



TownTalk

CHAPEL HILL

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Town Manager's Message

It is nearly impossible to measure the vast impact Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the leaders of the civil rights movement had on our nation and the world. They along with many others were willing to put their livelihoods, their families and their lives on the line to ensure

“At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love.”

that the United States of America lived up to its promise in the Declaration of Independence, “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Along with being a dedicated pastor, unrivaled orator and thoughtful philosopher, Dr. King was also a brilliant politician. He understood that in

order to bring about the colossal change needed in our country, he had to convince the general public and its leaders that we

would never truly fulfill our promise of promoting and protecting “unalienable” rights until we eradicated the unjust laws of discrimination and segregation that ruled so much of our country at the time. He recognized the road to revolutionary change would be paved



not with anger and bloodshed but with non-violence, perseverance, toughness and love.

Dr. King stressed the importance of not lashing out against oppressors, either physically or emotionally. “Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit,” he said. “You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”

He also espoused the mighty strength of peaceful protest – “Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”

And finally, he said, “At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love.”

At times this principle seems to be lacking in an increasingly angry world. But we, as employees of the Town of Chapel Hill, are fortunate to have the opportunity every day, to make a positive impact on others – to embody that principle through our service to this

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22nd Annual Employee Celebration Program

Taking Action for What's Right - The Chapel Hill Nine, Then & Now

Hargraves Community Center,
216 N. Roberson St.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, January 18

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

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
“I Will Bless the Lord at All Times”

The Expressions Project
Susan Brown, Executive Director for Community Arts & Culture and 1st Place Winner

The Chapel Hill Nine Video

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir
“Grateful”

Panel Discussion

Jerry Neville (Public Works),
Stan Norwood (Retired) and
Tyron (TY) Edwards (Transit)

Manager Remarks

Maurice Jones, Town Manager

Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir

“The Storm Is Passing Over”

Closing Remarks

Joe McMiller

Lunch

Following the program, a light lunch will be served.

Honoring the Life and Legacy

Principles of Dr. King

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."

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.

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. What turned out to be his final protest march was a gathering of striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn.

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.

Morality

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

Town Manager's Message

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community. Dr. King understood the importance of service and how it shapes a person's identity and fulfills a human being's yearning to assist others.

He once said, "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."

As we celebrate Dr. King and his many accomplishments please make sure to take a moment to remember not only his inspiring speeches and his many accomplishments for our world but to also reflect on what was at the core of his message. We will truly honor him by keeping that message alive through our service to others.

The Martin Luther King Jr Employee Celebration Planning Committee selected a panel of Town employees (past and present) to speak after the panel format was so well received in 2016. The panel will discuss how Martin Luther King Jr's vision has affected employees and the Town as a whole through the years. Our panelists are as follows:

Jerry Neville was born and raised in Chapel Hill and is a proud Chapel Hill High School Tiger. Jerry started as a bus operator in January 1979 where he worked for 15 years. He left the Town to go back to school. Jerry got his degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, and 10 years after leaving the Town got his foot back in the door by working as a summer lifeguard in 2001. In July of that year he was employed by the streets and construction division of Public Works and has worked in that department ever since--now an Engineering Technician. In his spare time, Jerry teaches tennis at the Hargraves Community Center.

Stan Norwood was born and raised in Chapel Hill. He started at Northside Elementary School and graduated from Chapel Hill High School. Stan started working right out of high school, and began as a bus operator in 1988. He's held that position to this day and continues to drive the streets of Chapel Hill 30 years later.

Tyron Edwards was born and raised in Chapel Hill. His father started Midway Barber Shop on Rosemary Street in Carrboro, which today is the oldest black-owned business in the area. Tyron worked at Midway for 14 years until leaving home to serve in the Air Force for nine years. Now he's in his 17th year working in the transit department's maintenance division as an electronic technician after starting as an operator and moving up to a supervisor.



of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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 or creating artwork that emphasized values espoused by Dr. King (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action), or were based on his life or words.

