

November 20, 2015



SPORTSPLEX CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

It's been a decade since the County acquired what was known as the Triangle Sportsplex, and for everyone involved – the County, its citizens, and sports and fitness lovers from all across the Eastern Seaboard – it's been an unqualified success.

Come celebrate all we've accomplished in the last 10 years. There will be a plaque dedication, free skate and swim sessions and other promotional specials you won't want to miss at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 11.

Not everyone realizes how much the Sportsplex brings to our community. Every year 700,000+ visitors attend events here; 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 Triangle Youth and Adult Hockey Leagues; Carolina Skating Club plus a quality Pre-School, Camp and After School program. It also accommodates a 15,000 square foot Senior Center.



Ten years ago there were 900 fitness members. Today – 5,700. Revenues have tripled, which means it pays all of its own operating costs and generates surplus funds to support capital expenditures. Not a penny of taxpayer dollars are spent.

“Our fundamental mission to motivate people of all ages and fitness abilities to lead healthier lives has guided all that we do. We've had the privilege to positively touch thousands and thousands of lives over the past ten years,” said John Stock, owner of the facility's management company and the executive director of the Sportsplex, “and we're looking forward to the next ten. [Read More](#)

Photo: Hillsborough resident Dave Gephart works out with personal trainer

SENIORS ENJOY THANKSGIVING LUNCH



Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at Central Orange Senior Center in Hillsborough

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](#)



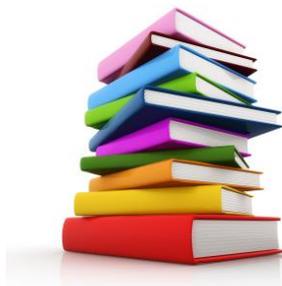
ORANGE COUNTY IS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

The Orange County Department on Aging held a press conference to announce a \$900,000 grant and to kickoff the state's first Dementia Friendly Community Initiative. To watch the press conference [click here](#).



'FOOD AND TOYS FOR FINES' HOLIDAY DRIVE

The Orange County Public Library invites its customers to make the holiday season brighter for fellow residents.



Until December 11, library customers may bring donations of non-perishable food and new, unwrapped toys to one of the library's three locations. Customers with fines will have a chance to reduce or erase their balances.

For each non-perishable food item donated, the library will reduce a customer's fine balance by \$1. For each new, unwrapped toy, the library will erase a fine balance completely. Canned pet food may also be donated.

For more information, please call 919.245.2525. [Read More](#)

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS AMONG TOP 10 IN THE NATION

Orange County is No. 9 on ranking and review site Niche.com's recent report, "[2015 Counties with the Best Public Schools.](#)"

Orange County's public schools get an A+ based on a combination of factors, including graduation rate, dropout rate, student-teacher ratio, math and reading proficiency, and spending per student.

"A high ranking indicates the [county] has great local schools with invested teachers, positive student outcomes, and high ratings from students and parents," says Niche.



AGING IN COMMUNITY SEMINAR IN DECEMBER

The Orange County Department on Aging invites the public to the latest in the *Aging in Community* speaker series entitled, "THE REAL DEAL on New Housing Models."

The program will feature a panel discussion with speakers who have lived in variety of housing options. The discussion will take place from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill.

Panel & Discussion Topics

Paul Voss will talk about his experience living in **shared housing** and leading the development of a **rural co-housing community** in Efland.

Liz Evans will share her experiences living in **co-op housing** in Carrboro.

Carolyn Kroll will talk about developing and living in **urban co-housing**.

Come learn the REAL DEAL about new housing options!

The event is free and registration is not required.

The Seymour Center is located at 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

For more information, please call 919.968.2070.

STORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS: AN HISTORICAL VIEW



Human Rights Day is celebrated each year on December 10. On this day in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights.

It is celebrated around the globe that, "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms". This event will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Seymour Center, beginning with a short documentary film that audiences will find striking and powerful. This film captures one of the world's most misunderstood subjects - human rights.

Grasp a new perspective through the dramatic story as it takes you on a historical journey. You will also have an opportunity to share your thoughts on what human rights means to you, and personal stories in smaller group settings. There will be one person from each group to share their group's collaborative thoughts regarding the film and what it means to them.

There are no right or wrong answers, just a relaxed atmosphere of open dialogue and exchanges of diverse perceptions. Program facilitators will be available to assist each group with questions and answers as needed. Each participant will receive a booklet, outlining the history of human rights up to the present day, as well as a full text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This free program is facilitated by the Orange County Housing Human Rights and Community Development Department.

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 Laura Fenn.

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

**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

Animal Services = 10,201 Sessions

Human 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



Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

Join the Hillsborough Running Club on **Thursday, November 26**. Run a timed 5k or a 1 mile fun run before you tuck in your turkey.

This **free event** is open to members and non-members.

Start at Weaver Street at 8:00

a.m.

There will be a turkey to chase and kids 13 and younger will receive a medal.



Freedom From Slavery

Saturday, December 5

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Coachman's Quarters

South Cameron Street in Hillsborough

Healthy Living Series

Tuesday, December 8

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

Seymour Center 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.

