

# The Herald-Sun

## Orange County connects people to help, hope

Oct. 09, 2014 @ 04:20 PM

[Katie Jansen](#)

For the eighth year in a row, service providers in Orange County came together to provide one-stop aid to those who need it.

Services offered at Project Connect Orange County included housing counseling, educational and employment advice, legal services, haircuts and more.

A wide range of health services was also available, including oral cancer screenings, vision screenings, dental care and foot massages. Participants could make appointments for mammograms, get flu shots and get tested for HIV.

People could also eat breakfast and lunch at the event held at Hargraves Community Center. Will Raymond has been volunteering at the event all eight years. He fell into it by chance, when a friend called him the night before and asked him to bring his truck to help transport needed items. Raymond stayed to volunteer and fell in love.

He said that for many of the volunteers, the annual event is “a highlight of the year.” He estimated that throughout the course of the day, more than 300 volunteers would pitch in to help.

Over the years, he’s seen the event grow and change. He said that this year was a “more focused” event, meaning that it offered “services that can have a real impact on people sooner rather than later.”

His favorite job is to do intake, which involves sitting down with people when they first arrive at the event, learning a little about them and helping them prioritize which services they need.

He said that when he sees people an hour or two after he meets them, they have already had their teeth checked, gotten a haircut and a new pair of socks.

Raymond said they were on track to help at least as many people as they did last year – 250. However, he said the help was more expansive than that because people could take new resources and knowledge home to their families.

Betty Foushee was one of the hundreds who came for help. She is over 80 and has nine kids, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She said she was in good health at her doctor’s visit because “I do a lot of walking. I go to the Seymour Center, and I go to the YMCA.”

Keith B., who declined to give his last name, said he hoped to get housing and legal advice. He currently lives with two roommates, but he wants to get an apartment. He said it’s difficult to find somewhere affordable that is close to a bus line and a grocery store, things he needs because he is disabled. “People come from all over and they have money, so it makes rent rates go up,” he said.

He also hoped to ask an expert about his Social Security checks, which he has been having trouble applying for and collecting.

“The federal government is quick to take the money,” he said. “But to give it back? Slow as a snail in December.”

He hoped to get his vision checked and to get an oral cancer screening. He needed dental work done but wasn't able to get an appointment because the slots filled up too quickly.

Organizers of Project Connect said that dental work was the most popular service. Even with three partners – UNC School of Dentistry, Carrboro Community Health Center and Orange County Health Department – not everyone could be served.

“It's great that we're getting the care to people who need it, but at the same time we could've had twice as many spots,” said organizer Jamie Rohe.

But the day wasn't just about giving people things to help them – it was also about forging connections. Volunteers set up a story booth where they recorded oral histories throughout the day. George Barrett, who has experience collecting oral histories from the Jackson Center of Chapel Hill, said that it's important for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to tell their stories.

Barrett said the project was “not only to raise awareness about the issue of homelessness,” but also to gain understanding.

“It's easy to homogenize homeless individuals, but when you actually hear their story...they're not just beings on the street, they're people,” he said.

Raymond said that the great thing about Project Connect is that it allowed people to accomplish a lot of necessary tasks in a short time frame – and under one roof. Normally to get all the services offered at the event, a person would have to take at least 10 to 12 different trips, he said.

A similar event is taking place in Durham today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, 409 Blackwell St.

# Carrboro Police To Carry Overdose Prevention Kits

By [Elizabeth Friend](#)

**SHARE THIS:**

*Posted October 13, 2014 at 11:28 am*



Carrboro police will now carry kits to help prevent drug overdose deaths. The kits contain Naloxone, which temporarily blocks the effects of opiates.

Officials say accidental poisoning deaths have risen 300 percent in North Carolina since 1999, and opiate overdoses account for 92 percent of that increase.

All Carrboro officers, including those who work in patrol, schools and community services will be issued the kits and trained to administer the drug nasally.

Since December of last year, the Orange County Health Department has offered the life-saving kits to friends and family members of opiate users, along with training on how to use them.

Under the 2013 Good Samaritan law, people who seek help for an overdose victim can no longer be prosecuted for possession of small amounts of drugs, paraphernalia, or for underage drinking. This is meant to encourage reporting of overdoses and get victims help right away.

Police say that if you suspect someone has overdosed, call 911 and stay with the person until help arrives.

# Chapel Hill News

## NC's teen pregnancy rate continues to decline, to 11%

By Kara Bettis  
10/17/14

RALEIGH — North Carolina's teen pregnancy rate continued to drop in 2013.

The pregnancy rate for girls ages 15 to 19 dropped 11 percent last year and is less than half where it was in 2000, according to the [annual report](#) from the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina.

In 2013, 11,360 girls ages 10 to 19 reported pregnancies compared to 20,019 in 2007, according to the campaign which used numbers from the State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina has the 20th-highest teen pregnancy rate nationwide.

Pregnancy rates were highest in the state in the late 1980s and early 1990s, although the campaign's numbers go back only to 1984. Since then, the rate of teen pregnancies has steadily dropped, with a brief surge from 2004 to 2007.

