

## News Briefs

### Inauguration events

Several local events will celebrate President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration next week. Events include:

- The Orange County Barack Obama Inaugural Party will be held at the Carrboro Century Center on Sunday from 5 to 10 p.m. The event will feature student presentations, musical entertainment and a rendition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.
- An inauguration dance party will be held at Southern Rail on Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 or a donation of canned goods for the "Yes We Cans" service project.
- A coalition of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools student organizations will sponsor a multi-generational inauguration viewing and dialogue on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Carrboro High School.

### MLK closings

Several local town offices will be closed and services will change on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Closings and changes to service include:

- Town of Carrboro offices will be closed.
- Town of Chapel Hill offices will be closed.
- There will be no Carrboro garbage collection on Monday. Monday's garbage will be collected on Tuesday.
- There will be no Chapel Hill garbage collection on Monday. Monday's garbage will be collected on Wednesday.
- There will be no change in curbside recycling in Carrboro or Chapel Hill.
- Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed.
- Chapel Hill Transit will operate on a reduced Saturday schedule, with no service for the U and NU routes.

### Chatham tax

The Chatham County Tax Office will offer five presentations to help county property owners learn more about the 2009 property revaluation.

Notices of new valuations will be mailed out to property owners in early February.

Presentations dates include:

- Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m., Goldston Town Hall;
- Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., Moncure Fire Department;
- Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., District Courtroom, Pittsboro;
- Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m., Siler City Town Hall; and
- Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m., North Chatham Elementary School Multipurpose Room.

For more information, contact the Chatham County Tax Office at 542-8250.

### Health department receives grant

The Orange County Health Department recently received a \$277,000 grant from the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund for continuation of the Youth Tobacco-Use Prevention and Cessation Program.

The program recruits high school students within the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems as peer educators who deliver tobacco-prevention messages in middle and high schools and the community.

The health department started the program in 2003 to reduce the number of county teens who use tobacco. Since the program's inception, the health department has established clubs within all five high schools and recruited more than 120 peer educators.



**HOW TO REACH US**  
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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Carrboro Citizen is free to pick up at our many locations throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro and Hillsborough. Subscriptions are also available via first class mail and are \$78 per year. Send a check to The Citizen, Post Office Box 248, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Visa/Mastercard are also accepted. Please contact Anne Billings at 919-942-2100 for credit card orders.

**ONLINE** carrborocitizen.com/main Updated every Thursday.



### Southern Caribbean Cruise on the Queen Mary II

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## MLK DAY EVENTS



Local groups and organizations will honor Martin Luther King Jr. next week with events and celebrations scheduled Monday as well as throughout the rest of the week.

### RALLY & MARCH

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch of the NAACP will sponsor its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day rally, march and worship service starting at 9 a.m. on Monday at the Franklin Street Post Office in Chapel Hill.

This year's theme is "Environmental Racism" and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Robert Campbell of the Rogers Road community.

The rally will be followed by a march down Franklin Street starting at 10:15 a.m. The march will end at the First Baptist Church on North Roberson Street where a worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. The keynote speaker for the worship service will be Rev. Troy Harrison, pastor at St. Joseph's CME Church.

For more information, call 923-8479 or visit [www.chapelhill-carrboro-naacp.org](http://www.chapelhill-carrboro-naacp.org)

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

• **UNC Health Care** will hold "From Dreams to Reality," a Martin Luther King Jr. Day ceremony, on Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of the N.C. Children's Hospital. The keynote speaker will be Laurie Maffly-Kipp, adjunct professor of American studies and religious studies at UNC. Prince Taylor will also perform.

• **The 28th Annual University/Community Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet** will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Friday Center on N.C. 54. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Gene Hatley, pastor of Barbee's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. For ticket information and availability, call 962-6962.

• **Triangle United Way** will host the Triangle Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Christ United Methodist Church on Market Street in Chapel Hill on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will create 1,500 Valentine's Day care packages for U.S. troops stationed in Iraq. Volunteers are also needed to make blankets and scarves for clients of local Triangle United Way partner agencies. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and participants are strongly encouraged to register online ahead of time. For more information or to register, visit [www.unitedwaytriangle.org/mlk](http://www.unitedwaytriangle.org/mlk)



### CAMPUS EVENTS

• **The MLK Youth Leadership Program** will be held Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Carolina Union. The program offers middle school students the chance to explore King's dream through games, activities and performance. For more information, visit [www.unc.edu/rocts](http://www.unc.edu/rocts)

