



Perris News

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An American Celebration

The public is invited to watch the inauguration of Barack Obama on a big-screen television at the Lake Perris Sports Pavilion.

"This is a historical event of extremely significant proportions," said Jenice Haskin, president of the board of directors of the Perris Community Partnerships, one of the agencies that teamed up for the Jan. 20 event. "So many times we as citizens feel left out of the loop. This is a chance to be in the loop. I am excited. I hope others are inspired to come."

The Perris event, entitled "An American Celebration," takes place from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Jan. 20 at the sports Pavilion, 18700 Lake Perris Drive. The venue is located off the Ramona Expressway about three miles east of Interstate 215.

Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez worked with the Chamber of Commerce, Perris Community Partnership and representatives of the Dora Nelson African American Art & History Museum to make the inauguration-watching celebration possible.

The Dora Nelson Museum honors the contributions of the woman who started the first black church in Perris.

The Perris Community Partnership works to obtain funds to foster public safety, education, the arts, employment and educational opportunities in the City.

Perris City Councilwoman Joanne Evans said she hopes area school children will be able to attend the event, which is free.

"How many of us ever get to go to an inauguration?" she said. "This is the next best thing. It's a chance to see democracy at work. I am proud to be part of this because I know so many people voted in the last election. It's a great event. I am really glad the City is able to do this."

The Dora Nelson museum will be conducting a pair of events to coincide with the inauguration and the celebration of the Martin Luther King national holiday.

The museum at 316 East Seventh Street will be celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum will continuously air Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech," Stevie Wonder's version of "Happy Birthday" and "The Legacy" by Dr. Billy Ingram.

Dr. King would have celebrated his 80th birthday in 2009.

The museum will be offering free tours and birthday cake.

On Inauguration Day, the museum will be hosting a breakfast buffet beginning at 6 a.m.

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