Abortion rates among teens are down as well. Last year, about 19 percent of pregnant teens chose to have an abortion, down from about 40 percent in the late 1980s.

The lower pregnancy rate can be attributed to birth control and more teens waiting to have sex until they are older, said Elizabeth Finley, director of strategic communications with the campaign.

“We feel really great about the numbers and really great about exceeding our goal more quickly than expected,” Finley said. “But when we look at the landscape, we see disparities.”

The rates of teen pregnancies among Hispanic and African-American teenagers are at least double that of white teenage girls statewide. The teen pregnancy rates were 57.9 per 1,000 teenage girls for Hispanics, 49.2 for African Americans and 24.7 for whites, according to the campaign.

Finley says that the campaign aims to look at inequality in sex education and access to care and will study where to focus its efforts.

Of the 75 counties with reportable rates, Orange County had the lowest with 9.6 pregnancies per 1,000 teenagers in 2013. Wake County reported the third-lowest rate at 22.3 per 1,000.

Orange County Health Director Colleen Bridger said parental involvement and comprehensive sex education help prevent teen pregnancy.

“It takes ... access to affordable reproductive health services and intensive work with teen parents to prevent additional teen pregnancies,” Bridger said.

## Avatar named ‘Anna’ may further help Orange teens

Of the 75 counties with reportable rates, Orange County has the lowest with 9.6 per 1,000, which was a total of 68 pregnancies in 2013.

“The research is clear on how to reduce teen pregnancy,” stated Dr. Colleen Bridger, Orange County health director. “It takes comprehensive sex education, parental involvement, access to affordable reproductive health services, and intensive work with teen parents to prevent additional teen pregnancies. We do that in Orange County and it’s working.”

Orange County’s teen pregnancy rate dropped 35 percent from 2012. The rate moved from 14.8 pregnancies per 1,000 15- to 19-year-old women to 9.6 per 1,000 in 2013. This number represents a total of 102 teen pregnancies in 2012 down to 68 in 2013.

Orange County has historically had one of the lowest rates in the state, but this large reduction year-to-year is notable and a positive step, county officials said in a news release. However, even with this lowest, and dropping overall rate, rate disparities exist by race and ethnicity similarly to many other counties. While rates among white, African American, and Hispanic teens have continued to drop, the pregnancy rates among African American and Hispanic teens are significantly higher than the rates of white teens on average from 2010 to 2013.

“The disparity in teen pregnancy rates between whites and non-whites is not acceptable. We will re-double our efforts to eliminate all unplanned pregnancies, especially in our teens,” Bridger said in the release.

As part of Orange County’s efforts to continue the reduction in teen pregnancies, the Orange County Health Department is exploring innovative ways to increase access to comprehensive sex education through technology. One example is an interactive health education avatar named “Anna”, who can interact with users by asking questions and providing education tailored to the user.

“Anna” was created by the North Carolina Institute of Public Health, a department of the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, and has been used with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program clients to educate them about their benefits in Western North Carolina. Orange County hopes to pilot a new adaptation of “Anna” to provide a more personalized sex education tool for adolescents in the county.

# Eastern Wake News

## Concerned about Ebola, Wake schools officials are asking students about recent travel to Africa

By T. Keung Hui and Jay Price

[khui@newsobserver.com](mailto:khui@newsobserver.com)

[jprice@newsobserver.com](mailto:jprice@newsobserver.com) October 17, 2014

RALEIGH — The Wake County school system is asking students if they have recently traveled to Africa, becoming the latest local agency to conduct basic-level Ebola infection screening.

Hospitals, emergency dispatchers and EMS crews were already asking the question. Now Wake school officials are doing so at registration for new students and for students who've been out of class for an extended period. Students who have recently visited the West African countries at the heart of the deadly epidemic will be referred to county health officials.

“We don't think our parents should be worried,” said Brenda Elliott, the Wake County school system's assistant superintendent for student support services.

“We don't have any indication from the health community that they should be worried. But they want us to incorporate the screening process in case we have children who have been traveling abroad.”

In a memo sent to principals on Monday, Wake schools were asked to take precautions against Ebola, the flu and other illnesses. One sheet is titled “Process for students who have recently been to Africa.”

The sheet says that school staff should ask students, “Have you traveled to Africa in the past 21 days?” If the answer is yes, staff members are instructed to notify the school nurse immediately. The nurse would ask the parents about their travel status. If the student has been in the U.S. for fewer than 21 days, the county's Communicable Diseases program would be notified.

- New Wake County students and current students who have been absent for an extended period will be asked by school staff whether they've traveled to Africa in the past 21 days.
- If the student answers yes, the school nurse will contact the parents to ask about their travel status.
- If the parents say they've traveled to Africa within the past 21 days, the school nurse will contact Wake County Human Services' Communicable Diseases program.

