

Dinner to focus on spirit of Carrboro

BY SPENCER GIPPLE
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to bring people together and promote cultural diversity, Carrboro will celebrate its eighth annual community dinner Sunday.

The event is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of McDougale Middle School, located at 900 Old Fayetteville Road.

Nerys Levy, chairwoman of the community dinner committee, said the event will feature an array of attractions. Mama Dip's Kitchen will provide the food, and a variety of culturally diverse musical acts, including a Latin band and Greek dance group, will perform on stage as locals dine.

"It's like a window to our community," she said of the dinner. "We invite all different groups of people to come enjoy great food and entertainment."

Levy said the event is intended not just for Carrboro residents but for anyone who wants to buy a ticket. She stressed that she would like to see more University students attend the function.

"There are thousands of college students in the area, and a lot of people around here have never met one," Levy said. "I think the students owe it to the community to give something back by getting out and introducing themselves."

Phyllis Coley, a coordinator for the Durham planning firm Another Coley Event, will be the emcee.

"I'm doing a lot of things in Chapel Hill and Durham," she said. "This was a good opportunity to finally get

involved in the community."

Coley said that she is excited about the diversity the event promotes and that she looks forward to her role in its success. "This event is everybody," she said. "It's all races, genders, religions and levels of education."

The Carrboro Branch Library, located in McDougale's media center, is one of many groups sponsoring the event this year.

Jake Lehrer, a librarian at the branch, said the facility has sponsored the dinner each year because of its close ties to the event.

"Each year, this event brings a lot of people together who wouldn't have normally come in contact with each other, and it allows them to converse," he said. "This is a really good and festive venue for them to do that."

Levy said that the event attracts between 600 and 700 people each year, and that she expects similar numbers again this year.

Tickets for the event are still available for \$7.50 at, among other places, Mama Dip's and the library.

Levy said that there's a chance tickets will still be available at the door, but that it would be a better idea to buy tickets in advance.

"You won't get a better afternoon," she said. "And at \$7.50, it's one of the best deals around."

A complete list of ticket vendors and more information on the dinner can be obtained at <http://www.communitydinner.org>.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Expansion aids area's rebirth

BY CHRIS CARMICHAEL
STAFF WRITER

Every weekday from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., core restaurant patrons scurry away from sequestered office spaces scattered about the Triangle area.

These nine-to-fivers barely have enough time to hit the brakes going past the drive-thru, let alone the time to drive into town for a leisurely fine-dining experience.

As a result, many upscale restaurants remain closed for lunch simply because it is less profitable.

Bucking that trend, Talullas restaurant, at 456 W. Franklin St., began offering lunch last week, making it one of a handful of upscale restaurants in the area that feature a lunch menu.

"Lunch is a difficult thing," said Talullas' owner Demir Williford. "It is lower profit, and you need higher turnover. For dinner, you can have people coming in from Raleigh, Greensboro and Durham. (For lunch), you are more dependent on the town of Chapel Hill."

Williford said he made the change because so many people had asked him for a lunch menu.

And although he only has advertised through a banner draped across Talullas' front facade, Williford is optimistic about demand for the lunch menu.

"It's going to take time to develop, but I think (lunch traffic) will be good," he said.

Thursday afternoon, patrons were sparse at Talullas, perhaps a result of the cold, soggy conditions.

Those who did brave the weather were rewarded with prime parking spots and the Ottoman charms of Talullas' Turkish cuisine.

While pronouncing many of the menu items might require a translator, dishes such as *pideler* — Turkish pizza — are aimed to please a multitude of cultural palates.

Williford attributes the popularity of Turkish food in part to the vast expanse of the Ottoman Empire, which at its height reached from Europe to the heart of the Middle East and North Africa.

"I always thought there was a market for this cuisine because it has been around for so long," he said. "This food has been the result of a cultural infusion for over a thousand years in that part of the world."

Talullas is one of the most recent additions to west downtown, where restaurants are continually being woven into the multicultural fabric of the area.

Carolina Brewery owner Robert Poitras said the area, which long operated in the shadow of the more high-profile eastern part of downtown, seems to have found



DTH/ISSAC SANDLIN
Alyssa Seigrist works at Talullas on Thursday afternoon. The restaurant is now one of the few upscale Chapel Hill locales with a lunch menu.

its niche: diversity.

"We are so unique with the diversity of restaurants that we want to promote this through the rest of the Triangle and even the rest of the state," Poitras said.

Poitras organized the West End Group, a collection of 12 restaurant owners, to help give the area's diverse interests a unified voice.

Both Poitras and Williford are excited about the town's revitaliza-

tion of the West Franklin Street area, with an upscale hotel, luxury condominiums and furniture store blitzing through construction stages.

