

February 5, 2016



ORANGE COUNTY PRODUCES VOTER GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

In an effort to assist residents with understanding the recent changes to the voting process, Orange County has produced a 2016 Guide to Voting. This publication, answers frequently asked questions about photo ID, early voting, and accommodations for the disabled, voting locations, etc.

Click on the link to access [How to Vote in 2016 in Orange County, NC](#)

Copies of the guide will also be available at various Orange County offices in advance of the primary election on Tuesday, March 15.

The regular voter registration deadline for the 2016 Primary Election is Friday,

February 19. Voter registration forms must be postmarked or delivered to the State Board of Elections or the Orange County Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. [Read More](#)

POLICY CHANGES FOR FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES
Attend an Information Session



The Orange County Department of Social Services is announcing policy changes as of January 1, 2016, for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients.

Four information sessions will be held in February to explain the new policy, discuss ways to meet the work requirements, and answer questions about the policy changes.

Clients who are considered Able-Bodied Adults without Dependent Children (ABAWDs) will be required to participate in 20 hours a week of qualifying activities in order to continue to receive FNS. Those who do not participate 20 hours a week, will be unable to receive FNS benefits for up to 36 months.

An ABAWD is someone who is between 18 and 49 years of age, who is able to work, and who does not live with child/children under the age of 18 who is/are included in the FNS case. Qualifying activities will be paid employment, verified volunteer work, qualifying work experience placements, and/or work-related training opportunities.

[Read More](#)

ORANGE COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION JOINS NATIONAL STUDY



The Orange County Arts Commission believes the arts mean business. That is the message being delivered by the Arts Commission, who has joined the Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5, a national study measuring the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences.

The research study is being conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education. It is the fifth study over the past 20 years to measure the impact of arts spending on local jobs, income paid to local residents, and revenue generated to local and state governments.

As one of nearly 300 study partners across all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, the Orange County Arts Commission will collect detailed financial data about our local nonprofit arts and culture organizations such as our theater and dance companies, museums, festivals, and arts education organizations.

“Many people don’t think of nonprofit arts organizations as businesses,” said Martha Shannon, director, Orange County Arts Commission. “This study will make it clear the arts are a formidable industry in our community—employing people locally, purchasing goods and services from local merchants, and helping to drive tourism and economic development.”

The Orange County Arts Commission is joined by the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Chapel Hill and the Town of Hillsborough, local partners in the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study in Orange County. These local partners will receive studies detailing the economic impact of arts and culture nonprofits in each of their municipalities as well as Orange County as a whole. [Read More](#)



ORANGE COUNTY PROMOTES PARAMEDICS IN EMS DIVISION

Orange County Emergency Services' (OCES) Emergency Medical Services division promotes two Paramedics to the position of Field Training Officer (FTO).

Paramedics James Johnson and Richard Eldridge were selected from a pool of very talented EMS professionals, who participated in a highly competitive process to join the ranks of the EMS Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP).

The program is a crucial component to ensuring a high standard of care of Orange County residents. Operated by the Field Training Officers, the FTEP involves a six week academy before recruits transition to the field evaluation phase. FTOs serve as mentors through the entire process until recruits are successfully released to perform normal duties.

To learn more about the members of the Field Training and Evaluation Program [click here](#).



Pictured from left to right: Field Supervisor Tim Rodriguez, Paramedic FTO Richard Eldridge, Paramedic FTO Andrew Lomax, Field Supervisor Andrew Werner, Paramedic FTO James Rose, Paramedic FTO James Johnson, Field Supervisor, and FTEP Coordinator Barry Conklin

18TH ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT



18TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

GROWING FAMILY FARMS: TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

FEBRUARY 29, 2016 • 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
WHITTED BUILDING, 300 W. TRYON STREET, HILLSBOROUGH
Admission: FREE • Refreshments and Full Lunch provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION, CONTACT Kay Evans:
(919) 245-2059
www.orangecountync.gov
OCNCAgriculturalSummit



REGISTER HERE

For more information or to register, please call Kay Evans at Orange County Cooperative Extension at 919.245.2059. [Read More](#)



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Tuesday, February 2, at the Whitted Southern Human Services Building in Hillsborough.

not be viewed as official minutes. [Meeting Highlights](#)

The next Regular Meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the BOCC meeting room in the Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT RELEASES 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

As in recent years, the annual report is made available online only in an effort to be more environmentally and economically friendly, while providing readers with interactive hyperlinks to get more in depth about a variety of the highlights.