No other school system in the Triangle has adopted the policy, nor has the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system, the state's next-largest school system. It's unclear whether any other schools in the state have. School and health officials across the state say that they have been discussing potential measures and can begin using them if Ebola becomes a more serious and direct threat.

The virus can be transmitted only through direct contact with bodily fluids from someone who is infected and showing symptoms. So far, the only cases to emerge in the U.S. have been among people infected overseas and two nurses who treated one of those patients. The virus hasn't escaped into the general population.

Around the country, at least some school systems have put similar measures in place, typically in or near major cities with heavy international air travel and large African immigrant populations, including New York and the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Wake school officials said they enacted the screening policy on direction of the county health department.

"I don't think we're overreacting," Elliott said. "We're certainly trying to follow the procedures recommended by the health care experts in our county."

Elliott said staff members would not ask each student whether he or she has been to Africa, but only those they have reason to believe might have been. She said examples would include children who have been absent for an extended period of time. She noted that parents typically explain why their children have been absent.

For new students, staff will ask parents as students are registering. New students register daily in the 155,000-student district that's the largest in North Carolina.

#### Talking to the CDC

State health officials have been in frequent contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the latest thinking on measures to prevent and control Ebola, and in turn communicate regularly with the local health departments and hospitals across the state to keep them abreast of the latest developments, said North Carolina's state epidemiologist, Megan Davies, in an interview Wednesday.

As to schools, though, the state has left the decision-making to local health and school officials for now.

"The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health has advised local health departments to develop outreach messages and conduct risk assessments of known travelers to affected areas of West Africa," DHHS spokeswoman Alexandra Lefebvre said in an emailed statement Thursday. "This has not been specific to schools or any organizations."

Lefebvre said state officials were unaware of any other school system in the state that had begun Ebola screening, and that DHHS was not mandating it.

Area universities have been carefully screening students and faculty who have traveled in Africa. In Orange County, the local health department has been working with UNC-Chapel Hill on its screening process.

Orange County emergency dispatchers also ask about recent travel if someone calling 911 for help has relevant symptoms, such as fever and nausea. But Orange County Health Director Colleen Bridger said that so far there hadn't seemed to be any reason to ask the two school systems there to screen for Ebola, as there simply wasn't that much travel among the students.

Some counties holding off

Representatives from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Durham and Johnston County school systems said school officials would screen students if requested by health officials.

"We have been in contact with the Durham Health Department as recently as today, and will be talking to them again tomorrow about this topic, but as of now, they are not asking us to conduct any special screenings of our students," said Chrissy Pearson, a Durham schools spokeswoman, in an emailed statement.

"We will of course follow their instructions and recommendations, as the health and safety of our students is our top priority."



By T. Keung Hui and Jay Price

[khui@newsobserver.com](mailto:khui@newsobserver.com) [jprice@newsobserver.com](mailto:jprice@newsobserver.com) October 16, 2014

Read more here: [http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/10/16/4238788\\_concerned-about-ebola-wake-county.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy](http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/10/16/4238788_concerned-about-ebola-wake-county.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy)

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## **Orange County Reports Lowest Teen Pregnancy Rate In NC**

By [Elizabeth Friend](#)

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*Posted October 14, 2014 at 10:22 am*

Health Department officials say Orange County's teen pregnancy rate has dropped by 35 percent in the past year, making it the lowest in the state. The county reported 102 teen pregnancies in 2012, but only 68 in 2013.

Orange County Health Director Colleen Bridger credits comprehensive sex education, parent involvement and access to reproductive health care for the sharp decline.

However, she notes that racial and ethnic disparities still exist, with higher rates of unplanned pregnancy among local African-American and Hispanic teens.

The health department is exploring new ways to reach out, including an interactive health education avatar named "Anna," who can answer questions from users to provide personalized advice.

You can find statewide information about teen pregnancy and sexual health [here](#).



# tarheel

## Orange County offers new HIV medication

By [Hannah Jagers](#) | Published 9 hours ago  
October 30, 2014

The growing rate of HIV infection in Orange County might take a downward turn now that new medication has become available.

The Orange County Health Department is offering prescriptions for pre-exposure prophylaxis, known as PrEP — a preventative medication for individuals who are at high risk for exposure to HIV.

Dr. Christopher Hurt, a clinical assistant professor at the UNC School of Medicine, said PrEP works by preventing a permanent HIV infection before a person comes in contact with the virus.

“It’s kind of like having a shield inside your cells that helps protect them from HIV infection,” Hurt said. “Rather than having a physical barrier like a condom, it’s like having a chemical barrier.”

Stacy Shelp, spokeswoman for the health department, said the growing rate of HIV infection in Orange County was a significant reason for introducing PrEP.

“Obviously, we don’t have as high an incidence as some other larger counties, but we have seen kind of a consistently growing rate of infection,” Shelp said. “In 2011, we had 13 cases. In 2012, it was 15 cases. In 2013, it was 17 cases. Every case is one case too many.”

According to a press release from the Orange County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that when taken consistently, PrEP reduced the risk of HIV infection in high-risk individuals by up to 92 percent.

