

# In the Spotlight

*Highlighting Exceptional Employees*

## Tyron “T.Y.” Edwards

Tyron “T.Y.” Edwards was born and raised in Chapel Hill. He is now in his 14th year working in Chapel Hill Transit’s maintenance division as an electronic technician after starting as an operator and being promoted to supervisor.

T.Y.’s father started Midway Barber Shop on Rosemary Street in Carrboro, which today is the oldest black-owned business in the area. He worked at Midway for 14 years until leaving home to serve in the U.S. Air Force for nine years. T.Y. is a disabled veteran.

Last month, T.Y. was one of four panelists featured during the 18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Employee Celebration. Parking Services retiree Charles Alston, retired Fire Chief Dan Jones and Communications Manager Catherine Lazorko completed the panel.

The panel was asked to share memories of a time in Chapel Hill that reminded them of the ideals of Dr. King.

“I was one of the first—if not the first—African-American kids to go to Carrboro School,” T.Y. said during the panel. “The school actually contacted African-American

families to see if they would send their kids to the school, and we were the only one that would.

“There’s a lot of shame when I remember back on how things were,” T.Y. said. “There are still a lot of things we need to change.”

T.Y. says Teamwork is the Town RESPECT value that speaks to him most.

“With teamwork, we can come together and solve all problems big or small,” T.Y. said. “We can be professional and respect the views and values of all – and, get the job done.”

T.Y. has two daughters. They live in Albuquerque, N.M., so he doesn’t get to see them often.

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing with his friend and his mother. He is a self-proclaimed “geek.”

—Story by Ran Northam

### Value in the Spotlight

### Teamwork



#### **RESPECT Values**

**Responsibility**

**Equity**

**Safety**

**Professionalism**

**Ethics**

**Communication**

**Teamwork**

