



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

Employee service award nominations are due Jan. 31.

January 2014  
Volume 10, No. 5

Special Issue

www.townofchapelhill.org

## On the Front Burner

Column by Town Manager Roger Stancil

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Everlasting hope and an undying belief that it was never too late to take action to make the world a better place are two characteristics that come to mind when I think of Dr. King. We have made much progress since the 1960s when Dr. King helped us find our way, but making progress is not living the Dream.

In the Town of Chapel Hill, we dedicate the time around Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to remembering the Dream and his leadership so that each of us can plant our own unique version of apple trees. We must continue to tell the stories of where we have been so we never go back. Many of our Town employees were not even born when Dr. King exhorted our country, and the world, to Let Freedom Ring!

To celebrate the life of Dr. King, I encourage each of us to consider:

- Sharing your story with someone younger than you about what you might remember or how your life has been improved by Dr. King’s leadership;
- Taking a moment to meet someone new and expand the Brotherhood Dr. King encouraged;
- Taking advantage of one of the opportunities the Committee has provided to make a difference in someone’s life or to remember and reflect.

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Employee Sharing Week

Connecting with the Dream – Moving Forward

### Activities

#### Tuesday, Jan. 14

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

#### Wednesday, Jan. 15

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

Beautification Project – noon to 1 p.m., Roberson Street Housing Community

#### Thursday, Jan. 16

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



#### Friday, Jan. 17

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

#### Monday, Jan. 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Blood Drive, 1–6 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.

## 14th Annual Celebration Program & Lunch

Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St.  
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, January 17

**Welcome** – Jeff Clark, Chapel Hill Police Captain and MLK Employee Committee Chair

### Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir

**The History of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration** – Maggie Burnett, retiree from Public Works Department

**Keynote Speaker** – NC Senator Valerie Foushee, retiree from Chapel Hill Police Department

### Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir

**The Word Project** – Jeff York, Public and Cultural Arts Administrator, and poetry winners

**Closing Remarks** – Roger Stancil, Town Manager

### Musical Presentation

### Moment of Silence

**Lunch** – Following the program, a light lunch 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 came 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 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 14–16. 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. 14–16, 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 [vimeo.com/chapelhillgov/mlkblvd](http://vimeo.com/chapelhillgov/mlkblvd).



*Members of the Chapel Hill Police Department, including Assistant Chief Bob Overton, help children with their homework at Hargraves Community Center.*



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Editorial/Graphics: Catherine Lazorko,  
Melanie Miller

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[publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org) or (919) 968-2743

# of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- **Library Features:** The Chapel Hill Public Library has special exhibits and a wide variety of publications on Martin Luther King Jr., including audiobooks on CD, DVDs and even eAudio and eBooks that can be downloaded to your MP3 player, eReader device or computer.

- **Beautification Project:** Join employees in planting flowers from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Roberson Street Housing Community. RSVP: Robert Minick, rminick@townofchapelhill.org

- **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 be announced and will read/perform their poems at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Employee Celebration on Friday, Jan. 17. They will also have their poems displayed on bus cards in Chapel Hill Transit buses from January through March 2014. 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.

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. 20, 2014, will mark the 28th time (since 1986) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be observed as a U.S. federal holiday – and the 30th 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.



- **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. 20. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment. Contact: Nate Davis, 932-2965 or [ndavis@townofchapelhill.org](mailto: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 9th annual MLK Day of Service will be held Monday, Jan. 20, and individuals, groups and families may sign up at <http://unitedwaytriangle.galaxydigital.com>.

The nearly 30 projects for 2014 are spread throughout various nonprofit agencies in Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties.

The signature projects run from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. A Martin Luther King reading and a moment of silence will be part of the day at each signature project location.

- **"I Have a Dream" Video:** The Chapel Hill Public Library will produce a video of Town employees reciting the words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

The speech was delivered by Dr. King on August 28, 1963, in which he called for an end to racism in the United States. Delivered to more than 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, the speech was a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement.

The video will be shown during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Employee Sharing Event. Special thanks to Ryan Chamberlain, digital media lab coordinator, for producing this video.