The health department defines high-risk individuals as couples in which one partner is infected with HIV and the other is not, men who have sex with men and engage in high-risk sexual behaviors or have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection within the last six months, heterosexually active men and women who do not use condoms regularly and people who use IV drugs and share needles.

Shelp said any person who comes to the sexually transmitted disease clinic and is willing to have the appropriate counseling, blood tests and follow-up work is eligible for the program.

Andrea Mulholland, a family nurse practitioner with the health department, proposed at a meeting of the Orange County Board of Health in August that Orange County should begin to prescribe PrEP.

“Based on my practice here, a lot of people do not use condoms, despite the role condoms play in risk reduction and that they are freely available,” Mulholland said at the meeting. “Therefore, we need to be thinking ‘outside the box’ and discussing innovative ways to prevent new HIV infections. PrEP provides us a way to do so.”

PrEP prescriptions are filled by the UNC Health Care Patient Financial Assistance Office, which allows the health department to dispense one-month prescriptions for \$4.

Individuals who receive the treatment are required to attend follow-up appointments every three months so that the health department can recheck HIV status, test for pregnancy and assess kidney function.

According to a report from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, from January to June of 2014, there were 12 cases of HIV reported in Orange County. There were seven cases of AIDS.

Hurt said it takes approximately eight to 10 years before the HIV infection will advance to AIDS, which causes severe immune deficiency.

“We see AIDS in people who avoided getting tested for whatever reason,” Hurt said.

“A lot of those patients are people who didn’t think they had any risk, and unfortunately, we’re seeing a lot of Latino people who are undocumented and who are afraid to get tested because they do not want to be reported to immigration and be deported.”

Hurt said he realizes talking to health care providers can be embarrassing, especially for young people. He said he has been working to create a safe environment for people to discuss their sexual health.

“We are working with the North Carolina AIDS Training and Education Center to put together a list of providers in the Triangle area and across the state that are willing and knowledgeable in providing PrEP,” said Hurt.

He said the information will be put on the center’s website within the next couple of weeks.

# The Herald-Sun

## Educational videos support Orange County's smoking ban

Nov. 03, 2014 @ 03:40 PM

From staff reports

CHAPEL HILL —

As part of the ongoing effort to make Orange County's smoke-free public places rule the new normal, the Orange County Health Department has released a series of short educational videos. The videos are designed to help residents and employees find the words and motivation to say "You can't smoke here."

In response to interest from partners at the town of Chapel Hill, the Health Department worked with a local videographer to create instructional videos for the public and for town and county staff on how to approach somebody who is smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited.

"As the rule largely relies on enforcement by residents of Orange County, we are always looking at ways to promote communications that educate people about the rule and empower them to ask others to stop smoking in areas where the activity is prohibited," said Stacy Shelp, communications manager for the Orange County Health Department.

The series, five videos in total, include a variety of scenarios set in places where people may encounter smokers, such as along sidewalks, at bus stops, and on government grounds. The videos demonstrate how to get the message across politely, understanding that people smoking may not be aware they are violating the rule or of how harmful the secondhand smoke is.

The videos are linked under the "Enforcement" section of the Health Department's smoke-free public places web page: <http://orangecountync.gov/health/smoke-freepublicplaces.asp>.



## [Orange County Launches Anti-Smoking Videos](#)

By [Danny Hooley](#)

Posted November 3, 2014 at 2:16 pm

The Orange County Health Department hopes that a series of locally produced videos will empower citizens to tell each other: “You can’t smoke here.”

“Take a deep breath,” says one actor to another as they walk together down Franklin Street. “Do you smell that? Nope? That’s because public places in Orange County are now smoke-free.”

That message begins one of five videos produced by a contracted videographer for Orange County.

Public Information Officer Stacy Shelp of the Orange County Health Department said that one goal of the videos, now posted on the Orange County website, is to show people how to say no to other people smoking. That can be awkward, “whether it’s mom on the playground, or the person on the street, or the shop owner, or county-employee-to-county-employee, or town employees.”

Another goal is to get the videos out there.

“We would love them to go as viral as they can,” said Shelp. “We are encouraging the different towns, municipalities, police departments, et cetera, to share them – to have them on their websites.”

On Oct. 24, 2012, then-Chair Tony Whitaker signed the Orange County Board of Health Rule that bans smoking in public places and in county-and-town buildings ground and vehicles.

The 11-page document lays out all the affected places – including bus stops, sidewalks and polling places – and cites North Carolina statutes authorizing local governments to enforce rules on government property, and rules that protect public health.

