

December 31, 2015



COUNTY OFFICES TO CLOSE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY



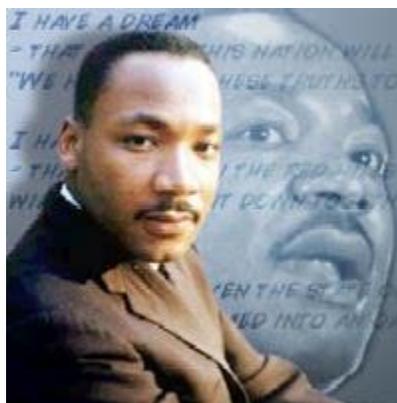
Orange County will close its administrative offices on Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Employees will return on Monday, January 4, and resume regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



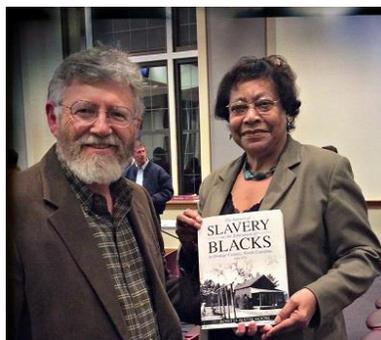
CHAIR OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESPONDS TO TRAGIC CHAPEL HILL SHOOTING

Once again I find myself trying to find words to express the sense of tragedy that our community feels in the wake of another killing. This time a baby girl, Maleah Williams, was struck and killed by a bullet fired from a car leaving the parking lot of the apartment complex where she lived. [Read More](#)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION



Orange County Department on Aging invites the public to participate in a special celebration in honor and remembrance of “The Dream” inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On Friday, January 15, Rosetta Austin Moore, author of the newly published book “The Impact of Slavery on the Education of Blacks in Orange County, NC 1619-1970” will be the guest speaker.

The Central Orange Senior Center will set the backdrop for the morning celebration beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 11:45 a.m.

A reception and book signing will follow the program.

[Read More](#)

Pictured left to right: Commissioner Barry Jacobs and Rosetta Austin Moore

Human Relations Commission Forum

Sunday, January 31, 2016
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Whitted Human Services Building
300 W. Tryon Street in Hillsborough

*dis*ABILITIES MATTER: A Focus on Disability Awareness



Special Presentation by Alice Elliott

Ms. Elliott is an Academy Award nominee and Area Head of Documentary Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and a media consultant for corporations and non-profits.

A 2012 Guggenheim Fellow award recipient, she is working on completing a trilogy of short films that, through compelling stories, change our perceptions of ability. Currently, Ms. Elliott is finishing a new training video for NY State's Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

She directed the PBS Award-winning documentary *Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy*, as part of the trilogy. In 2013, she received a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. Alice tweets regularly on topical disability news. She is developing an app for Washington, DC visitors on the history of disability rights, and looking at empathy and disability through virtual reality.



Each year, the HRC hosts a Human Relations Month Forum as a springboard into Human Relations Month in February.

The purpose of the forum is to highlight and discuss historical or current issues of civil rights and/or social justice. The year 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As such, this forum will focus on the achievements that emerged after the ADA, and the continuing barriers to equal access for persons with disabilities.



ORANGE COUNTY 2017 REVALUATION

The next real estate revaluation will be effective January 1, 2017, and tax assessments will be updated to reflect market value as of that specific appraisal date.

In preparation, the Orange County Tax Office has produced a series of [On-Demand Videos](#) as a "learn and share resource." The videos range from five to seven minutes and each offers a unique perspective.

Want to become a **2017 Revaluation Partner**? Don't let your studying and hard work go unnoticed. With each video a brief summary is provided. Once finished viewing the videos, test yourself to see how much you have learned. An interactive 10-question quiz is provided below the final video. Complete the quiz with a passing score and the tax office will send you a certificate of appreciation, thereby informally appointing you as a 2017 Revaluation Partner.

Earning this distinction will show your willingness to engage and collaborate with your local government, and it will prepare you to discuss the 2017 revaluation with other members of the community. As a 2017 Revaluation Partner, you also may be involved in pilot studies and asked for input over the course of the 2017 revaluation.



CO-HOUSING SEMINAR FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Orange County Department on Aging and Village Hearth Cohousing will host a seminar for those interested in living lightly on the earth, knowing and working cooperatively with their neighbors, reducing household duties, and sharing resources.

These topics and other housing options will be discussed at the "Senior Co-housing: Thriving in Community" seminar taking place on Thursday, January 14.