Click [here](#) to explore and share the report.

Thank you for your continued support of the work of the Orange County Health Department.

Please feel free to contact the Health Department if you have any questions or would like additional information about any of the content shared in the report.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR “SUMMER SIZZLE” CAMP



The Orange County 4-H Cooperative Extension Service is accepting registration for its annual five week Summer Sizzle Camp.

The summer camp is available Monday - Friday from 7:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., beginning the week of June 20 - July 22. Parents can register for camp on a weekly basis.

The program offers action-packed activities for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Each week will feature field trips and hands-on activities in areas, such as Arts & Crafts, Sports, Cooking, and activities that focus on the

Environment. The campers will explore science, technology, engineering, and math, while also participating in bowling, skating, swimming, and much more.

Participants must be willing to take part in outdoor activities, attend field trips and function in a group setting. [Read More](#)

ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES TO HOST SPAY NEUTER DAY

The Orange County Animal Services Department is working to combat pet overpopulation by hosting its annual "Spay Neuter Day." This event coincides with the national Spay Day USA event each February.



The event will take place on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. The purpose is to raise awareness and help to eliminate the need for euthanasia as a means of population control.

For the event, Animal Services has partnered with Spay Neuter Assistance Program or North Carolina (SNAP-NC) to offer no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of households that receive services from the Orange County Department of Social Services or who qualify by their combined income.

"Animal Services hopes events such as this, along with other longer-term programs developed by this department, will increase the number of pets that are spayed and neutered in Orange County, and in turn help to eliminate the ongoing problem of pet overpopulation we face as a community," said Bob Marotto, director of Animal Services.

Qualifying Orange County residents must sign up by Friday, February 12, 2016.

To register or determine if you qualify, please call Sarah Fallin at 919.942.7387 extension 224.



LIBRARY "BOOK DROP" NOW AVAILABLE



The Main Library has a new drive-by book drop, located at the Margaret Lane entrance to the Eno River Parking Deck.

Library staff members collect items from the book drop twice a day, typically in the morning and then again in the late afternoon.

However, times vary because materials are first checked in that are left at the internal book drop. Feel free to deposit any library materials in the book drop, except kindles; return those inside.

Note: please bring all donations into the library during regular operating hours, so a tax receipt can be issued.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE FEATURES BLUEBERRY PLANTS



The Orange Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting its annual plant sale thru February 22.

This year four varieties of blueberry plants in one gallon pots are available for \$9.00.

Proceeds from the sale are used to support environmental education programs in Orange County. For more information, please [click here](#).



ORANGE COUNTY PRESENTS FALL 2015 ARTS GRANTS

The Orange County Arts Commission presented local organizations and individuals with Orange County Arts Grants at the February 2, Board of Orange County Commissioners meeting.

The arts grants support arts programming during the Fall 2015 grant cycle (January 1 - December 31, 2016).

[Click here](#) to view the list of recipients.

VITAMIN O - RESIDENT PROFILES

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 Sara Stephens.

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



Be ready to help when disaster strikes! Orange County, North Carolina

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING TRAINING: CERT PROGRAM

Orange County Emergency Services reminds residents the next disaster cannot be predicted, but being prepared is the key!

All neighborhoods should be ready. Emergency Services is hosting a comprehensive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Course. The **nine week** training will take place on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., beginning on MARCH 1, 2016. The registration deadline is February 26, 2016.

The course is offered **free of charge**, and course materials will be provided. The training will be held at the Orange County Emergency Services office located at 510 Meadowlands Drive in Hillsborough. All residents are encouraged to participate, but those younger than 18-years-old, must obtain parental or guardian permission to attend this important and valuable training. [Read More](#)



Artists' Salon

Friday, February 19
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The ArtsCenter in Carrboro [Details](#)

FREE Tax Filing Service

Electronic filing of federal and state tax returns

[Read More](#)

Fat Tuesday - Mardi Gras Dinner

Tuesday, February 9

4:30 p.m.

Central Orange Senior Center [Details](#)

Sweetheart Ball

Friday, February 12

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Solid Waste Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 30

6:00 p.m.

Solid Waste Administration in Chapel Hill [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.