"The whole town should be excited about it," Williford said.

"In order to have a true downtown, you must have successful businesses to attract people."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

UNC will need tough defense to beat Duke

BY BRIANA GORMAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina forward Kenya McBee jumped into the air and swatted away a long jump shot from Virginia's Brenna McGuire with less than four minutes remaining in Thursday's game.

Though the Tar Heels had a comfortable lead, the UNC senior still played with the same defensive intensity the Tar Heels had possessed all game.

That defense propelled No. 8 North Carolina to a blowout of the Cavaliers on Thursday. The Tar Heels now hope to use the same physical defense to defeat No. 2 Duke at 8 p.m. Sunday at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"I think every game helps us prepare (for Duke), not just (Thursday)," said UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell. "Virginia is very athletic, and they go to the boards hard."

Duke now sits atop the ACC, while North Carolina is in second place. The two teams will be battling for the top seed in the ACC tournament.

Earlier in the season, the Tar Heels got the best of the Blue Devils, narrowly defeating them 56-51 in the Smith Center.

The Tar Heels will need to step up their defense on Duke star Monique Currie if they hope to grab a second upset. Currie scored 24 points against UNC on Jan. 24.

But Hatchell said she thinks her team will be better prepared to face Currie again after holding one of Virginia's leading scorers, LaTonya Blue, to seven points Thursday. Blue had been averaging 12.5 points per game.

"Blue is a great player, and she's really tough to guard out there," Hatchell said. "She's a player a lot

like Currie. I think a lot of things that Virginia did tonight will help us, not just with Sunday, but with every game."

Tar Heel Nikita Bell, who scored 13 points against the Cavaliers, said the game plan for defeating Duke is about making smart decisions and executing. The senior will need to continue scoring in double figures if UNC hopes to win on the road.

But the momentum from the win against Virginia should carry over into the Tobacco Road match-up. Hatchell said she couldn't think of a better way to end the season for the Tar Heels.

"I don't know how you can have a bigger grand finale, I guess, or ending of the regular season and getting ready for the tournament," Hatchell said. "It's great for women's basketball. It's great for the ACC. It's great for both universities."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

2nd renaming goes ahead quietly

BY ADAM W. RHEW
STAFF WRITER

When area politicians voted in December to rename one local street in honor of a civil rights leader, they also opened the door on a new renaming issue.

Airport Road will officially change its name to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on May 8, the 45th anniversary of King's visit to Chapel Hill.

Now, almost three months after that decision, Town Council members must decide what to do with Martin Luther King Jr. Street — a small byway off Legion Road.

Members of the council's naming committee — comprising four council members and two representatives of the town's department of public housing — met Thursday to discuss plans to rename the road.

One common belief was that the street should be named in honor of a prominent figure.

"I think (the street's namesake) should be somebody in Chapel Hill that was either a human rights activist or an advocate of affordable housing," said Tina Vaughn, director of the housing department. "And I think that person should be black."

The committee will meet with residents of the neighborhood —

which comprises mostly affordable housing units — March 8 to get recommendations.

Some members also said they wanted to mend "broken fences" with neighbors who might have felt left out of the decision to rename their street.

But after the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins met with one former neighborhood resident, who showed her a petition signed by street residents who support the Airport Road renaming.

"This is sort of a quick change in the committee's thrust for the first meeting," Town Information Officer Catherine Lazorko said of the unexpected display of support.

One longtime resident of the street says she has no problem with the renaming of her street.

"I would rather see another street named MLK Boulevard," said Janie Riggsbee, who has lived on the street for 23 years.

Regardless of what the name might be, committee members agreed, they need to work quickly.

"There's a great deal to be done, even with Airport Road, in a very, very short time," Lazorko said.

In preparation for the name change, Lazorko and other officials will meet March 22 with citizens who own some of the more than 850 addresses affected by the change.

The purpose of the meeting is to update property owners on the town's efforts to make the transition easier for them.

The U.S. Postal Service, the county Department of Emergency Management Services, Duke

Power and other groups will automatically update their records to reflect the address change, according to the town's Web site.

But some business owners say the town's efforts are not enough.

Bruce Johnson, a business owner who served on the special committee that considered the renaming, said the town was not responsive to some of the special committee's requests.

"I feel like (the renaming) is being crammed down our throats," Johnson said.

Residents can find more information on the renaming's effects on property owners at <http://www.townofchapelhill.org/MLK>.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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CONSTANTINE R Daily 1:00, 3:30, 7:20, 9:50

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE PG Daily 1:05, 3:20, 7:20, 9:40

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