Learn to live smaller, smarter, sustainably, and resolve the feelings of loneliness and isolation. [Read More](#)

COUNTY SLOGAN CONTEST GAINING MOMENTUM



Since the Orange County slogan contest launched on December 4, WCHL Radio and Chapelboro.com have received more than 650 entries from residents interested in naming the new Interstate welcome sign.

The current slogan reads, “Orange County: You’ll Be a Fan for Life.”

The Orange County sign naming submission deadline is January 8. Commissioners will review ideas and they hope to announce a decision later in January. The new sign will be erected in February.

“The program has accomplished what we hoped it would,” said Mark Dorosin Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. “I’m not sure that my favorite will win – “Orange You Glad We Didn’t Say Banana” -- but I’m touched that so many residents and visitors have taken the time to write in, call, drop their suggestions at area ballot boxes and stop me on the street to offer their thanks for this opportunity.”

[Read More](#)

Orange County Animal Services

Low-cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics 2016

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 am - 12:00pm

Orange County's Animal Services Center,
1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill
(1 year vaccinations only)

Thursday, February 18, 3:00 - 5:00pm

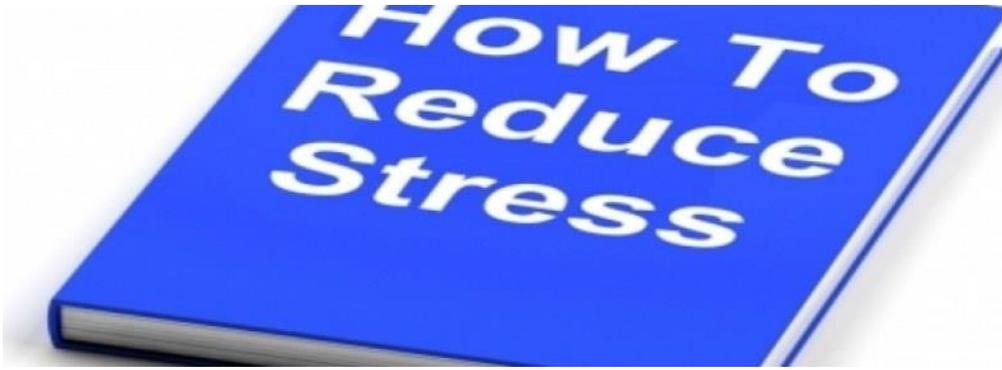
Orange County's Animal Services Center,
1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill
(1 year vaccinations only; microchips
offered for an additional \$25)



For questions or further information please call 919-942-PETS (7387)

Additional clinic dates available at www.orangecountync.gov/animalservices

STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASSES



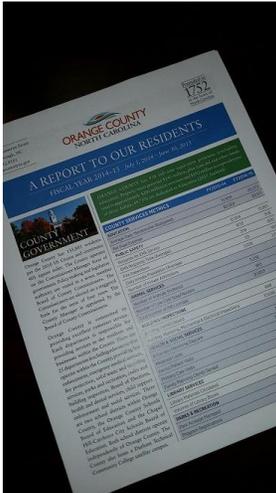
Start the new year with less stress by attending “*Stress Management: The Mindfulness Way.*”

Learn mindfulness techniques and how they can affect your life in many positive ways. Recognize the warning signs of stress, learn to quiet and calm your mind, and restore and maintain a sense of personal balance to improve overall physical and emotional wellbeing.

The classes will be taught by Paula Huffman, a registered nurse and experienced yoga teacher. Huffman is certified in Restorative Yoga Instruction and teaches Mindfulness at the University of North Carolina Integrative Medicine program.

[Read More](#)

ORANGE COUNTY FINANCIAL REPORT TO OUR RESIDENTS



Orange County has completed its financial audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

The financial audit indicates strong financial operations for the County.

The Finance and Administrative Services Department has prepared A Report to Our Residents, which highlights the County’s financial strength.

The report includes Financial and Service Delivery Metrics for the County.

To view the Financial Report to Our Residents [click here](#)

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



Recreation Program Guides

The 2016 January - April program guide is now available. Registration for all upcoming programs begins on **Monday, January 4.**

To view all winter and early spring classes, leagues, and special events [click here](#)

Agricultural Summit

Monday, February 29

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Whitted Building

300 W. Tryon Street in Hillsborough

Music Therapy Class

Tuesday, January 12

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Seymour Center

2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill

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.