

The Orange County Government Gazette

Serving Orange County Residents since 1752

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Morinaga Announces Major Expansion at Orange County Site

Officials from Morinaga America Foods, Inc., today announced a significant expansion of its site in Orange County that will double current manufacturing production capacity for "HI-CHEW" candy and create more than 200 well-paying jobs. The company announced \$136 million in new capital investment for the creation of an additional 100,000 square feet of production space at its facility along Wilson Road in Mebane. Construction is expected to be finished by 2027.

When complete, the project will create 204 additional new jobs between 2026 and 2030 with an average annual wage of \$48,912 (or approximately \$23.452 per hour). These jobs are full-time and include healthcare and related employment benefits.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the government officials who supported the investment," said Masaki Matsumoto, Morinaga Senior Executive Officer & General Manager, Overseas Business. "We aim to become a company that continues to grow here in North Carolina." "Orange County is excited for this additional investment by Morinaga," said Orange County Chair Jamezetta Bedford. "They took a chance on Orange County and North Carolina many years ago, helping to diversify our tax base and bring strong top-quality jobs to our residents. We value their initiative and look forward to many more decades of partnership. And their candy is really delicious, too. Local supermarkets have it. My husband and I like to share the smaller bag." Morinaga America Foods agreed in 2013 to locate in Orange County and built a 100,000 square foot manufacturing plant. The company employs approximately 204 associates and has a current county property tax valuation of \$31.6 million.



Masaki Matsumoto, Morinaga Senior Executive Officer & General Manager, Overseas Business receives a gift from Mabelle Baker Sanders, Secretary of the North Carolina Dept. of Commerce.

Morinaga & Co., Ltd., was founded in 1899 in Tokyo, Japan, and is a major international confectionary and candy maker. The firm is Asia's equivalent to a Hershey's, Mars or Nestle. Morinaga is aggressively marketing HI-CHEW across the United States and has successful store displays at Target, Costco, 7-Eleven and major grocery store chains.

Orange County Economic Development Director Steve Brantley said the company considered locations in Taiwan and China, where the company has existing HI-CHEW factories, and had also researched building a new facility in Vietnam, before choosing to expand in Orange County.

The Board of Commissioners will consider a county incentive when the Board reconvenes in the Fall.

Orange County to host community presentation on grief

The Orange County Department on Aging and the Project EngAGE Mental Wellness Senior Resource Team invite the public to attend Grief Unmasked on August 14.

Grief is something we carry with us every day. Some days it's heavier than others, but it's always with us and affects us all differently. Whether it's the loss of a person or pet, your identity, independence, or something else - your grief is valid.

Please join Cynthia von der Lehr, MSW, LCSW, and Holly Menard, End of Life Doula, as we normalize talking about the grieving process and all that encompasses that journey: numbness, anger, depression, anxiety, and everything in between. We'll discuss the health impacts of grief and provide resources for where you can receive support.



The free event will take place on Wed., August 14, from 4 – 5:30 pm, at the Seymour Center, located at 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

Please register by Mon., August 12 with the Seymour Center front desk at 919-968-2070.

For more information, please contact Shenae McPherson at 919-245-4243 or shmcperson@orangecountync.gov.

Apply Today!

Eligible landowners and operators can apply for cost-share assistance to install Best Management Practices on their agricultural operations.

An initial sign-up period is open until August 17, 2024, for those seeking cost-share assistance.

For more information, contact Bradsher Wilkins at 919-245-2752 or David Latta at 919-245-2754.



ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks & Recreation
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Help animals and people in your community.

Volunteer
at Orange County Animal Services in Chapel Hill!

www.orangecountync.gov/388/Volunteers 919-942-7387

Need help with our applications?

If you need assistance filling out any of our permit applications, such as **Septic System Repair** or a **New Well**, please call us at 919-245-2378 to set up an appointment for in-person assistance, or email Trisha Tant at ttant@orangecountync.gov.

For more information: www.orangecountync.gov/EH

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER Field Day

Join us at the Efland Cheeks Community Center for a back to school bash as we gear up for the new school year! Take part in family friendly fun with field day activities, school supplies giveaway, and more! Medication drop-off available!

Saturday, August 10 • 11am-1pm
Efland-Cheeks Community Center, 117 Richmond Road, Efland, NC

Registration encouraged by calling (919) 245-2015

Sponsored by the Intergenerational Senior Resource Team, United Voices of Efland Cheeks, and Orange County Sheriff's Office

APPLY TODAY! Community Climate Action Grant Program

The **Community Climate Action Grant Program** is dedicated to accelerating climate change mitigation actions in Orange County. All public and non-profit entities and small businesses are eligible to apply. We are looking for great project ideas that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make a positive impact in our community.

Applications must be received by **August 16, 2024.**

For more information, visit www.orangecountync.gov/CCAG Or contact Orange County Sustainability at sustainability@orangecountync.gov

Get a Jump on Your Tax Bill!

No need to wait until the deadline on your tax bill, you can **pay now!** There are many convenient options: www.orangecountync.gov/PayTaxes

Orange County Tax Administration
(919) 245-2100

DELIVERReads

DELIVERReads is a courier service for library materials provided by the Orange County Public Library and Orange County Transportation Services. It is available to Orange County residents of any age who are homebound due to illness, disability, physical limitations, and/or transportation issues and are unable to come into the library. It's also available for caregivers and care facilities in Orange County.

For more information, call the library at 919.245.2525 or contact Maureen Socha at msocha@orangecountync.gov or 919.245.2539.

VOTERS! GET A FREE PHOTO ID

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina. Registered voters who do not have an acceptable form of identification for voting purposes can now get a **FREE** photo ID from the Orange County Board of Elections office.

Orange County Board of Elections
Monday-Friday, 8am - 5pm
208 S Cameron St, Hillsborough, NC
919-245-2350

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE

Residents can have a positive impact on the future of Orange County by serving on a volunteer board or commission. The Board of Commissioners is currently recruiting applicants for the following:

- Adult Care Home and Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Advisory Board on Aging
- Agricultural Preservation Board
- Animal Services Advisory Board
- Animal Services Hearing Panel
- Pool
- Board of Equalization and Review
- Chapel Hill Board of Adjustment
- Commission for the Environment
- Hillsborough Planning Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Orange County Parks and Recreation Council
- Orange County Planning Board
- Orange Unified Transportation Board

www.orangecountync.gov/Boards
For additional information contact Tara May at 919-245-2125 or tmay@orangecountync.gov.

ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA WE ARE HIRING!

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