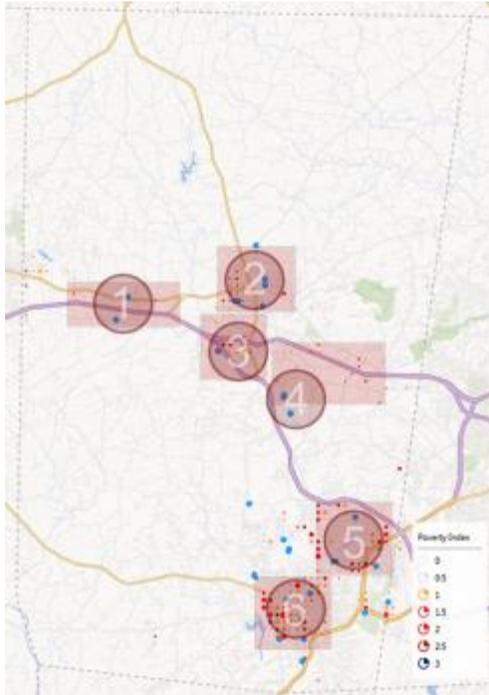
Since then, errant public smokers may have encountered a red-vested Smoking Response Team of Health Department workers and citizen volunteers, accompanied by a police officer, there to remind everybody that Orange County strives to be smoke-free. The SRT is scheduled to patrol Franklin Street today.

Information about the smoking ban is available on the [Orange County Visitors Bureau](#) site.

## OC Health Dept Targets Child Poverty With New “Family Success Alliance”

By [Elizabeth Friend](#)

Posted November 5, 2014 at 12:53 pm



Despite an air of affluence, a growing number of families in Orange County are [struggling to get by](#).

Now, the Orange County Health Department is spearheading a county-wide effort to reach out to families in need.

“The [Family Success Alliance](#) is a new endeavor in Orange County modeled after the Harlem’s Children Zone and the East Durham Children’s Initiative,” says Health Director Dr. Colleen Bridger.

A coalition of government agencies along with education and health care advocates is working to build a support network for children living in poverty. Dr Michael Steiner of UNC Hospitals says that’s important because early childhood poverty can have lasting repercussions.

“Challenges in early childhood can result in lifelong impact, including how our brains get built, how ready we are to start school, how we do in school and then what happens to us later on in life as adults,” says Steiner. “So the Family Success Alliance hopes to build a pipeline that will take kids from a successful early childhood through a successful young adult life.”

The Health Department has identified [six zones](#) in Orange County with the highest number of residents who are struggling to meet basic needs such as food, housing and access to health care.

By the end of the year, Health Department officials will select two of the six to participate in the Family Success Alliance pilot project. Bridger says a [series of community listening sessions](#) will be held now through next week to help detail the needs and strengths of each community.

“The community forums are designed to help the communities come together and learn more about the project and help the zone champion put together an application,” says Bridger.

The identified zones are:

Zone 1 Efland-Cheeks (70 Corridor)

Zone 2 Downtown Hillsborough

Zone 3 85/40 Junction

Zone 4 East of 40

Zone 5 15-501 & 40 (Martin Luther King Corridor)

Zone 6 Chapel Hill/Carrboro (54 and Jones Ferry Road)

Listening session schedules for each zone:

Zone 4: Thursday, November 6, from 6-7pm at New Hope Elementary School, 1900 New Hope Church Rd, Chapel Hill.

Zone 6: Tuesday, November 11, from 6-7pm at Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St, Chapel Hill.

Zone 3: Thursday, November 13, from 6-7pm at Grady Brown Elementary School, 1100 New Grady Brown School Rd, Hillsborough.

Zone 5: Thursday, November 13, from 6-7pm at the Chapel Hill Library, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill.

He was issued a \$500 unsecured bond and has a Nov. 3 court date.

**Oct. 28**

**Elizabeth Ann Roman**, 63, of 109 Waxstaff Road in Cedar Grove, was cited for improper inspection. She has a Nov. 24 court date.

**Brian Marshall Chambers**, 37, of 1406 Phelps Road, was served a warrant for the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond and had a Nov. 3 court date.

**Oct. 29**

**Maria Guadalupe Luviano-Navarro**, 30, of 1200 Workman Road, was cited for driving without a license. She has a Dec. 10 court date.

**Patricia Alvarez Aguilar**, 41, of 5808 Old N.C. 10, Apt. 26, in Durham, was cited for driving without a license. She has a Dec. 10 court date.

**Wendy Renee Palmer**, 47, of 7105 N.C. 86 South, Lot 4, in Chapel Hill, was cited for DWI, safe movement violation and driving while license revoked. She has a Dec. 10 court date.

**John Joseph Perry Jr.**, 28, of 6705 Beale Road in Snow Camp, was cited for driving while license revoked. He has a Dec. 10 court date.

**Lee Carroll Edwards**, 21, of 4209 Willis Road in Chapel Hill, was served a warrant for fraudulently obtaining property and possession of stolen goods. He has a Dec. 10 court date.

**Kristy Lee Partin**, 37, of 2316 Mill Creek Road in Mebane, was served an order for arrest for an out-of-county misdemeanor probation violation. She was issued a \$25,000 bond and had an Oct. 31 court date.

**Oct. 31**

**Chancy Ray Kelly**, 30, of 2316 Mill Creek Road in Mebane, was charged with failure to appear and four counts of breaking and entering. He was issued a \$30,000 bond and has a Nov. 25 court date.

