

November 13, 2015



COUNTY TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



Orange County administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The County offices will re-open and all employees will return on Monday, November 30, and resume regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please be advised of the operating hours for specific Orange County departments or services. [Read More](#)



**PRESS CONFERENCE:
DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

Orange County will hold a press conference to announce the launch of North Carolina's first Dementia-Friendly community initiative made possible by a \$900,000 federal grant.

For the first time since his death, **Linnea Smith**, wife of the late UNC Coach, Dean Smith will publicly share her experience as his caregiver.

This event will also kick-off Orange County's Dementia-Friendly Business (DFB) Campaign.

Who: Orange County Department on Aging

What: Unprecedented Administration for Community Living grant totaling \$900,000 for Alzheimer's and dementia support services.

When: Wednesday, November 18, at 10 a.m.

Where: Robert and Pearl Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill

[Read More](#)



COUNTY FOCUSING ON BROADBAND SERVICE EXPANSION

In concert with the North Carolina Information Technologies Services Office of Digital Infrastructure, Orange County has been working to expand Internet service through the County.

The topic of broadband expansion was the focus of a recent gathering of both elected leaders and residents who discussed impediments to limited Internet service, including the inability to work at home, negative impact on property values and the problems

students studying at home may have completing homework.

As a result of feedback received from outreach efforts, Orange County has implemented several strategies for the immediate future, which include identifying under-served areas in Orange County and providing these results to Internet Service Providers (ISPs), as well as identifying available public vertical assets to help give ISPs the information they need to expand broadband service in Orange County.

“Broadband is an important tool for expanding educational and economic opportunities for residents in remote locations,” said Orange County Manager Bonnie Hammersley. [Read More](#)



ORANGE COUNTY PROMOTES "GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT"

On Thursday, November 19, people across the nation will put down their cigarettes for the last time in honor of the Great American Smokeout. But quitting smoking is one of the most difficult things many people do. Where can they turn for support?

Call **1.800.QUIT.NOW** for free telephone counseling support. Any Orange County resident who registers to quit is eligible for (8) weeks of free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT).

Call 919.245.2480 or visit the county's **Smoking Cessation** [website](#) to learn about Freshstart tobacco cessation classes offered by the health department and be eligible to receive free NRT (patches, gum, lozenges), while supplies last.

If you or one of your loved ones smokes, remember that you can have a confidential phone conversation to discuss quitting and obtaining free nicotine patches, gum and lozenges. Call Coby Austin at 919.245.2424.

And did you ever wonder how is Orange County doing in terms of smoking rates? Check out the **Tobacco and Respiratory Disease** [dashboard](#) to find out!



Through My Brother's Keeper, cities and towns, businesses, and foundations are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find success as adults.

The initiative is focused on six milestones, three of which are the key areas of focus in Orange County.

- **Ensuring All Youth Graduate From High School**
- **Ensuring All Youth Complete Post-Secondary Education or Training**
- **Ensuring All Youth Out of School Are Employed**

The County will be engaging with the schools and community organizations that are working to improve outcomes for our youngest residents. [Read More](#)

FREE SAFELINK WIRELESS PHONES FOR DSS CLIENTS

A Safelink Wireless cellular phone will be provided to qualified DSS recipients.

Clients may qualify if they participate in one of the following federal assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Section-8 Housing
- Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program



Phone Distribution Locations:

Department of Social Services in Hillsborough
Skills Development/NC Career Center Center in Chapel Hill
Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill

For a list of dates and times when a SafeLink Representative will be on location, [click here](#) and scroll down to the **Safelink Wireless Lifeline** link.

VITAMIN O

Orange County is a remarkable place. We have everything: rolling hills and cow-dotted pastures, a cutting-edge arts and music scene, and some of the best food and nicest people you're going to get anywhere in the country.

Residents of Orange County are from all walks of life and to better showcase what makes our County so special, we've created a new website feature that turns the spotlight on some of our colorful residents.

Pictured here is Christian Hirni.

[Click here](#) to meet Christian and our other residents.





Getting to Know Your Bird Neighbors

New Hope Audubon Society, serving Orange, Durham and Chatham counties in North Carolina, invites youth and their families/friends to get to know their bird neighbors through games, hands-on activities, and educational displays.



Karen MacAulay

**When: Saturday, November 14, 2015 from
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: Orange County Public Library
137 W Margaret Lane, Hillsborough**

**Youth of all ages and their
families are welcome!**



ORANGE COUNTY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS: 2015 PAULI MURRAY HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS

The Orange County Human Relations Commission is accepting nominations for the 2015 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards.

Each year, the Pauli Murray Award is presented to a youth, adult and business owner in Orange County. Each recipient is recognized for serving the Orange County community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all residents.



Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2015. The nomination form is available online, [click here](#) to access the form.

Individual and Youth nominees must reside in Orange County. Business nominees must operate or conduct business within Orange County. [Read More](#)

COUNTY WEBSITE ANALYTICS

TOP FIVE VISITED PAGES

Animal Services = 10,201 Sessions

Humam Resources = 3,584 Sessions

Register of Deeds = 3,104 Sessions

Solid Waste = 2,710 Sessions

Library = 2,382 Sessions

TOTAL SESSIONS = 105,547 / October 2015

News & Notes

NCDOT Free Bicycle Helmets

The N.C. Department of Transportation's [Bicycle and Pedestrian Division](#) is accepting applications for its

2016 Bicycle Helmet Initiative. In an effort to promote bike safety for kids, the initiative distributes helmets to children from low-

income families, and is open to both government and non-government agencies.



Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2015.

Veterans' Wall of Honor Ceremony

Monday, November 16

10:30 a.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Holiday Fashion Gala

Friday, November 13

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Mulch Sale - November

Orange County Landfill, 1514 Eubanks Road

Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Details](#)

Seminar: Writing an Effective Business Plan

Tuesday, November 17

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

West Campus Building, Room 004

131 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough [Details](#)

Stay Connected

Encourage others to stay connected with Orange County by subscribing to the News list, [click here](#) to join the mailing list or follow us on [Facebook](#) and like us on [Twitter](#) and watch us on [YouTube](#). Look for our monthly newspaper ads in the News of Orange and Chapel Hill News.

For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 919.245.2302.