



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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County Executive Steve Neuhaus Announces Nominations Open for 2026 Senior of the Year and Outstanding Senior Contribution Awards

Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus along with the Orange County Office for the Aging are now accepting nominations for the 2026 'Senior of the Year' and 'Outstanding Contribution by a Senior' honorees, to be acknowledged by the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) on May 26th in Albany.

"Our seniors are an integral part of the fabric of our communities. They are volunteers, mentors, caregivers, and leaders who give their time, wisdom, and energy to make Orange County a better place for all generations," said Neuhaus. "Recognizing their contributions is more than an honor, it's a way to say thank you for the lasting impact they have had and continue to have in our neighborhoods. These individuals deserve to be celebrated for the dedication and service that strengthen our community every day."

Eligibility Criteria for Nominees:

- Age 60 or older
- Orange County resident
- Services performed should be as an unpaid volunteer

Categories:

Senior Citizen of the Year:

- Demonstrates outstanding dedication to the community

- Provides consistent volunteer service
- Displays leadership abilities

Outstanding Contribution by a Senior:

- Shows unique achievement
- Provides special service to the community that makes a difference
- Volunteers on a consistent basis

Senior Friendly Business

(in conjunction with the Orange County Senior Council):

- Demonstrates outstanding dedication to the community and older adult population
- Provides unique services and assistance to older adults
- Displays a positive, respectful, welcoming atmosphere for Senior Citizens

“Every year, we’re inspired by the remarkable older adults who give back, lead by example, and make a real difference in our communities,” said Danielle Diana-Smith, Director of the Orange County Office for the Aging. “We encourage the public to nominate older adults whose kindness, wisdom, and dedicated service have had a positive impact on our community.”

All nominations are due by March 2nd. Nomination forms can be found on the Orange County Government website: <https://www.orangecountygov.com/151/Aging>

For more information regarding these nominations, contact Melanie Tanner in the Orange County Office for the Aging office at mtanner@orangecountygov.com or 845-615-3700

For general media inquiries, contact Rebecca Sheehan, Assistant to the County Executive and Director of Public Information and Media Relations, at 845-291-2700 or presscontact@orangecountygov.com.

Stay connected with County Executive Neuhaus and Orange County Government on social media:

Facebook: [@OrangeCountyNYGovt](#) | [@Steve.Neuhaus](#)
Instagram: [@OrangeCountyNYGovt](#) | [@Steve.Neuhaus](#)
X (formerly Twitter): [@OCGovNY](#) | [@SNeuhausOC](#)

Be sure to also check out the Blueprint Orange video series, a behind-the-scenes look at the projects, places, and people that make our County a great place to live. And don’t miss the newest episode of NeuCast, featuring Fianza Family Properties, now streaming on [OrangeCountyGov.com](https://www.OrangecountyGov.com).



2025 Senior of the Year Award Winners