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*
Michael K. Honey
- *Parting the Waters : America in the King Years, 1954-1963*
Taylor Branch. (Book and eAudio Download)



Grades K — 3

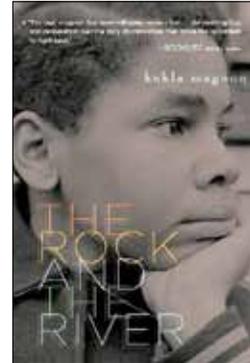
Nonfiction

- *Through My Eyes*
Ruby Bridges
- *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*
Paula Young Shelton
- *My Uncle Martin's Big Heart: A Story About Martin Luther King Jr., Through the Eyes of His Niece*
Angela Farris Watkins

Fiction

- *A Sweet Smell of Roses*
Angela Johnson
- *These Hands*
Margaret H. Mason
- *Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend*
Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud
- *Ruth and the Green Book*
Calvin Alexander Ramsey
- *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Doreen Rappaport
- *Back of the Bus*
Aaron Reynolds

- *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*
Carole Boston Weatherford
- *The Other Side*
Jacqueline Woodson



Grades 4 — 8

Nonfiction

- *Birmingham Sunday*
Larry Dane Brimmer
- *March On!: The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*
Christine King Farris
- *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*
Russell Freedman
- *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968*
Diane McWhorter
- *Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary*
Elizabeth Partridge
- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down*
Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Coretta Scott*
Ntozake Shange

Fiction

- *My Life With the Lincolns*
Gayle Brandeis
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*
Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Rock and the River*
Kekla Magoon
- *One Crazy Summer*
Rita Williams-Garcia