

# The Orange County Government Gazette

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## Orange County Commissioners Approve Land Purchase for Future Crisis Diversion Facility

During their April 15 meeting, the Orange County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase and sale agreement for a property that would serve as the future site of a crisis diversion facility, marking a major step forward in the county's commitment to providing comprehensive behavioral health services.

The Board approved the agreement for a five-acre parcel of land, located off Waterstone Drive in Hillsborough, for \$1.35 million. The Board's decision authorizes County Manager Travis Myren to execute the land purchase once the final inspections are completed.

Once developed, the facility will offer a supportive and therapeutic environment for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises while diverting them from emergency rooms and the criminal justice system.

The property is considered ideal because of its proximity to the UNC Hospitals campus in an area already zoned for hospital use. Additionally, the size of the property will allow for an attractive one-story facility with grounds for a large courtyard and healing garden.

"This is a landmark occasion for our county and for the many residents in need of immediate, compassionate behavioral health care," said Jamezetta Bedford, chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners. "The crisis diversion facility will be a vital resource that aligns with our values of equity, dignity, and proactive care—and supports the Healthy Community goal of our strategic plan."

The planned facility will provide behavioral health urgent care to individuals 4 years old or older for up to 24 hours. It will also provide facility-based crisis services for up to two weeks for adults and a peer living room and resource center with information about behavioral health services available in Orange County. Significantly, the facility will be integrated with resources to support housing, social services, food security, harm reduction, and domestic violence intervention. The behavioral health facility will be designed to work in close coordination with first responders, healthcare providers, and community partners.

"This initiative not only expands local access to behavioral health services but also helps reduce strain on our emergency systems," said Orange County Manager Travis Myren. "It represents a community-centered approach to crisis care. One that establishes a therapeutic intervention to address the immediate crisis that someone is experiencing, and then creating a discharge plan that links that person to community based services."

### Gilbane Selected as Construction Manager-At-Risk

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approved the selection of Gilbane Building Company as the construction manager-at-risk (CMAR) for the crisis diversion facility during the April 15 Board of Commissioners meeting. The CMAR model allows the county to collaborate closely with the construction manager during the design and pre-construction phases, ensuring



greater cost control, schedule coordination, and value engineering throughout the development process. Gilbane, a company with extensive experience delivering behavioral healthcare projects, was selected following a competitive qualifications-based selection process. Eight companies submitted proposals for the project.

Planning and design for the facility will begin later this year, with public engagement opportunities as the project moves forward. Groundbreaking is anticipated before the end of 2025 and the facility is slated to open in early 2027.

### Crisis Diversion Facility Background

In April 2019, more than 30 community stakeholders from the criminal justice system, healthcare community, behavioral health system, and housing arena came together to participate in an Orange County Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop facilitated by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The SIM process is designed to inform and address community-based responses to the involvement of individuals with behavioral health issues and intercepts with the criminal justice system.

An intercept map and final report were created. One of the identified community gaps that emerged from this process was the critical need for a crisis diversion facility to divert individuals in behavioral health crisis from the criminal justice system and the emergency departments at UNC Hospitals.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approved a contract for a behavioral health crisis diversion facility in 2022. In 2023, the Board of Commissioners authorized the design and construction of the facility in the Capital Investment Plan.

The facility will operate in the crisis continuum of care by ensuring that when an individual is in a behavioral health crisis, there will be the appropriate level of response and therapeutic intervention. In addition to first responders diverting people to the facility, anyone in the community will be able to walk in to seek crisis services, peer support or information. In total, Orange County estimates 365 behavioral health visits per month including those before, during, and after a crisis.

For updates and additional information, visit [www.orangecountync.gov/3168/Crisis-Diversion-Facility](http://www.orangecountync.gov/3168/Crisis-Diversion-Facility)

## Volunteer to Serve on a County Board or Commission

Residents can have a positive impact on the future of Orange County by serving on a volunteer board or commission. Orange County strives for diverse representation on boards and commissions. Residents of all demographic backgrounds, identities, and perspectives are encouraged to apply. Volunteers appointed by the Board of Commissioners can directly influence the County's decisions, policies, and priorities.