**Dennis William Brewer Jr.**, 38, of 2316 Mill Creek Road in Mebane, was served a warrant for three counts of breaking and entering. He was issued a \$30,000 unsecured bond and had a Nov. 3 court date.

**Alexander Franklin Hart**, 46, of 2501 West Knox St. in Durham, was served an order for arrest for failure to appear. He was issued an \$800 bond and has a Nov. 10 court date.

**Nov. 1**

**Joseph Lee Cotton**, 52, of 1104 Old Sawmill Road in Chapel Hill, was served a warrant for communicating threats. He was issued a written promise to appear Nov. 10.

**Nov. 2**

**Scan Michael Thompson**, 48, of 100 W. Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill, was served an order for arrest. He was issued a \$500 bond and has a Nov. 19 court date.

the work is completed. The town advises parking along South Cameron Street or East King Street

Work on Valley Forge Drive has been completed. In addition to the streets to be resurfaced this

Public Works Assistant Supervisor Craig Tollison at 919-732-1270, ext. 78 or 79.

# Hillsborough starts loose-leaf collection

From staff reports

The Town of Hillsborough began its seasonal collection of loose leaves Monday, Nov. 3.

The leaf vacuum truck will operate weekdays through Jan. 31 except on town-observed holidays. Leaf collection will follow the garbage collection schedule on a continuous cycle. Because of the high volume of leaves during this season, collection of leaves may take place a day or more after collection of garbage.

Some reminders:

■ Residents may place loose leaves within 4 feet of the curb for collection. No work order is required.

■ Leaf piles should be free of limbs and debris as these clog the truck's vacuum.

■ Leaf piles should not cover water meters, block sidewalks or fire hydrants, or interfere with traffic or water drainage. They should not be placed in streets, especially streets with curbs and gutters because of storm drains.

■ Residents still may use biodegradable

bags for collection. However, households are limited to collection of 10 bags per week.

For more information, go to the Public Works page on the town's website or call the department at 919-732-1270, ext. 78. The 2014 Curbside Collections Calendar, which was mailed to residents, is also available on the town's website on the home and Public Works pages.

## Mulch delivery

The town will deliver leaves to residents in and around the surrounding vicinity of Hillsborough who would like the leaves for mulch or compost. The minimum amount the Public Works Department will deliver is half a truckload, or about 10 cubic yards. The area where the leaves are to be dumped must be accessible by a large truck.

For more information or to request delivery of leaves, contact Public Works Director Ken Hines by phone at 919-732-1270, ext. 78.

# BRIEFLY

## County seeks volunteers for the tax season

The Orange County RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program is seeking volunteers who want to assist low- to middle-income clients with preparing their tax returns, in turn making a difference in their lives.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is a free IRS service for eligible clients offered at sites in Orange and Chatham Counties.

Individuals interested in learning more about the program should attend one of the following free orientation sessions:

■ Saturday, Nov. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill;

■ Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Central Orange Senior Center, 103 Meadowlands Road in Hillsborough; and

■ Thursday, Dec. 4, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Seymour Center.

The VITA tax program provides a broad range of volunteer opportunities:

■ IRS-trained and tested volunteers serve as tax preparers to electronically prepare and file tax returns at no charge;

■ Telephone operators schedule appointments using software;

■ Tax room managers administer the client check in and check out process; and

■ Computer assistants handle minor troubleshooting.

RSVP will provide free training in January for all VITA volunteer

assignments.

For more information or to volunteer, call the RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program at 919-245-4240 or 919-245-4243.

## Hillsborough community forums to address family success

Hillsborough residents are invited to community forums focused on helping children succeed.

The forums are offered to three geographic areas in Hillsborough and will give residents a chance to share experiences regarding struggles to make ends meet and to provide for children. Participants also will help brainstorm a list of the area's needs and assets. Information from each forum will be used in an application for child services from the Family Success Alliance, a new initiative spearheaded by the Orange County Health Department.

The Family Success Alliance was created to address the rising rates of child poverty. The alliance aims to improve children's chances for educational and economic opportunities by serving a defined geographic area and its children with evidenced-based programs, services and supports from cradle to career.

Six geographic areas in Orange County have been identified as having the highest number of people struggling to meet basic living standards. Two zones will be selected in December to pilot

activities and to ensure success before expanding. Selection will be based on an application process, with applications from each zone due by Nov. 17.

Hillsborough is part of zones 2, 3 and 4.

Zone 2 in downtown Hillsborough includes the following schools: Cameron Park, Central, Hillsborough and Pathways elementary schools; Stanford Middle School; and Orange High School.

Zone 3 is located around the junction of interstates 85 and 40 and includes the following schools: Grady Brown Elementary School and Cedar Ridge High School.

Zone 4 is located east of I-40 and includes the following schools: New Hope Elementary School, Stanback Middle School and Partnership Academy.

The forums take place from 6 to 7 p.m. See the schedule:

■ Zone 4: Thursday, Nov. 6, at New Hope Elementary School, 1900 New Hope Church Road.

