

December 11, 2015



SPORTSPLEX STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 10 YEARS *By Carla Banks, Orange County Public Affairs*



High energy and enthusiasm fills the workout room at the Orange County Sportsplex as seniors and pre-schoolers demonstrate the moves they learn in Zumba class.

Hand clapping and foot stomping got the crowd pumped up to celebrate the recreation and fitness facility's 10 Year Anniversary.

Dignitaries from the current and previous Board of Orange County Commissioners marvel at the progress made in the past decade, recalling the opposition they faced when the idea of the Sportsplex first came about.

The facility draws all walks of life, serving a variety of purposes, as shared by the personal experiences of parents, residents and County employees. A plaque dedication officially marks this momentous occasion.

To offer some perspective of the impact this facility makes on the community, 10 years ago, there were 900 fitness members. In stark contrast, there are currently 5,700 fitness members and the revenues have tripled, exceeding three million dollars. A self sufficient operation, not reliant on tax-payer dollars.

Each year, more than 700,000 visitors attend events at the Sportsplex. It's home to three collegiate hockey teams, one of only two synchronized skating programs in the State, three swim teams including Duke Aquatics and Hillsborough Aquatics Club. The facility also hosts the Triangle Youth and Adult Hockey Leagues, the Carolina Skating Club not to mention, a quality Pre-School, Camp and After School program. The Sportsplex also accommodates a 15,000 square foot Senior Center

While the Sportsplex sets the backdrop for family fun, wellness and recreation it also has at its core a passionate mission to support the efforts to reduce childhood and adult obesity, making a dent in Type 2 diabetes, providing an important resource and gathering place to support physical and mental wellness for Orange County residents of all ages from two to 92. Congratulations and here's to another 10 years!



RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Two Orange County employees receive top honors from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

Each December at a festive after-hours event, the Chamber recognizes the men and women who are committed to making Chapel Hill-Carrboro a thriving, healthy and sustainable community.

The Employees of the Year from Orange County are as follows:

Deputy Jamie Sykes (pictured on the left)
Orange County Sheriff's Office

Kirby Saunders (pictured on the right)
Emergency Services Coordinator
Orange County Emergency Services



ORANGE COUNTY FIRST TO USE OVERDOSE PREVENTION DRUG

The Board of Orange County Commissioners congratulates the Board of Health, Orange County Emergency Services, Chapel Hill Police, Carrboro Police, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and the Orange County Health Department for teaming up to save residents who experience an overdose from opioids, such as prescription pain killers and heroin.

These agencies are the recipient of the 2015 Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) Excellence in Innovation Award for the creation of the Naloxone Access program, which increases access to naloxone through the health department and first responders.

Orange County is the first health department to take advantage of the 2013 Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access legislation, allowing doctors, family and friends to administer naloxone to someone who overdoses on opioids, without being prosecuted.

"Naloxone, also known as Narcan, quickly and effectively reverses overdose, if administered in time. This program places Orange County on the map, leading the way for other communities to follow this cost effective, life-saving example," said Dr. Colleen Bridger, director of the Orange County Health Department. [Read More](#)



Naloxone Access Program Partners –
Orange County Board of Health, Orange County Health Department,
Orange County Sheriff's Office, Carrboro Police Department, Chapel Hill Police Department, and
Orange County Emergency Services – accept award from the NC Association of County
Commissioners and the Local Government Federal Credit Union.



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Monday, December 7, at the Whitted Building in Hillsborough.

Click on the link to review a brief summary of the Board actions. This summary should not be viewed as official minutes. [Meeting Highlights](#)

The next Regular Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** at the BOCC meeting room in the Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill.

**PUBLIC HEARING:
CONSOLIDATED HOUSING PLAN UPDATE**



**Orange County
Department of Housing,
Human Rights and
Community Development**

The Board of Orange County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to obtain citizen comments regarding the housing and community development needs in Orange County including the

Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough.

The public hearing will take place at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 15**, at the Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill.

The County is seeking input from the community regarding the expenditure of 2016-2017 HOME Investment Partnership funds. The Orange County HOME Consortium expects to receive approximately \$311,832 in HOME funds. [Read More](#)

**PLANNING EMPLOYEE RECEIVES HIGH HONORS FROM
HOME BUILDER'S ASSOCIATION**



Congratulations to Dan Bruce, chief building official for the Orange County Planning & Inspections Department.

The Orange, Durham and Chatham County Home Builder's Association presented Dan with its "**Presidential Service Award**" for the exemplary work he has done for their organization as the first "Ex-Officio" Board member.

This position was established to promote cooperation and interactions between governmental and building officials to better serve our mutual customers.

This is a great achievement and well deserved, considering the number of responsibilities Dan manages on a daily basis as he leads the Inspections team.