### What are the Requirements?

If you would like to help your community by volunteering for a board or commission, please review the Board of County Commissioners Advisory Board Policy (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2292/Board-of-County-Commissioners-Advisory-Board-Policy-PDF>) and the General Requirements for Advisory Board Service (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2286/General-Requirements-for-Advisory-Board-Service-PDF>) before you submit an application. General requirements for appointment include:

- Must be at least 18 years old (unless applying for a youth-designated position)
- Must maintain a domicile in Orange County
- Must adhere to 75% attendance requirement
- Must be willing and able to comply with ethical requirements associated with board service

Some positions require residence in specific areas of the county. See the Township Map (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2290/Township-Map-PDF>) if you need to determine in which Township you live. Boundary maps are also available for the City Limits and surrounding areas of Chapel Hill & Carrboro (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16597/Chapel-Hill-and-Carrboro-Boundaries-Map>), Hillsborough (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16598/Hillsborough-Boundaries-Map>), and Mebane (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16599/Mebane-Boundaries-Map>). You can also identify your Township and Zoning Designation here: <http://aries.orangecountync.gov/Aries/>.

### How to Apply?

- Submit an online volunteer application:



<https://www4.orangecountync.gov/boards/application.asp>

If you are applying for a youth delegate position on the Orange County Parks and Recreation Council or Orange Unified Transportation Board please use this application form: <https://www.orangecountync.gov/FormCenter/Advisory-Boards-and-Commissions-27/Youth-Delegate-Application-for-the-Parks-296>

Download a volunteer application (<https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2287/Volunteer-Application-PDF>)

Fill out and return to: Orange County Board of County Commissioners  
ATTN: Tara May  
P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278

### What Happens Next?

- The Clerk's Office will confirm your address in Orange County and notify you by email that your application has been received.
- Appointments are made to various boards throughout the calendar year as vacancies occur.
- The Clerk's Office will notify you by email if you are appointed.
- If you are not initially appointed to a board, your application will be automatically resubmitted for consideration when there are vacancies until you are appointed or your application expires (two years from the date of submission).

## Spring Market

Yard Sale, Arts, Crafts, and More!

Vendor applications (\$15 fee) and payment available at the Passmore Center or online at [orangecountync.gov/SpringMarket](http://orangecountync.gov/SpringMarket)

For information, call 919-245-2015. Rain or shine!



Saturday, May 17, 2025 • 9am-1pm

SportsPlex Lot, 103 Meadowlands Dr, Hillsborough, NC



The Spring Market is a fundraiser of the Friends of the Jerry M. Passmore Center.

Donate gently used items (no clothing). Drop items off at the Passmore Center on Friday, May 16, from 12-2pm.

[orangecountync.gov/Aging](http://orangecountync.gov/Aging)

## JURY DUTY SCAM

If someone claiming to be a deputy calls and tells you you failed to show up for jury duty, hang up the phone. It is a scam. Do not pay any money or purchase a gift card. You can't buy your way out of a warrant, and we will not ask you to.



[ocsonc.com](http://ocsonc.com)

## Orange County Trails Plan Community Workshops

Help us understand the community's vision for countywide trail connectivity.

### Session 1

Sunday, May 18  
2:00 - 5:00 PM  
Orange County  
Solid Waste Center  
1207 Eubanks Rd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

### Session 2

Wednesday, May 21  
6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Bonnie B. Davis Environment  
& Agricultural Center  
1020 US-70  
Hillsborough, NC 27278



### Join us!

Scan the QR code or visit [orangecountync.gov/trailsplan](http://orangecountync.gov/trailsplan) to register for the workshops & learn more about the project.



## Learn more about the Digital Opportunity Plan for Orange County

Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) is working on a Digital Opportunity Plan for Orange County. Every county in North Carolina is making a similar plan to help meet the Governor's goal: to close the digital divide and the homework gap for people across the state.

### The plan for Orange County will look at:

- Who has access to the internet and digital devices
- How much internet costs
- What kind of internet is available in different areas
- What training people can get to improve their digital skills

To take the survey, scan or go to: [orangecountync.gov/Digital](http://orangecountync.gov/Digital)



## Orange County Food Resource List

This list contains locations and contacts for food pantries and food distributions to help people who are facing food insecurity.



Scan or go to [go.ncsu.edu/FeedOrangeCounty](http://go.ncsu.edu/FeedOrangeCounty)

For more information, contact  
N.C. Cooperative Extension- Orange County Center  
1020 US Hwy 70 W, Suite 130, Hillsborough, NC, (919) 245-2050  
Visit [orange.ces.ncsu.edu](http://orange.ces.ncsu.edu) for more resources!

List maintained by the



May 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

REDUCED ADOPTION FEES

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION'S

empty the shelters  
NATIONAL ADOPTION EVENT



in Chapel Hill, NC



# WE ARE HIRING!

To learn more about job opportunities available in Orange County Government, please visit [www.orangecountync.gov/Careers](http://www.orangecountync.gov/Careers) or contact the Human Resources Recruitment Manager at (919) 245-2557