• **The UNC MLK Day for Service** will be held on Monday starting at 8 a.m. Participants should meet at the Great Hall at the Carolina Union. Registration is required. Register online at [www.unc.edu/rocts](http://www.unc.edu/rocts). For more information, contact Mia Barnes at [miabarnes87@unc.edu](mailto:miabarnes87@unc.edu)

• **The Unity Dinner** will be held on Monday at 5 p.m. in the Great

Hall of the Student Union. Carolina students from an array of organizations will come together to share dinner and make new connections. Registration is limited. For more information, contact Bryce Jenkins at [bjjenkins@email.unc.edu](mailto:bjjenkins@email.unc.edu)

• **"He Was a Poem, He Was a Song,"** a program featuring music by Bradley Simmons of the Duke Djembe Ensemble and the jazz quartet R-EFFeCT, led by saxophonist Ron Baxter, will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center Theater. A reception will follow the program, which is free and open to the public.

• **The Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Contest** will be held Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Cabaret. Participants will present original monologues regarding the theme "From Blueprint to Masterpiece - Making Our Dreams a Reality." For more information, contact Eboni Blake at [blak@email.unc.edu](mailto:blak@email.unc.edu)

• **A candlelight vigil** will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday around the Old Well. The event will also feature brief speeches and performances.

• **The MLK Keynote Lecture**, featuring author Maya Angelou, will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Memorial Hall. The event will also feature the presentation of the 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. Tickets are free, available at the Memorial Hall box office. Limit two tickets per person. For more information, contact Memorial Hall at 843-3333.

• **The film Darius Goes West** will be screened on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Student Union Great Hall. A panel discussion with the makers of the film will follow the screening.

• **"I, Too, Sing America,"** a cultural celebration bringing diverse campus organizations together in song, dance and poetry, will be held Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Great Hall. The program honors Langston Hughes poem "I, Too, Sing America."

For a full schedule of campus events, visit [unc.edu/minorityaffairs/mlk/schedule.html](http://unc.edu/minorityaffairs/mlk/schedule.html)

## Culbreth locked down

**CHAPEL HILL** — Culbreth Middle School was locked down for about 30 minutes Tuesday morning after a man was seen in a car in the parking lot with a gun.

Police arrested Ronald Marshall Simpson Jr., 36, of 751 Trinity Court, Apt. A-8, Chapel Hill on the scene. According to Lt. Kevin Gunter of the Chapel Hill Police Department, police found Simpson in his car with a 9mm pistol; he did not resist arrest.

Gunter said Simpson's girlfriend went into the school to warn staff about the gun and police responded a short time later, about 10 a.m.

"There was a threat that was communicated to her," Gunter said.

According to Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, a school is locked down anytime there is a report of a weapon sighting anywhere in the vicinity of the school. No students were in the parking lot at the time of the incident and none saw the gun, she added.

"The threat never entered the building," Knott said.

Parents were notified of the incident after the lockdown was lifted.

Simpson was charged with felony possession of a firearm on school property and communicating a threat. He is being held in Orange County Jail on \$20,000 bond.

## BUDGET

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In addition to squeezing savings from department budgets, the town will see some savings this year from lower petroleum prices, Stancil said. The town projected paying more than \$2 per gallon; it broke even in December and will see savings should prices remain low.

In other action, the town's planning board petitioned the council to change a loophole in the town's development rules that has allowed some developments to avoid council review. Thresholds for land disturbance may have to be altered, planning board members say, because developers have been able to subdivide lots and come in under the threshold.

The council also opted not to sell town-owned property off Mount Carmel Church Road near the town's southern fire station.

Christ Church has approached the town requesting to purchase about eight acres of town property to build a house of worship.

Several council members said that while they appreciated the request, they could not support selling the land.

Council member Ed Harrison said the parcel is a rare piece of ridgetop and should remain in preservation.

Council member Sally Greene agreed. "We need to hold on to this critical piece of land," she said.

Noting that he was on the council when the land was given by the Craig family, council member Bill Strom said that despite the church's "generous offer," selling the land would violate the spirit in which it was donated to the town.

"I felt I made a commitment to keep the land in town ownership and as open space," he said.

Council members said that in the future, the land may serve as a small park.

## Notice of Public Hearing

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Town Hall Board Room to receive citizen comments on a draft ordinance that would establish a \$250 limit on campaign contributions to candidates for town elected offices.

**Information on the proposed ordinance may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office: (919) 918-7309, E-Mail: [swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org](mailto:swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org) located in the Carrboro Town Hall. Citizens are invited to comment.**

# OPEN HOUSE

**8am-8pm Wed. Jan. 21st and 8am-Noon Sat. Jan. 24th**  
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