- **Learn More:** The Chapel Hill Public Library not only has books, but also audiobooks on CD, DVDs and eAudio and eBooks that can be downloaded to your eReader device, MP3 player, or computer. Go to [tinyurl.com/ouweom2](http://tinyurl.com/ouweom2) to find a list of items about Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Era.

Remember, Town employees, regardless of where you live, may have a free library card.

# Poetry Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Word Poetry Contest! Featured on this page are the winners from 2013. View the video from 2013 of our celebration at [vimeo.com/57715462](http://vimeo.com/57715462). Winners of the 2014 contest will present their poems at the MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event on Jan. 17. Thanks to all for their participation!

1st place – **Mitch McKinney** (Police)  
“In the Name of the King”

2nd place – **Kay McDaniel** (Public Works)  
“April 4, 1968”

3rd place – **Faith Thompson** (Ombuds)  
“The Man and the Message”

Honorable mention – **Gloria Murchison-Ashford**  
(Planning/Inspections)  
“Loving Your Enemies”

## Untitled Homage to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Now innocent is the past  
So thoroughly and well interred  
Guiltless is the conscience then  
Irreproachably injured  
As I speak I and you speak you  
So quiet here these days we stand  
How same the world is in our eyes  
How change is ever in our hands  
How beneath the strain we bend  
How from our lips a cry is rent  
Of how the fallen rise again  
And what their fall has meant  
Does it not mean we all have dreams  
To which we cling to whit  
Does that not mean our dreams are there  
Can't they be the things we share  
As each day we build anew  
The World. The Dream. Me. You.

— *Dave Almond (Stormwater)*  
1st Place



## Finding Brotherhood

I right-clicked on ‘brotherhood’  
to find words that are similar.  
‘Friendship’ was another word,  
No, it’s more than being familiar.  
‘Brotherhood’ imparts a deeper caring.  
It denotes an unconditional love,  
an acceptance that is all-bearing  
which Dr. King so pointedly spoke of.  
“What are you doing for others?”  
He challenged us to act with charity.  
‘They’ are your sisters and brothers;  
forget skin color and wealth disparity.  
And isn’t that our purpose on Earth?  
To help each other, learn to love and forgive?  
Along this journey to death from birth,  
there is no more important reason to live.  
I have seen it and felt it at Public Works,  
not always when times are good.  
Most often when conditions are the worst,  
when storms blow through the neighborhoods.  
When sickness strikes or a loved one has passed,  
my family of coworkers unites as one  
to build a wheelchair ramp, pass the hat,  
carry the casket, or plow the streets till the  
job is done.  
When we choose to forgive and let  
differences go,  
it’s more powerful than ‘paying it forward.’  
We give service to others; it is right we know  
and therein we find... the gift of brotherhood.

— *Emily Cameron (Public Works)*  
2nd Place



## From Where I Sit

From where I sit,  
I see a man who dreamed much  
but wanted more  
I see a man that desired appreciation  
but sought virtue  
I see a man who devoted his life  
to helping others escape his pain  
I see a man that used his belief in America  
to overcome his disappointment in people  
I see a man who used prayer  
to hide his pain and insecurities  
I see a man who used his blessings  
to bless others  
I see a man who sought the heart of God  
and the peace of understanding  
I see a man complete unto himself  
yet incomplete without helping others  
I see a man who strived  
to be the best he  
could be  
without compromise or  
conflict  
I see a man that stood  
erect without  
stepping on others  
From where I sit, I see a  
Man that has made  
me a better Woman!

— *Faith M. Thompson (Ombuds)*  
3rd Place



## Free at Last??

**F**rozen, guilt, despair, below, without, secrets,  
hopelessness, dark, hating,  
**R**eject, procrastinating, gossiping, defeated,  
crushed, aching,  
**E**xpelled, hurting, cursed, divided, tragedy,  
degraded, conceit,  
**E**stranged, twisted, plagued, deceived, torn,  
calamity, trapped, belittled,  
**D**rowning, melancholy, bystander, indulging,  
soiled, selfish, jealous,

**O**ppressed, casualty, trampled,  
busted, hiding, manipulated, sinner,  
afraid,

**M**aterialistic, depressed, abandoned,  
humiliated, broken.

Are you free at last? Break the silence;  
build new bridges. Make a CHOICE.

— *Lisa Baaske (Parks and Recreation)*  
Honorable Mention

