

October 23, 2015



COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ROLLS OUT NEW VOTING MACHINES



The Orange County Board of Elections acknowledges outdated voting machines and primitive technologies have made taking part in our democracy more problematic than it should be. Even President Obama, in his re-election speech in 2012, mentioned this as one reason voting lines were so long.

Years later, much of the country is a long way from solving this problem, but not Orange County. With the 2016 presidential election just a year away, the Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) made a strategic decision not to rely on outdated machines that might crash or produce unreliable results.

The software in these machines, mostly from the 1990s, doesn't have the capabilities or security measures available today.

“Orange County’s original voting machines were purchased in 2006 with a life span of approximately 10 years,” said Tracy Reams, director of the Board of Elections. The BOCC approved money in its 2014/15 Capital Improvement Budget to bring this new, voting system into all Orange County precincts. [Read More](#)

GROUND BREAKING FOR CAROLINA SQUARE

UNC-Chapel Hill and the Town of Chapel Hill broke ground on the new Carolina Square development Thursday.

The mixed-use project will replace the former University Square shops and offices on Franklin Street, which housed the original Time-Out restaurant location among other businesses.



Carolina Square, located in Orange County will have shops, apartments, office space, and a performing arts center, all scheduled for completion in the fall of 2017. [Read More](#)

Photo: Amanda Garner and Steve Brantley of Orange County Economic Development



WAITING LIST TO OPEN FOR HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

The Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list will be open from Friday, October 30 – Monday, November 2, 2015.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and provides rental assistance to low-income families at or below 50% of the Area Median Income. For example, the income limit for a family of four (4) is \$33,700 a year.

Applications must be submitted **in person** during the above specified dates, or by postal mail. Applications will **NOT** be accepted electronically or by facsimile (fax). [Read More](#)



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SUMMARY

The Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Tuesday, October 20, at the Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill.

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 Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the BOCC meeting room in the Whitted building in Hillsborough.

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](#)



WELLNESS CLINICS FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Orange County Department on Aging is offering free wellness clinics as part of its One-Stop-Shop services in support of adults age 60 and older.

The One-Stop-Shop Clinic for Community Living is offered through a partnership between the Department on Aging and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Faculty. The goal is to increase the likelihood of success in safe independent living, health, and happiness by providing early identification of risk factors and referral to appropriate services.

The clinic will include multidisciplinary assessments in: Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, and Social Work. These assessments will provide

individualized recommendations regarding medications, exercise, home modifications, falls prevention, diet, and more. [Read More](#)

ANIMAL SERVICES TO MAINTAIN LOW/NO COST SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Orange County Animal Services has announced it will not change its low-cost and no-cost Spay/Neuter Program, despite recent changes made by the General Assembly to the North Carolina Spay Neuter Program.



Through the state's spay/neuter program, county and city shelters were traditionally eligible to apply for reimbursement from the state for the costs of any spay and neuter surgeries they funded for families making less than 300% of the federal poverty guideline, and for those receiving certain types of public assistance.

As of October 1, 2015, those guidelines have changed and become more restrictive, limiting the households that qualify under the program. Despite these changes, Orange County remains dedicated to spay/neuter and will continue to assist those receiving public assistance, even without state funding in the form of reimbursements. [Read More](#)

FREE MEMORY SCREENINGS

The Orange County Department on Aging would like anyone concerned about memory loss to take advantage of a FREE confidential Memory Screening in recognition of National Memory Screening Week.

Early detection and intervention is the focus of National Memory Screening Week.

"Memory screenings are important because they can be a significant first step toward finding out if a person may have a memory problem," said Mary Fraser, Aging Transitions administrator for Orange County.



A screening is not used to diagnose any particular illness and does not replace consultation with a qualified physician or other healthcare professional. It checks a person's memory and other thinking skills and can indicate if someone might benefit from a more complete medical visit. [Read More](#)



Click on the image for more specific ticket pricing

The Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks & Recreation will host the annual Halloween Spooktacular event on Saturday, October 24.

The ghoulish activities will take place from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Central Recreation Center, 302 W. Tryon Street in Hillsborough. Halloween costumes are encouraged.

Free activities include a Costume Contest, with cash prizes and arts and crafts for the kids. Other activities require a ticket. [Read More](#)

COUNTY WEBSITE ANALYTICS

TOP FIVE VISITED PAGES

Animal Services = 4,868 Sessions

Library = 4,556 Sessions

Human Resources = 3,223 Sessions

Register of Deeds = 3,003 Sessions

Solid Waste = 2,942 Sessions

TOTAL SESSIONS = 18,439 / September 2015

The logo for "News & Notes" is displayed in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The words "News" and "Notes" are stacked vertically, with an ampersand "&" centered between them. The entire logo is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

News & Notes

Veterans' Music Fest

Monday, November 9

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Volunteer Orientation from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Seymour Center – October 28

Central Orange Sr. Center – November 4

Seminar: Writing an Effective Business Plan

Tuesday, November 17

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

West Campus Building, Room 004

131 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough [Details](#)

Arts Commission Raffle Tickets

Ticket sales will benefit the Arts in Education grants. [Details](#)

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For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 919.245.2302.