

The Orange County Government Gazette

Serving Orange County Residents since 1752

(919) 732-8181 • www.orangecountync.gov • 300 West Tryon Street, P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Cold Weather Cots Program Provides Emergency Shelter on Cold Nights

As temperatures drop, Orange County and the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) are partnering once again to operate the Cold Weather Cots program, offering emergency overnight shelter for residents living unhoused during the winter season.

The IFC shelter locations will operate every night through March, while Orange County shelters will open on "White Flag Nights" when temperatures are forecasted at or below 32 degrees.

The IFC shelters include:

- IFC Community House for Men, 1315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill
- IFC HomeStart for Women & Families, 2505 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill

Guests should arrive between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and leave by 8 a.m. Those arriving after 8 p.m. should notify staff in advance. Daily availability can be confirmed by calling 919-929-6380 (extension 3000 for men, 4000 for women).

The Orange County shelters are open to men, women, and families and accept walk-ins. Cots, blankets, and snacks are provided. The times for these shelters are 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Locations include:

- Orange County Chapel Hill Shelter, 828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill
- Orange County Hillsborough Shelter, alternating between:
 - Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, 102 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough
 - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 210 St. Mary's Road, Hillsborough



Residents can call 919-245-2490 to confirm which Hillsborough location is open each night. In addition to shelter, a free weekday dinner is served from 5 to 5:45 p.m. at the IFC Commons Community Kitchen, 110 W. Main St., Carrboro.

Residents are encouraged to check current weather conditions at www.weather.gov/RAH to prepare for cold nights.

"No one should have to sleep outside when temperatures drop below freezing," said Orange County Housing Director, Blake Rosser. "Through this partnership with IFC and the churches, we're ensuring everyone in our community has a safe, warm place to stay."

For more information, visit www.orangecountync.gov/OCPEH or contact Orange County Housing Department at 919-245-2490.

OC Receives GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award With Special Recognition

Orange County Government has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its annual budget. This honor is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting, and its attainment represents a significant achievement for the county.

"Orange County has been honored with the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for many years, but this year marks an especially notable achievement," said Kirk Vaughn, Orange County Budget Director. "Our team received special recognition for the strength of our performance measures and for the clear connection we demonstrated between strategic goals and planned activities. This distinction is only given when all three professional reviewers award the highest possible rating in targeted evaluation areas, underscoring the exceptional quality and clarity of our budget work."

"This award reflects the dedication of the Board of County Commissioners and staff to maintaining the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and fiscal stewardship," said Orange County Manager Travis Myren. "We are honored to receive this national recognition."

To earn the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, Orange County's budget had to meet nationally recognized guidelines assessing how effectively the document serves as:

- A policy document



Orange County Budget staff from left to right: Budget and Management Analyst I Denise Clark, Budget and Management Analyst II Alex Norwood, Budget Manager Christy Dodson, and Budget Director Kirk Vaughn.

- A financial plan
 - An operations guide
 - A communications device
- Budget documents must achieve a rating of "proficient" in all four major categories—and in all 14 mandatory criteria—to qualify for the award.

The GFOA represents more than 23,000 public finance officials across the United States and Canada and is widely recognized for advancing excellence in government finance.

For more information about Orange County's budget, please visit: <https://www.orangecountync.gov/714/County-Budgets>

Orange County to Host Community Screening of '13th' in Recognition of Abolition Day

The Orange County Office of Civil Rights & Civic Life will host a free community screening of Ava DuVernay's acclaimed documentary "13th" on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill.

The event, held in recognition of Abolition Day, commemorating the ratification of the 13th Amendment, will feature a screening of the documentary followed by a facilitated community discussion and light refreshments. "13th" explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States, examining how the 13th Amendment's exception clause, which permits involuntary servitude "as punishment for crime" has shaped the American criminal justice system. The documentary features scholars, activists, and politicians analyzing the criminalization of African Americans and the prison boom.

