

Briefs

Towns reschedule meetings

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Chapel Hill Town Council and Hillsborough Board of Commissioners canceled their meetings this week due to inclement weather.

Most agenda items for the Carrboro meeting will be moved to the board's next meeting on Tuesday.

Most agenda items for the Chapel Hill meeting are scheduled to be taken up at a special meeting of the council on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall. The council's discussion of proposed homeless shelter guidelines has been moved to a council public hearing scheduled for Wednesday.

The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners meeting will be continued to the board's monthly workshop on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Town Barn.

Bingham meeting changed

A briefing scheduled for Monday on the university's change of plans at its Bingham research facility off N.C. 54 was postponed due to inclement weather. The rescheduled date was not available at press time.

University officials said last week that they are seeking permits to replace a failed wastewater treatment system at the facility, but plan for no expansion. Higher infrastructure costs and a shift in strategies for large-animal research led to the change.

Recycling rescheduled

Orange County's curbside recycling route #2, taking place every other Tuesday, and all in-town recycling routes, taking place every Tuesday, were canceled on Jan. 11 due to inclement weather. The makeup day will be Saturday. Please have bins out by 7 a.m.

Ben Chavis to speak

Ben Chavis, a longtime civil rights leader and one of the Wilmington 10, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. service on Monday at First Baptist Church.

A march and rally will be held at Peace and Justice Plaza at 9 a.m., with the service to follow at 11. The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award and the Rebecca Clark Award for Voter Registration and Civic Engagement will be presented.

This year's theme is "Not One Step Back: Renewing Dr. King's Call to Conscience."

King Day closings

Most town and county offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday on Monday.

In Carrboro, residential garbage routes scheduled for Monday will be collected Tuesday.

In Chapel Hill, residential garbage routes scheduled for Monday will be collected on Wednesday.

The Orange County Landfill will be open and recycling services will remain on schedule, but the county's solid-waste convenience centers will be closed.

Chapel Hill Transit will operate on a Saturday schedule (CM, CW, D, FG and JN routes). There will be no service for the U and NU routes.

Garbage collection in Hillsborough scheduled for Monday will be collected Tuesday.

County seeks feedback

Orange County officials will hold a public outreach meeting and a public hearing to gather further feedback from the public on a proposed Unified Development Ordinance.

The new ordinance is an extensive rewrite of the county's rules for land use, conservation and development.

The outreach meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Campus office building on Margaret Lane. The public hearing is Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Department of Social Services in Hillsborough Commons.

For additional information, contact the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department at 245-2575 or visit the department's website at www.co.orange.nc.us/planning

A Civil War diary

UNC News Services

What was happening in the South 150 years ago on any given date during the Civil War?

A website posting just that, every day for four years, is planned by the University Library at UNC. The site will be among numerous library activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of the conflict.

Activities will begin with the exhibit "Home Front on the Hill: Chapel Hill and the University during the Civil War," on view in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room of the Wilson Special Collections Library from Feb. 1 through May 8.

The free exhibit will feature about 160 items from library collections. Highlights will include:

- letters related to the firing in 1856 of a UNC professor for his opposition to extending slavery into new territories;
- an 1860 letter from the professor's mother-in-law describing

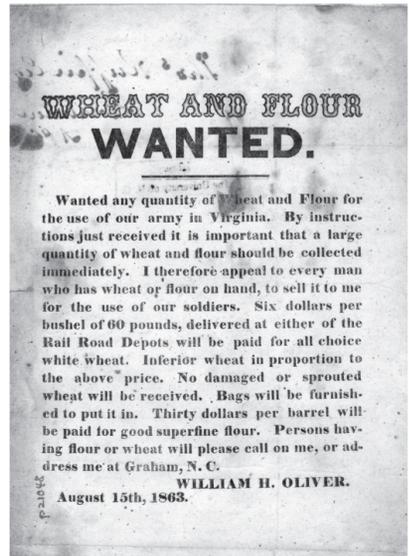
a local secessionist rally;

- minutes from University Baptist Church in Chapel Hill documenting when, in 1865, black members left to form their own church; and

- three eyewitness accounts of the April 1865 occupation of Chapel Hill by Union troops.

