

October 30, 2015



WAITING LIST FOR HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS IS OPEN

The Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list is open today through 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](#)

COUNTY'S SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM GENERATES BUZZ FOR BARBERSHOP

By Carla Banks, Orange County Public Affairs

Mark Holt, owner of Master Peace Barbershop prides himself in offering a laid back, friendly environment where hard work, passion and personality come together.

The enthusiasm of Mark's voice rises above the steady buzzing of the stainless steel clippers he handles with precision as he explains the process of applying for Orange County's Small Business Loan program.

"When I saw the ad for the loan program, I knew this was God's way of confirming this was my time to get this business off the ground and I was willing to do what it took," said Holt.

Transforming his childhood home into Hillsborough's first-ever barber and tattoo shop qualified Mark for a Home Occupation Business License. The vision for this endeavor materialized in 2011 during the months Mark was home recovery from surgery. He spent countless hours filling one notebook after another with the smallest to the largest of details, ranging from the design of his business card to the layout of the barbershop.

[Read More](#)



ORANGE COUNTY REMINDS RESIDENTS: CHANGE YOUR CLOCK – CHANGE YOUR BATTERY



The Orange County Fire Marshal Division wants to remind residents the time will change on Sunday, November 1.

This is the time to make another change that could save lives: Changing the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Hear the Beep Where You Sleep, is this year's theme.

Communities nationwide witness tragic home fire deaths each year. An average of 75 percent of child fire fatalities occur in homes without working smoke detectors. Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke detectors is worn or missing batteries.

The Orange County Fire Marshal's Division is also campaigning across Orange County to identify residents who need smoke alarms, specifically targeting special needs populations of the deaf or hard of hearing. [Read More](#)



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY & OPEN HOUSE *Skills Development/NC Works Career Center*

The Orange County Department of Social Services invites the community to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the Orange County Skills Development/NCWorks Career Center.

The event will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, at the Orange County Skills Development/NCWorks Career Center in Chapel Hill. This is an opportunity to meet our Partners as the County celebrates achieving the NCWorks Career Center's Certification.

The Orange County NCWorks Career Center has met the North Carolina Department of Commerce NCWorks Commission's established criteria for customer service and has achieved a Certification for an integrated service delivery approach.

The Center certification process was established by the Commission to ensure a consistent level of quality customer service throughout the state's workforce delivery system in an effort to maintain service expectations of the NCWorks Career Center brand.

Facility tours will be available following the ceremony from 2:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

[Read More](#)

VETERANS APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

The Orange County Department on Aging invites veterans to a breakfast hosted in their honor on Wednesday, November 11, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Lt. Col. Bernardine (Bernie) Donato, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force (Retired) will be the guest speaker.

The appreciation breakfast will take place at the Central Orange Senior Center, located at 103 Meadowlands Drive in Hillsborough.

Amedisys Home Health and Hospice, Orange County Department on Aging and the Orange County Department of Social Services are co-sponsoring the free breakfast to show appreciation for veterans' contribution and service to the United States of America.

To reserve seating, please call 919.245.2015 on or before Monday, November 2.



FOOD WASTE DIVERSION PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION



The Orange County Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) will sponsor a public information session on managing food waste and other compostable materials.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Southern Human Services meeting room in Chapel Hill. Featured speaker will be international food waste collection expert Janine Ralph with HDR, an international engineering firm with expertise in all aspects of solid waste management.

The purpose of this session is to present information about the diversion and processing of food and other organic compostable wastes. [Read More](#)

PARK & RIDE AND OPT ROUTE CHANGES

Orange County Public Transportation and our regional transportation partners at GoTriangle and Chapel Hill Transit can no longer use the North Hillsborough Park and Ride at North Hills Shopping Center. Commuter riders can utilize the Park & Ride located at Durham Tech Hillsborough Campus, which is served by the ODX, 420, Hillsborough Circulator, and Orange Chapel Hill Middy Connector routes.



Effective November 2, 2015, the following route changes will be implemented:

Hillsborough Circulator

The Hillsborough Circulator will no longer enter the North Hills Shopping Center or serve the previous GoTriangle ODX stop on the property. The Circulator route will continue to serve the nearby stop at US 70 at the Kerr Drug/Walgreens entrance.

It will depart Kerr Drug/Walgreens each hour starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. An additional stop has been added at US 70 and Rainey Street. This stop will be served each hour starting at 8:01 a.m. and ending at 4:01 p.m.

Orange Chapel Hill Middy Connector

The Orange Chapel Hill Middy Connector will continue to serve North Hills Shopping on Churton Street from the Northbound direction only, departing each hour at 10:34 a.m. and ending at 3:34 p.m. The connector will no longer stop at North Hills in the Southbound direction to Chapel Hill. A nearby stop and transfers to/from the Circulator route are available at a connection point at US 70 and Rainey Street.

[Schedules and route maps](#) are available online

GoTriangle ODX Orange-Durham Express

<https://media.campaigner.com/media/47/474660/Route%20ODX%20Change%20Flyer.pdf>

<http://www.gotriangle.org/nov2015#ODX>

<http://www.gotriangle.org/nov2015>

GOVERNOR MCCRORY ANNOUNCES GRANT TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH SUPERVISION PROGRAM FOR PROBATIONERS

The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice has received a \$679,000 grant award to expand a specialty mental health probation pilot program to Brunswick, McDowell, Guilford, Mecklenburg, **Orange** and Durham counties. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Justice's (USDOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Supervision program.

"This pilot program holds the promise of reducing substance use and recidivism," Governor McCrory said. "This program will train probation and parole officers to better handle clients with mental health challenges and connect them to community programs that will help them lead productive lives."

In this pilot program, the state probation system has been working with the UNC School of Social Work and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to train probation officers to supervise caseloads of probationers and parolees with mental illness, substance use and personality disorders. [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.

Screenings will be done on Wednesday, November 4, and Thursday, November 5.

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](#)

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

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



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Volunteer Orientation from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Central Orange Sr. Center – November 4

Veterans' Music Fest

Monday, November 9
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Holiday Fashion Gala

Friday, November 13
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Seymour Center in Chapel Hill [Details](#)

Getting to Know Your Bird Neighbors

Saturday, November 14

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Orange County Main Library in Hillsborough

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](#)

Stay Connected

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