

NEWS RELEASE

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For Release Upon Receipt

Orange County (NC) Visitors Bureau Produces First Travel Guide for People with Disabilities

Chapel Hill, NC (April 1, 2015) -- Travel by people with disabilities, also known as "accessible travel," is on the rise.

To elevate the level of service Orange County offers its travelers with special needs, the Visitors Bureau has produced **The 2015/16 Chapel Hill/Orange County Access Guide** to provide information on how travelers can more easily access services and accommodations in Orange County, including Chapel Hill, UNC, Carrboro, Hillsborough and the surrounding rural areas.

"Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (celebrating its 25th anniversary this year), guarantees that disabled travelers receive equal treatment under the law, this doesn't always work out in historic communities where accessibility options vary widely. Compounding the problem is there are many kinds and degrees of disabilities among people," said Laurie Paolicelli, Director of the Visitors Bureau.

The new Access Guide, which will also be available on-line, will be distributed through area visitor centers and hotels; as well as select facilities throughout Orange County. To receive a copy of the guide, contact the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau by emailing info@visitchapelhill.org or calling (919) 245-4320.

Producers of the guide include Orange County's Visitors Bureau; and Valarie Schwartz, former writer of the Neighbor's column for the Chapel Hill News and Ellen Perry, a longtime disability rights activist born with cerebral palsy, who moved to Carrboro while still mobile and taught her adopted town about accessibility as her needs for it increased.

The following are some of the many tips and resources included in the guide:

- Helpful tips on navigating parking.
- Details about restrooms at every visitor destination.
- Descriptions of our hotels' ADA rooms and suites.
- Facilities with automatic doors.
- Information on how to conduct a self-guided driving tour of the entire county.
- Facilities with telecommunication devices for those with hearing impairments.

The mission of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau is to develop and coordinate visitor services in Orange County and to implement marketing programs that will enhance the economic activity and quality of life in the community. www.VisitChapelHill.org .

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Photo is front cover of the 2015-2016 Chapel Hill/Orange County Access Guide