The winning creation will be displayed at the Employee Celebration on Friday, Jan. 18, at the Hargraves Center. The top entries will be printed on posters that will be displayed in Town Hall and on Chapel Hill Transit buses.

The winning entries were submitted by:

1st Place: **Meg McGurk** (Police-Parking), Chapel Hill Nine Fabric Artwork

2nd Place: **Kiera Huiel** (Public Works), Mixed Media Artwork

3rd Place: **Wade Gullede** (Public Works), "How Important Is It"

The Expressions Project is organized and sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill Community Arts and Culture in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration Committee, Chapel Hill Transit and Public Works.

Day of Service:

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

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. 21. And remember, all Town employees can get a free library card, no matter where they live.



"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 <https://youtu.be/XBdtmaTGppl>. Special thanks to Ryan Chamberlain, digital media lab coordinator, for producing this video.

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.

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve."

Did You Know?

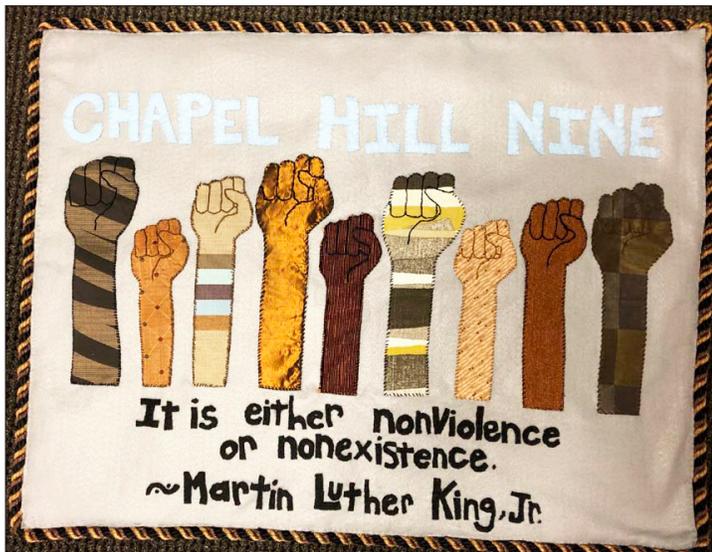
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday has been observed as a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.

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.



Expressions Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Expressions Contest! The winning creation will be displayed at the MLK Celebration and Employee Sharing Event on Jan. 18. Thanks to all for their participation!



First Place: *Chapel Hill Nine Fabric Artwork*
Meg McGurk (Police-Parking)



Second Place: *Mixed Media Artwork*
Kiera Huie (Public Works)

Third Place: *How Important Is It?*
Wade Gullede (Public Works)

LOVE. Let's start with love. As a child we received love from those around us; family, neighbors, friends. As we grew we learned at times we have to give love to receive it, and at other times we received love unconditionally.

More time went by and our circle around us, our world, expanded to include many more people like us, and others not like us. Hopefully our building blocks of love expanded to include all people and at all times. That unconditional thing. Our eyes were opened to what love could do, can do, did do around us.

Time passed and older we became. Experiences and knowledge showed us great examples of love, and real role models of love. How could they stand up to hate with only love in their hearts, minds and by their sides? How could they love their enemies? How could they use peace, peace of mind, peaceful demonstrations, and peaceful discussions to turn the hardness of hate into empathy and understanding? How can the best of human nature be made into common practice?

Mountains grow and rise out of the earth, slowly reaching upward. Over time becoming majestic, beautiful, almost never-ending, and reaching to the sky itself.

We know deep in our hearts what is true, what is right, the correct order of things. Differences, challenges, and setbacks will always be a part of our experiences.

But to know love, and to know that love will find its way into the very fabric of our lives and our world, gives me hope for our future.

May love and peace rest on our hearts, and sink deep into our hearts and take hold. How important is it? Love. Let's start with love.

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Please recycle.