Dan has been with Orange County for 21 years and is planning to retire on February 29, 2016.



COUNTY ACCEPTING LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATIONS

The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness is accepting applications for its 2016 Leadership Team.

The mission of the Partnership to End Homelessness is to work collaboratively to end and prevent homelessness in Orange County. The Partnership's Leadership Team is the governing body of the Partnership and provides leadership to its work.

To access the application [click here](#). The deadline is Monday, December 28.

For more information, please call Jamie Rohe at 919.245.2496.

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED: 2015 PAULI MURRAY HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS

The Orange County Human Relations Commission has extended the nomination period 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 18, 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 SHOWS ITS APPRECIATION FOR 4H VOLUNTEERS



The mission of Orange County 4-H is "To Make the Best Better".

Through the support of dedicated advisory council members, community club leaders, teen county council members, and the support of Orange County as a whole, 4-H is able to fulfill its mission

for youth within Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Hillsborough.

In an effort to say thank you and to demonstrate appreciation for the contributions of volunteer support, Orange County 4-H hosted its annual Appreciation Dinner on Friday, December 4, at Saratoga Grill in downtown Hillsborough.



RE-NAME THE ORANGE COUNTY INTERSTATE SIGN



Orange County, North Carolina—home to UNC and Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and parts of Mebane-- has an opportunity to change the "Welcome to Orange County" Interstate sign, currently placed on I-40 at mile marker 269, heading west.

The current sign welcomes interstate travelers with the message "Orange County: You'll Be a Fan for Life."

Orange County Board of Commissioners invites the public to suggest slogans to rename the sign. And everyone who submits an entry is automatically entered into a weekly prize drawing. To accomplish the program goals, Orange County has partnered with WCHL and Chapelboro.com.

Each Wednesday WCHL will salute the sign naming contest with a “Welcome to Orange County Day” on their broadcast. On that day, the station will share ideas they’ve received so far –from funny and farfetched to electrifying possibilities for the Board of Orange County Commissioners to consider.

Also, every Wednesday WCHL will announce four prize winners and encourage others to join in the fun – AND have a chance to win gift cards from Orange County businesses.

Slogans can be submitted via e-mail, online and on paper.

E-mail: WelcometoOrangeCounty@wchl.com

Log-On: <http://chapelboro.com/welcometoorangecounty/>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ANIMAL SERVICES



“SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY”

The Orange County Department of Social Services reminds residents sponsorship is a wonderful opportunity to help support families in crisis.

There are various ways to be a sponsor, such as families, Sunday school groups, churches, businesses, neighborhoods and individuals. Sponsors have the option of sponsoring one child, siblings, seniors or disabled



adults.

Sponsorship involves purchasing new gifts. Sponsors should plan to spend between \$200 - \$250 per child, although amounts can vary, depending on the child's age.

Sponsors of seniors or disabled adults should plan to spend \$75-\$100.

Gift cards for a holiday meal are also appreciated. The County is in need of sponsors for our elderly and disabled adults.

Last year's sponsors provided 356 children and seniors with holiday gifts.

For more information, please contact Rebekah Rapoza at 919.245.2869 or send an e-mail to rrapoza@orangecountync.gov

DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL TOY CHEST



The Orange County Department of Social Services is asking the community to help make the holidays merry and bright for the more than 10,000 children living in low-income households in Orange County.

DSS is requesting donations and is in need of volunteers for its annual Toy Chest event. This is the eighth year the County will partner with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

The 2015 Toy Chest will take place in Hillsborough at the Department of Social Services office from **10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, December 19**, and from **12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 20**. The festive environment invites low-income parents to shop like they normally would at the store and select two to three gifts per child.

This event provides an opportunity for these families to celebrate the holiday season by making sure the kids have new toys, thanks to the support and generosity of fellow Orange County residents. The majority of these children have working parents who find it difficult to make ends meet. [Read More](#)

COUNTY WEBSITE ANALYTICS

TOP FIVE VISITED PAGES

Animal Services = 5,451 Sessions

Library = 4,072 Sessions

Board of Elections = 3,327

Human Resources = 2,809 Sessions

Register of Deeds = 2,691 Sessions

TOTAL SESSIONS = 100,928 / November 2015

News
&
Notes

OPEN HOUSE MEETING:

Proposed New Airport Regulations

Thursday, December 17 and December 21

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

West Campus Office Building

131 West Margaret Lane in Hillsborough

**** Both Meetings Canceled Until Further Notice**

Geminid Meteor Shower Viewing

Sunday, December 13

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Free for all ages

Meet in the Big Field

For more information, please call 919.732.5505

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 20

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Free for ages 6 and older

Count the birds at Little River Park.

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.