

A Light on the Hill

By Missy Julian-Fox

Hey, what's up with Mondays? Have you noticed that many of our favorite town treasures are closed to the public on that day? At UNC Visitors' Center,



we see many sad, disappointed faces on Mondays. Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, Ackland Art Museum, the UNC Basketball Museum, Kidzu children's museum, and even a few of the shops downtown are closed that one day. Since their operating hours, programs and events include busy weekends, these organizations need a break to replenish and rest, too.

But that doesn't mean there isn't still a long list of appealing attractions for Monday exploration. I hope this is a handy reference for you, especially with the holidays bringing extra family and guests to town.

A good first stop is www.unc.edu for the calendar of events, easily accessed at the top of the home page, for exhibits, lectures, and performances. And we always check www.visitchapelhill.org and www.downtownchapelhill.com for ideas and events, too.

Mondays on the Hill

UNC Visitors' Center (Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) West entrance of Morehead Planetarium and Science Center.

Take a tour with us! Learn about the stories, legends, and landmarks on a walking tour of campus. This is an informative 55-minute stroll through the heart of our historic campus, down the

tree-lined, brick pathways of the nation's oldest state university and one of the premier institutions in teaching, research, and public service. Tours leave UNC Visitors' Center at 10:30 a.m. daily or call us to arrange another time slot. For kids, we have a "scavenger hunt."

Coker Arboretum (Open all day every day, free to the public, adjacent to Morehead Planetarium on Franklin Street)

The Coker Arboretum is a five-acre garden, created in 1903, which contains more than 500 species of trees and plants. A self-guided tour is available outside of the entrance. The arboretum is now part of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

UNC Student Stores (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Hours may vary due to holidays, home football games, summer sessions.) Bulls Head Bookshop, a great full-service bookstore, is located inside UNC Student Stores and chock full of more than 22,000 interesting titles to browse. Sharing the first floor is a large shop for school supplies and personal items, clothing, and University memorabilia.

Carroll Hall (Polk Place on UNC campus)

Home of UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the only such school in North Carolina, is recognized by academics and media professionals as perhaps the top program in the United States. Carroll Hall offers a peek into facilities that match its world-class programs: a TV studio, audio and video editing suites, and high-tech labs for multimedia production, graphic design, and layout. The halls are lined with fascinating memorabilia and displays.

Carolina Inn (Open daily, lobby area free to walk around. Columbia Street and Cameron Avenue)

Called "Chapel Hill's living room," the Carolina Inn is located right on campus and is a historic landmark of the University. Since opening its doors in 1924, the Inn has proven to be a University favorite for travelers both in and out of state. Recently, the Carolina Inn has brought its history to the hallways and offers fascinating photos and insight into our town and the University.

Franklin Street (Various shops – open daily)



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A must-see for anyone visiting Chapel Hill! Also, I like to show off Michael Brown's murals, especially the one inside the downtown post office that depicts the birth of our town.

Wilson Library (Open Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. On Polk Place.)

Wilson Library is home to the North Carolina Collection and Gallery with exhibits on the first gold rush (which occurred in North Carolina and not in California!), Sir Walter Raleigh, Thomas Wolfe, and changing exhibits and more. The library also houses the Southern Historical Collection, the largest of its kind in the world. Carolina Photographic Archives has a wonderful display of historical photographs lining the halls downstairs.

Approximately 1.5 miles from campus....

North Carolina Botanical Garden (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays, 1-6 p.m. Old Mason Farm Road and Fordham Boulevard) The North Carolina Botanical Garden encompasses display gardens, an information center, and natural areas to explore. The new LEED-certified Education Center was designed to celebrate relationships between humans and nature through the integration of indoor and outdoor spaces with its open breezeways, comfortable porches, natural light in every room, beautiful native plant landscaping, and educational exhibits.

As published in
southern  NEIGHBOR

www.SouthernNeighbor.com