

January 28, 2016



ORANGE COUNTY PREPARES FOR 2017 REVALUATION

The next real estate revaluation will be effective on 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.

Additionally, County Commissioner Chair Earl McKee shares some important points to keep in mind regarding the appraisal process. [Read More](#)

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.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS MLK AWARD



David Caldwell Accepts MLK Citizenship Award

The 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Banquet: A Dream Deferred, The Time is Now, was hosted by the MLK Planning Corporation, Sunday, January 17, at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

Master of Ceremonies, and Orange County resident, Fred Black, welcomed a sold-out crowd. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Rosalind Fuse-Hall. Several awards were presented, including the MLK Citizenship Award. This honor was bestowed upon Orange County employee, David Caldwell.

The event began with an official Flag Presentation by the Orange County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard. Leaders throughout Orange County and the state celebrated the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired all with his dream.

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.

COUNTY EXPANDS RURAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING



Letters were mailed to residents in the unincorporated portion of Orange County who do not currently receive curbside recycling. The letter explains the implementation process and includes a very important return postage-paid postcard with the choice of “One Cart,” “Two Orange Bins” or “Neither.”

Residents are asked to return the postcard no later than **Monday, February 22**, with their choice indicated on the card.

If you live in the unincorporated portion of Orange County where curbside service is not yet available and you did not receive a letter, or you would prefer to sign up on-line, you can visit the “[Rural Expansion Web page](#)” and fill out the on-line form there.

If you are not sure if you are in the expansion area, there is a list of streets and a map of the expansion area on that same page.

Residents can also contact Orange County Solid Waste Management at 919.968.2788 or email recycling@orangecountync.gov to request a cart or bins. [Read More](#)

FINANCE STAFF IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

In an effort to ensure appropriate Finance Department coverage and customer service responsiveness, the office has added Finance group e-mails as its primary form of communication.

The e-mail addresses are specific to the following major Finance functional areas:

Accounts Payable: ALL_FINANCE_AP@orangecountync.gov

Budget: ALL_FINANCE_BUDGET@orangecountync.gov

General Finance: ALL_FINANCE_GENERAL@orangecountync.gov

Payroll: ALL_FINANCE_PAYROLL@orangecountync.gov

Purchasing: ALL_FINANCE_PURCHASING@orangecountync.gov

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](#)

**DUE TO THE WINTER WEATHER...
THE JANUARY CLINIC WAS POSTPONED TO
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**

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)



Vaccines
\$10

Dogs must be
on leashes

Cats must be
in carriers

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

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



EMPLOYEE INFORMATION SESSIONS

These sessions are an opportunity for employees ask questions and discuss issues with the County Manager.

The session locations and times were selected based on the ability to accommodate the most employees. The locations are not specific to departments, therefore county employees are welcome to attend the session that best meets their schedule.

"If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As your county manager, I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss the important issues in Orange County."



For the schedule of meeting dates and locations [click here](#)



COUNTY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One major way citizens can have a positive impact on the future of Orange County is to volunteer to serve on the various advisory boards and commissions.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints representatives to fill three positions on the **CHAPEL HILL BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**. Currently there are two openings. These individuals represent and must reside in the Joint Planning Area (JPA) or the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill Board of Adjustment, through the process of appeal and review may determine that variances to the zoning regulations of the Town be permitted. It may

official charged with enforcement of the Land Use Management Ordinance. It may serve as an appeals board for other matters assigned to it under the Town Code of Ordinances.

The Chapel Hill Board of Adjustment has been granted the power to act independently of the Town Council in most instances but on occasions serves in an advisory capacity to the Council.

If interested, apply [online](#) or call Thom Freeman at 919.245.2125.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE KICKS OFF



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](#).

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 Christian Hirni.

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





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](#)



FREE RADON KITS AVAILABLE

January is National Radon Action Month. The Orange County Health Department is doing its part to help people *Test, Fix, and Breathe* by partnering with the North Carolina Radon Program to provide free radon testing kits.

The kits are available to county residents, while supplies last. As it only takes one kit to

determine the presence of radon, only one kit per household will be given.

The free kits are available at the Orange County Health Department's Environmental Health Office located at 131 W. Margaret Lane, Suite 100 in Hillsborough. Free kits can also be ordered directly from the North Carolina Radon Program, please visit www.ncradon.org



CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

All the World's a Puppet Stage | Thursday, January 28, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Make your own puppet theater and stick puppets in this interactive family program. All materials provided. Best for ages 3 and older. Register by calling 919.245.2532.

Basic Computer Classes at the Cybrary in Downtown Carrboro

Presented in partnership with the UNC University Libraries, the Community Workshop Series provides free introductory computer classes to the community. All computer classes are free and open to the public, but please pre-register as space is limited. Register in person at the Cybrary or call 919.918.7387.

Internet Basics | January 30, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

For new computer users who would like to learn how to use the Internet. Learn how to open a Web browser, navigate different sites, and search the Web using a search engine. *If you are uncomfortable using a mouse, we recommend that you take the Computer Basics class first.*

News & Notes

Bridge Work on St. Mary's Road

NCDOT contractors plan to replace the bridge carrying [St. Mary's Road over Buckwater Creek](#), between Stagg Road and Pleasant Green Road near Hillsborough.

The new bridge should be open by May 2016.

Motorists will navigate around the work using an [offsite](#)

[detour](#) using New Sharon Church Road and Schley Road.

FREE Tax Filing Service

Electronic filing of federal and state tax returns [Read More](#)

Lunar New Year Celebration

Thursday, February 4

2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

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](#)

Recreation Program Guides

The January - April program guide is now available [Click Here](#)

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.