■ Zone 3: Thursday, Nov. 13, at Grady Brown Elementary School, 1100 New Grady Brown School Road.

The Zone 2 meeting was held Tuesday, Nov. 4.

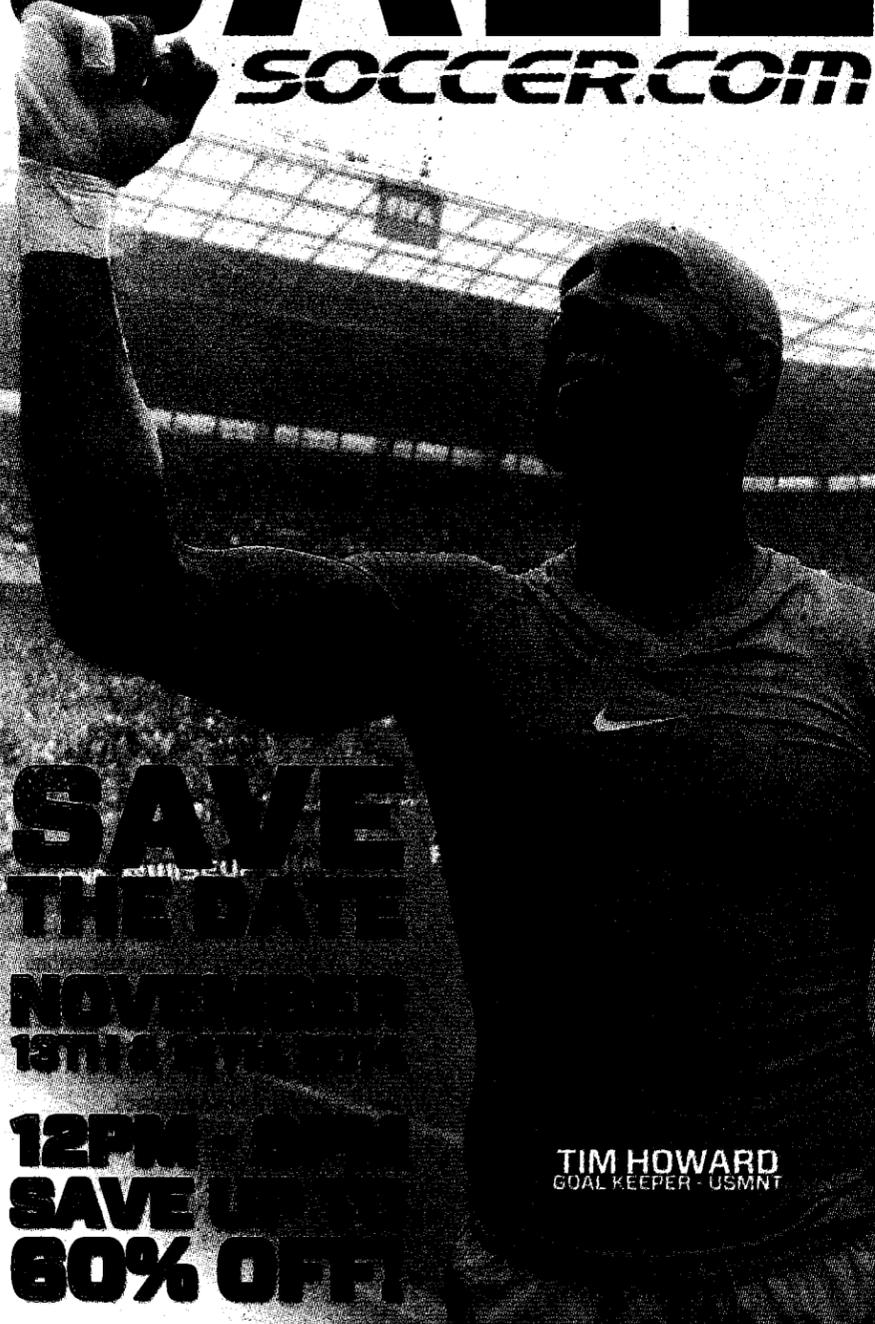
A light meal, childcare and language translation will be provided at each forum.

For additional information, contact Project Coordinator Meredith McMonigle of the Orange County Health Department at 919-275-2071 or mmmcnigle@orangecountync.gov.

# 2014 WAREHOUSE SALE

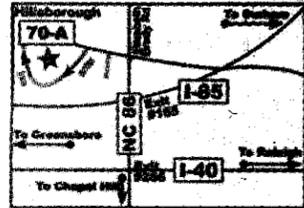
# SALE

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**NOV 18TH**  
**12PM**  
**SAVE UP TO 60% OFF!**

**TIM HOWARD**  
GOAL KEEPER - USMNT



**DIRECTIONS TO WAREHOUSE SALE:**  
• EXIT #266 OFF I-40 OR EXIT #165 OFF I-85  
• GO NORTH ON NC 86  
• TURN LEFT ONTO HWY 70A AT STOP LIGHT  
• TURN LEFT INTO THE SPORTS ENDEAVORS DRIVEWAY

SPORTS ENDEAVORS INC.  
431 US HWY 70-A EAST - HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27228  
1-800-334-3878

**CORRECTIONS:** It is the policy at the News of Orange to correct factual errors that appear in this newspaper. If you have knowledge of a mistake, contact us at 919-732-2171 or editorial@newsfororange.com.

