



TownTalk

CHAPEL HILL

JANUARY 2018
VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

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

A celebration of voices striving to be heard.

Friday, Jan. 12

MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

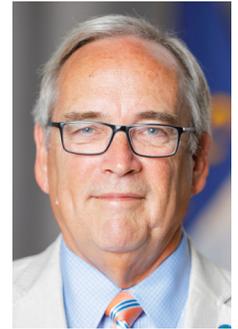
Monday, Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Blood Drive, 1-5:30 p.m., Hargraves Community Center



Town Manager's Message

This week, we stop to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., remember our history and renew our commitment to the future and to each other. I honor the work Dr. King did and appreciate



his huge contribution to our growth as a community of people. In this moment, however, I want to remember why he undertook his mission.

Dr. King was motivated by the energy, passion and humanity of his fellow citizens. It was his love for his fellow citizens that motivated him to work to end all barriers to our working together, living together, and sharing our lives. Most of all, he acted on optimism, professing an "abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

Service was integral to Dr. King's philosophy - the commitment to making life better for all.

Thank you for making a personal commitment to service and doing your part to keep Dr. King's dream alive. I encourage you to go that extra mile to imagine your own vision for what it will take to establish and sustain a community that cares about all of its members. If you can imagine, you can make it happen. Be the change. Lead from your seat, wherever it is. Know that you can make a difference.

— Town Manager Roger Stancil

21st Annual Celebration Program & Lunch

Hargraves Community Center,
216 N. Roberson St.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, January 12

Welcome: Lance Norris, Director, Public Works Department, and MLK Employee Committee Member

Video: The History of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Town of Chapel Hill Employees

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
"Can't Give Up Now"

The Word Project
Jeff York, Cultural Arts Coordinator, and Poetry Winner

Video: "I Have a Dream" Speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Town of Chapel Hill Employees

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
"Glory"

Video by the Students of Northside Elementary School

Keynote Speaker, Coretta Sharpless
Northside Elementary Principal

Closing Remarks
Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
"Lord Help Me to Hold Out"

Moment of Silence

Lunch
Following the program, a light lunch will be served.

Employee Activities to Recognize Guidin

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 he 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.

A celebration of voices striving to be heard.

This event has seen change over the last three years, including a panel of speakers two years ago, and excerpts from plays and speeches last year. This year's event will go back to the roots, presenting a keynote speaker who was born and raised in the Northside Neighborhood.

The program will also feature a special treat from Northside Elementary School as the students have created a video to share with us about Dr. King and his legacy.

The Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir will perform three songs, "I Just Can't Give Up Now," "Glory" from the major motion picture Selma, and "Lord Help Me to Hold Out." You'll also hear from this year's winner of The Word Project.

Keynote Speaker - Coretta Sharpless, Northside Elementary School Principal



Mrs. Coretta Sharpless is a native of Chapel Hill, having grown up right here in the Northside Neighborhood. She has returned to the community where she has served as the principal of Northside Elementary School since August 2015.

Mrs. Sharpless has held multiple roles in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools District since returning to the area in 2003. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from North Carolina Central University and her Master of School Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Sharpless was a unanimous choice by the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration Planning Committee to be this year's keynote speaker as she embodies the ideals of Dr. King and the dream he shared 54 years ago.



g Principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

The Word Project in Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.:

Town employees once again demonstrated their talent and insight into the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by writing verse that emphasized values espoused by Dr. King (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action), or were based on his life or words.

The winner will read/perform her poem at the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration on Friday, Jan. 12, at the Hargraves Center. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will also have their poems displayed on bus cards in Chapel Hill Transit buses from late January through March 2018. Three winning poems will be displayed at Town Hall during the month of February. The top two poems will also be displayed in the downtown Walgreen's display case on East Franklin Street.

Entries were judged by **Tim Logue** (Library) and **Faith M. Thompson** (Housing and Community). Faith has had her poems selected in past competitions. Tim is a reader and student of poetry who has served on the editorial board for *Carolina Quarterly Magazine*.

The winning poems were submitted by:

1st Place (\$125) – **Sheleatha Quick** (Police)

2nd Place (\$75) – **Lisa Baaske** (Parks & Recreation)

3rd Place (\$50) – **Wade Gullege** (Risk Management)

The Word Project is sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Department's Cultural Arts Division in conjunction with Chapel Hill Transit and Public Works departments.