"This screening provides an important opportunity for our community to come together, learn from this powerful documentary, and engage in meaningful dialogue about justice and equality," says Paul Slack, Chief Civil Rights Officer. "As we recognize Abolition Day, we must also reckon with how the 13th Amendment's language has impacted generations of Americans and continues to shape our society today."

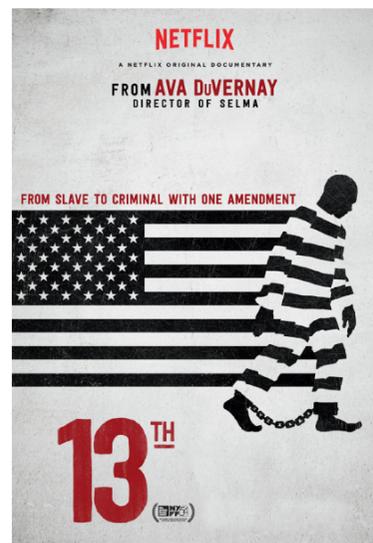
The evening will include:

- Full screening of "13th"
- Facilitated community discussion
- Light refreshments
- Opportunities for community connection

The event is free and open to all Orange County residents and community members. While registration is encouraged to assist with planning, it is not required for attendance. To register, visit www.orangecountync.gov/AbolitionDay or contact the Orange County Office of Civil Rights & Civic Life at (919) 245-2495 or civilrights@orangecountync.gov.

Event Details:

- **What:** Community Screening of "13th" with Discussion
- **When:** Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 5 – 7:30 p.m.



- **Where:** Seymour Center, 2551 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill
- **Cost:** Free
- **Registration:** Encouraged at www.orangecountync.gov/AbolitionDay

The Orange County Board of Commissioners proclaimed the observance and recognition of Dec. 6 as "Abolition Day" in Orange County during its Nov. 18 meeting.

For more information about this event or other programs offered by the Orange County Office of Civil Rights & Civic Life, visit www.orangecountync.gov/civilrights or follow us on social media @occrcl.

About the Orange County Office of Civil Rights & Civic Life

The Orange County Office of Civil Rights & Civic Life protects civil rights, expands fair access to public services, and supports meaningful participation in local government. We also support veterans and lead civic engagement efforts to ensure every resident has a fair chance to participate and be heard.



Orange County

Community Giving Fund

Find out more: orangecountync.gov/CGF



CANDIDATE FILING BEGINS!

Candidate filing for federal, state, and county offices begins **Monday, December 1 at noon** and runs through **Friday, December 19 at noon**.

More information about filing for office can be found at:

www.orangecountync.gov/FilingForOffice



Orange County Board of Elections 919-245-2350

Dementia Basics

What can we expect?

This four-part series is designed to provide basic information about dementia to individuals with memory concerns, caregivers, family members, friends, and interested community members.

MEETING	THURSDAYS	TIMES
Session 1: Brain Health	January 8	10am-12 noon
Session 2: Types & Stages of Dementia	January 15	10am-12 noon
Session 3: Communication	January 22	10am-12 noon
Session 4: Preparing for the Journey Ahead	January 29	10am-12 noon

Register by Monday, Jan. 5, at 919-968-2087 or email agingtransitions@orangecountync.gov.

This program will take place in person at the Drakeford Library Complex, 203 S Greensboro St, Carrboro, NC.



orangecountync.gov/Aging

Sign Up to Get Emergency Information Quickly in Orange County



orangecountync.gov/OCALERTS

OC Alerts will give you critical, timely information about severe weather, road closures, missing persons, evacuations, and other important news.

You may choose to receive the messages via phone, email, text, or your preferred method of communication.

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you!



CHRISTMAS RECYCLING & FACILITIES SCHEDULE

	WEDNESDAY DEC. 24	THURSDAY DEC. 25	FRIDAY DEC. 26
Curbside Recycling	Regular Collection	No collection. Thursday recycling will be collected on Friday, Dec. 26.	Friday recycling will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 27.
Waste and Recycling Centers	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open
Landfill and Related Services	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open
Administrative Offices	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED



(919) 968-2788
recycling@orangecountync.gov
orangecountync.gov/recycling



WE ARE HIRING!

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