# tarheel

## Orange County Health experts prepare for Ebola cases

By [Hannah Jagers](#) | Published 8 hours ago

After the Ebola virus garnered international attention for months, a scare at Duke University Hospital has some in the Triangle worried. While local health officials are prepared for the worst, they say the virus is not a threat to people in Orange County.

Ebola is a communicable disease, an illness caused by infectious agents that are spread through either direct or indirect contact of an infected person or animal to someone else.

“First of all, people wisely are afraid of communicable diseases,” said Dr. Myron Cohen, chief of the UNC Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the UNC Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases.

“It is not a new idea for our species to be afraid.”

Stacy Shelp, spokeswoman for the Orange County Health Department, said the department’s goal is to be prepared to keep residents as safe as possible.

“The name of the game is being prepared,” Shelp said. “You definitely don’t want to be reactionary.”

A man who had developed a fever after returning from Liberia was admitted to Duke University Hospital on Nov. 2. The following morning, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services announced that the patient’s preliminary test results were negative for Ebola.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the negative test result.

Shelp said the health department has been preparing for a situation like this since July.

“Orange County has actually been working since July to not only develop a plan but to actually train and put the plan in to action,” Shelp said.

“This is not new to us, and we have been very actively involved since the beginning.”

Leslie O’Connor, public health preparedness coordinator with the county health department, said in an effort to combat the Ebola virus, she has been conducting trainings for several of the health department’s local partners.

“The communication began with our local partners back in July that this could potentially become a real threat and that we needed to start practicing,” she said.

Orange County Emergency Services has also been working to better handle the public's concern over Ebola.

"Isolation and supportive care are the only treatments for the Ebola virus," O'Connor said.

"There is no cure for Ebola; there is no vaccine. We're certain that their plans are probably the best they could be for this patient."

For now, Cohen said isolation is the best option.

"Quarantines are not meant to deprive people of their rights but meant to create a much simpler situation for the person," Cohen said. "The disaster is if someone comes back, they're wandering around, and a lot of people get exposed."

The CDC reports that Ebola virus was first discovered in 1976, and since its discovery, outbreaks of the virus have occurred intermittently in Africa.

Cohen said Ebola is believed to have originated in a species of bat in West Africa and became communicable, or transmissible from one human to another, after the virus infected a human host.

In 2014, cases of Ebola virus began to accumulate in West Africa, particularly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The World Health Organization reports that as of Nov. 2, a total of 13,042 cases have been reported this year in West Africa.

The N.C. DHHS reports that there have been a total of four confirmed cases of Ebola in the United States and one death resulting from the virus. No cases have been confirmed in North Carolina.

Cohen said there are three reasons why Ebola virus evokes so much fear in the general public.

"Number one: We don't know all the rules," Cohen said. "We don't know everything about it. We haven't had an epidemic, so we're learning the rules as we go along.

"Number two: It makes people sick as shit and is fatal most of the time.

"Number three: People will get much more comfortable once we have biological intervention," Cohen said. "For Ebola, we're trying to develop pills very quickly. Our only strategy for prevention is quarantine. And it's effective, but it's difficult."

Cohen said although evidence suggests the virus can only be transmitted through direct contact, there are still some concerns.

"Sometimes an infectious agent can be transmitted on inanimate objects," Cohen said. "The best example of this is Norovirus. Ebola, one of the concerns, is how much can inanimate objects hold the virus."

Cohen said people should recognize how hard North Carolina has been working to prepare for Ebola.

"The state of North Carolina and hospitals of North Carolina have been preparing for this," Cohen said.

“Duke and UNC have been working together with the state on this problem.”

Cohen said the UNC Center for Infectious Diseases is always prepared for new diseases to emerge.

“For people who do this for a living, it’s never calm,” Cohen said.

“We’re not allowed the luxury of panic. We’re more orderly about thinking this through.”

The Orange County Health Department might be taking precautions against Ebola, but Cohen said residents should not be distressed.

“People in Orange County do not need to be afraid about Ebola.”

## **EBOLA QUICK FACTS**

- Ebola can be transmitted through direct contact with blood or bodily fluids like urine, saliva, sweat and feces.
- It can also be transmitted through direct contact with objects like needles and syringes that have been contaminated with the virus.
- Orange County emergency personnel can recognize the signs and symptoms and know how to appropriately put on and remove protective equipment.
- Patients with certain flulike symptoms will be asked if they’ve recently traveled to West Africa.

# EBOLA

## How Ebola is spread:



through contaminated bodily fluids or needles



NOT through water



NOT through food



NOT through air