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 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 15, at Hargraves Community Center. Visit redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment (enter sponsor code Chapel Hill). Contact: Nate Davis, 919-932-2965 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 11th annual MLK Day of Service will be held Monday, Jan. 15, and individuals, groups and families may sign up at <http://unitedwaytriangle.galaxydigital.com>.

The more than 35 projects for 2018 are spread throughout various nonprofit agencies in Durham, Johnston, Orange and Wake counties.

The signature projects run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. A Martin Luther King Jr. 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 produced a video of Town employees reciting the words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

The video is posted on the Town's vimeo account at vimeo.com/chapelhillgov. Special thanks to Ryan Chamberlain, digital media lab coordinator, for producing this video.

Learn More:

The Chapel Hill Public Library has a wide variety of publications about the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Find out more about his life and the Civil Rights Movement through movies, books, eBooks, and audiobooks. You can check things out to take home or download them to your personal device. Visit the library's website at chapelhillpubliclibrary.org, or ask a librarian for a recommendation. The Library will be open from 1-5 p.m. on Jan. 15. And remember, all Town employees can get a free library card, no matter where they live.



Did You Know?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday has been observed as a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.

Chapel Hill has observed the day as a town holiday since 1984. Chapel Hill was one of the first communities in North Carolina to declare Martin Luther King Jr. Day a municipal holiday.

Poetry Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Word Poetry Contest! The winner of the poetry contest will present her poem at the MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event on Jan. 12. Thanks to all for their participation!

1st place – **Sheleathea Quick** (Police)

2nd Place – **Lisa Baaske** (Parks & Recreation)

3rd Place – **Wade Gullege** (Risk Management)

Untitled

I dreamed of a place where kindness was the norm
No credence was given, to the race that you were born

People stood up for the weak and protected the poor
Ignorance was banned and disgraced, intolerance was no more

The flags we carried were inclusive to people being humane
Violence was no longer accepted and labeled insane

He said, “We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear”

I say we must set examples to those following that’s abundantly clear

We will not hate, we will not hurt, nor bow down to what is wrong
We will not let those who lack knowledge take a position that is strong

We will show that nonviolence over hate and discourse can win
As the good book clearly states Love covers over a multitude of sins

—*Sheleathea Quick*

Remove the Mask

There are places that remain untouchable by history
Where the rights of all are still the rights of the few
Non-violent resistance cures society’s evil
Is it such a crime to show the flames of liberty?

His world had seen enough, experienced enough
Against the odds it was time to look up from the ground
Time to walk tall by faith into a world full of hypocrites, mockers and cynics
Time to stand tall against the opponent’s white bluff

Only in the darkness can you see the stars

Pull the shades off the windows and see those around us
Where the sunshine melts the hate of our fears
Unveiling the loneliness of layered, deep scars

We must accept finite disappointments, but never lose infinite hope as the bus runs by

keep moving forward running, crawling or stumbling because the special delivery of grace brings freedom’s presents.

The phrases in bold italics are taken or adapted from MLK’s famous quotes.

—*Lisa Baaske*

The CHARGE for Equality

It **WAS** happening,.....It **IS** happening,.....It **MUST** happen!
Those **HOPES & DREAMS** represented and **REPRESENT** human life, **ALL LIVES.**

A deep realization of what is genuinely **RIGHT, FAIR, JUST..... NORMAL.**

To level the playing field is the **RIGHT THING TO DO.**

We **ALL** are in this race of Life.....**TOGETHER.**

We are all different, very different,..... **BUT** we also are.....

.....**THE SAME**

.....very much the **SAME.**

This is what provides **ALL of US** opportunities to.....

GROW.....and.....

.....**UNDERSTAND** each other better.

An open mind that **ACCEPTS AND APPRECIATES OUR DIFFERENCES,** is a mind that.....**LOVES.**

A movement to **REPLACE** exclusion **WITH INCLUSION,** hate **WITH HOPE.**

The groundwork was laid by many **BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS.**

Those that put their fear behind them, and **PUSHED FORWARD** in order to **EVOLVE**

.....**ALL HUMAN KIND.**

A debt is **OWED** and the **COLLECTION PLATE IS EXTENDED.**

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHARGE FOR EQUALITY TODAY!

—*Wade Gullege*

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Please recycle.

