

Press Releases

02-09-11 This Week In Orange County By Edward A. Diana

It is with mixed emotions this week that I pay tribute to my good friend Patricia Claiborne. After 38 years of service to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County, most recently as Executive Director, Pat is retiring. She has been an incredible asset to both Cornell Cooperative Extension and our County. For nearly four decades, Pat has been a familiar face at 4-H events, the County Fair, Extension educational programs, and countless other activities supporting our County's agricultural tradition, as well as other non-profits in the community. Her energy and enthusiasm for all things "Orange County" will be greatly missed. The work she has done, the programs she has managed, and the staff she has developed, have gone a long way toward making Orange County the best place to live, work, and raise a family, as I believe it is. Thank you, Pat, for your many contributions and your outstanding commitment to the place we call home. Congratulations on your retirement!

If you're not familiar with Cornell Cooperative Extension, I encourage you to check it out. You can find their website at counties.cce.cornell.edu/orange. While many people still think of the Cooperative Extension as an agricultural resource, a look at their website will show you that today they are that and so much more. Their mission is to enable the people of Orange County to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. In addition to agriculture, they focus on families and youth, the environment, and economic development in our County.

Upcoming programs available through the Extension include:

- Buying a Home: A Free Program for Prospective Homeowners
- Surviving the Teen Years ... and enjoying them too.
- Discipline is Not a Dirty Word
- Relatives as Parents
- Keeping Poultry in Your Backyard
- Equine Environmental Stewardship

They're also hosting the 18th annual Making Healthful Decisions Conference on March 29. This year's conference will focus on the changing face of today's family; a very timely, informative topic in today's world. Take a few minutes to browse the website, you'll find it to be an invaluable source of information.

Another great Orange County resource is our County Historian's office, located in the 1841 Courthouse at 101 Main Street, Goshen. Ted Sly, our County Historian, is a walking, talking encyclopedia on Orange County history. He has also established a fantastic collection of historical reference materials – from audio and video files to newspaper articles and books. Currently on display in the Courthouse, and open to the public for viewing, is a collection of books on African-American history in Orange County in recognition of Black History Month. Ted tells me this fine collection rivals any in the County. We invite you to stop by and check it out. You can also visit the Historian's office online at www.orangecountygov.com for more information, including a short history of Orange County and a trivia collection – see what you can find out about the Vin Fiz Flyer. Stay-tuned next week for more information.

Until then, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana
County Executive