On April 12 – the 150th anniversary of the war's first military engagement at Fort Sumter, S.C., in 1861 – the library will launch the website "The Civil War Day-by-Day."

The site, lib.unc.edu/blogs/civilwar, will use Wilson Library's rich collections of archival documents and published materials to present the war as it unfolded in the South. Diary entries, correspondence, news articles, maps, photographic portraits and images of artifacts will be among the items posted daily until April 9, 2015, the 150th anniversary of Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender.



A handbill sent in 1863 to Thomas Ruffin, a Hillsborough resident who owned a large plantation in Alamance County.

COURTESY OF THE N. C. COLLECTION, WILSON LIBRARY

"We want to provide a sense of how the war was experienced by people living through it, who didn't know how it would end, or what might happen to them and their loved ones," said Biff Hollingsworth, archivist in the Southern Historical Collection and one of the site's creators.

The site will invite readers to share their own interpretations of and reactions to the documents.

WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

"We had a lot of black ice in places that refroze overnight," he said Wednesday.

David Poythress, streets superintendent of the Town of Carrboro, said the town has been running two crews of six people on 12-hour shifts to keep the roughly 80 lane miles of town-maintained roads clear. Another crew of between three and five works on the town-owned facilities and the sidewalks.

Poythress said that during the storm, the strategy is to restore the bus routes and then turn to the secondary roads. Like Howell, he said temperatures in the upper 20s made it hard to clear some places.

"The secondary roadways are the biggest challenge," Poythress said. "Some more than others."

And like their counterparts at the DOT, the crews in Carrboro have been busy this season.

"These guys have been putting in extra hours since early December. Some of them had to cut short their holiday," Poythress said. And

since those who live in Alamance or Chatham counties or northern Orange can't get back and forth reliably, some have spent their off hours camped out at Public Works.

"It's about the only safe way to do it," said Dennis Fone, who slept on a cot at the Public Works offices rather than risk a drive back to his home in Zebulon. "It's also about the only guaranteed way to be back for the next shift."

All that comes at a cost, Poythress said, as does the 15 tons of salt and 10 tons of sand spread on Carrboro roads on Monday and Tuesday. The towns have yet to assess the financial impact of this storm, but the winter of 2010-11 is shaping up to be a costly season.

Terrell said it will be a while before the tally of the most recent storm is known. He expects a cost analysis of the December storms sometime this week and won't be surprised if it shows the town already over budget for supplies like sand and salt.

"We don't budget a lot for it, knowing that some years we get a lot of bad weather and some years we don't," he said. This year, he said, it's a case of the former.

Extra brining

Poythress said one thing that has helped this year is increasing the use of brine prior to the storms. Carrboro started using it on some roads in 2004, he said, and saw positive results, particularly in the most recent storm.

"We found that with certain events, it makes a difference," he said. If the storm starts off with a lot of rain, he added, then at least his crew gets in some practice. Fortunately, this one started with snow.

In addition to keeping ice and snow melted initially, the brine-treated roads are easier to plow and clear off after a big event.

Terrell said that Chapel Hill has been increasing its use of brine as well. In the most recent storms, he said, the town has not only treated primary roads and steep hills but extended pretreatment to almost all the town's secondary roads.

"It's more environmentally friendly and about 10 times more effective as anti-icing," he said.

Roads & equipment

DOT in Orange County

39 trucks (32 state-owned and seven contract trucks) equipped with plows and salt spreaders. Crews focus on 372 lane miles of primary roads first, then turn to several thousand lane miles of secondary roads.

Carrboro

Four dump trucks fitted with plows, two of them equipped with salt spreaders and one motor-grader. Approximately 80 lane miles of town-maintained roads.

Chapel Hill

12 plow trucks, five box spreaders, three brine distribution trucks, one town-owned spreader and two contract spreaders. Approximately 350 lane miles.

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