

# NEWS



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## 1-11-12 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

As we recognize the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 16, I hope you will take a moment out of your busy day to reflect on the memory of Dr. King. His legacy of accomplishment and change more than 40 years ago greatly influenced the world in which we live today.

Generations of Americans have been informed and inspired by Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. He dreamt of a better life for all Americans and gave people hope for a better future. Even now, four decades after his death, we continue to work to uphold Dr. King's ideals and strive for a nation that offers no place for any kind of prejudice or discrimination.

I encourage all Orange County residents to remember Dr. King's vision and join me and many others as we carry on his dream of creating a community where all people, regardless of race, color, or creed, can live and work together in harmony for the good of our County, State, and Nation.

In an effort to protect the rights of all people in our community and support the beliefs and ideals of Dr. King and others like him, Orange County established the Human Rights Commission in 1970. The Commission has a mission to foster mutual respect and understanding among all racial, religious, and nationality groups in the County. They inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among, or between, these groups and strive to relieve the tension. The Commission also provides educational and awareness programs and activities, such as the art show hosted at SUNY Orange's Middletown campus in December, that have a goal of increasing good will among the diverse inhabitants of our County.

Any person living or working in Orange County who is dealing with issues of prejudice or discrimination should contact the Orange County Human Rights Commission at 615-3680 or learn more by visiting the Human Rights Commission pages on the County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com). No one should suffer the injustice of discrimination, and there's no need to deal with it alone. A knowledgeable and understanding resource during such a difficult time can make a critical difference.

I know that there will be many Martin Luther King Day recognition events held throughout Orange County over the next week; I hope you will take part in one and remember the work and memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."*

*Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness,

Edward A. Diana  
County Executive