

VILLAGE OF ORCHARD PARK

2009 NEWSLETTER



A word from the mayor...

As I begin my second term as Mayor, of course I have to look to the future, that's where we all will be spending our time. At times though, I would rather look over my shoulder and see our future. Wouldn't it be great if the economy today was as it was in 2005 when I first became Mayor? We all know reality won't let us, so we must work with what we have.

Other than local Village property taxes, Village revenue sources and the economy are inseparably connected at the hip. When the economy slips it affects local government immediately: retail sales slip, sales tax revenue slips, home sales decline, property transfer revenue declines, utility assessed value court decisions reduce local assessment, local government loses revenue, the stock market drops, and local investment revenue drops.

And so it goes. Of course, with the exception of local investments, these revenue sources are collected by the state and then meted out to local municipalities after the State takes "their fair share".

The down turn in the economy and the State's financial crisis made our budget process difficult this year. We carefully and thoughtfully worked for three months with spirited discussion and difficult decision making to produce a budget that will maintain services at the high level we have always provided.

As you read the paper and watch the news you see and hear that abolition of Village government and consolidation of services will save us all from certain economic and political demise. Nothing is further from the truth. My mother always said "The bigger they are, the harder they fall". Let me see ... Small Villages in Erie County are not in the red. (I know, I just retired as president of the Erie County Village Officials Association). I believe the County and the City of Buffalo are under the direction of control boards. I wonder why that is. Hmmm ... whom has fallen harder in this case? Maybe the activism would do greater good if it was directed toward Albany.

I have always said that I give credit to our Village taxpayers. They are intelligent and very aware of the services they receive from the Village. From many, many informal conversations that I have had with residents I have yet to hear one that wants to see the Village dissolve and consolidate with the Town.

And as for the activist beating the drum for "downsizing", you'd think he reinvented the wheel if you listen to the media. In state law there is a procedure that is clearly spelled out that gives Village residents the right to form Village government and to dissolve a Village government. It has always been there. The decision has always been in your hands just as your vote for who you feel you want to lead the Village is.

I am looking forward to my second term as your Mayor. There are many challenges to face in the future and at the end of my term maybe I'll look over my shoulder and be living a bright future for Our Village and all of its residents.

I'll look for you at Summer in the Park and in December at Holiday in the Park. Please, if you have a problem, get to me before you get mad.

I wish you well,

John Wilson

Board of Trustees

John B Wilson
Mayor

Trustee Stephen N Bray
Deputy Mayor
Finance and Budget
Public Works / Water
Village Code Review
Zoning Board Liaison

Trustee Francis T. Hogenkamp
Street Lights, Sidewalks, &
Signals
Senior Projects
Town Board Liaison
Business Community Liaison
Beautification

Trustee David A. Rood
Youth Coordinator
Solid Waste & Recycling
Insurance
Building Dept Liaison
Franchises

Trustee Joseph R. Wales
Revenues from outside Vlg
Events & Celebrations
State & County Liaison
Planning Board Liaison
Master Plan Update

4295 South Buffalo Street
662-9327 ~ 662-0891 (Fax)

www.orchardparkvillage.org

Office Hours: 9 am-5 pm Monday - Friday

Mary Beth Jensen, Village Clerk- Treasurer • Andrew Slotman, Director of Public Works
Kelly Stressinger, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer • Jeffrey N Sweet, Building Inspector
Clara Lewis, Part-Time Clerk, ZBA and Planning Board Secretary



Department of Public Works

662-3866

The employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) are committed to providing the best service to the residents of the Village. They are on call 24 hours a day to cover any emergency that may arise. If you have an emergency contact the OP Police at 662-6444 and they will notify the proper personnel.

The crew is responsible for many duties and actions within the Village, including maintaining the 14 miles of water line in the water distribution system, and daily monitoring of water quality. The dedicated staff is constantly monitoring the condition of the streets, and creating a long-term maintenance and repair program to provide high quality road surfaces. We are continually staying educated to meet the always-changing Federal and State regulations regarding traffic control devices, mainly new requirements regarding street signs. The DPW is currently creating a Stormwater Management Program to meet the EPA and DEC regulations in preventing and reducing pollution of our streams and lakes. Part of the program will involve community participation; if anyone is interested in becoming a part of the process please contact us. We are constantly striving to increase the beauty of the community with the installation of new landscape beds and maintaining the existing ones. We also team with the OP Garden club annually to plant, water, and maintain the flower boxes and hanging baskets.

In an effort to recycle brush and leaves, the Village is committed to picking up material in a timely manner. Tree limbs (4" diameter maximum) need to be placed at the curb with the cut end toward the street. In the fall, we will collect leaves; they must be debris free to prevent personal injury and damage to the equipment. In late December and early January, we pick up Christmas trees that are placed at the curb; they must be free of all decorations including tinsel, wire, and lights. All of the material that is collected is processed at the Town's Compost Facility at 6909 Milestrip Road and available for purchase to Village residents; for more information contact the Town Tax Office at 662-6405.

The Village Code states that the maintenance and repair of damaged or unsafe sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. This includes clearing snow during the winter months; the Village assists in this task by running the sidewalk V-plow, however, if additional clearing is necessary, the responsibility is the landowner's. The code also mandates that no person shall deposit any snow or ice into any public street or right-of-way. This includes the practice of snow plow contractors pushing snow into or across the road; please advise your snowplow contractor of this regulation because it continues to be an added burden to the Village and creates unsafe driving conditions for the public when the snow piles become too large.

The Staff of the DPW is devoted to continuing its exceptional service and is always looking for feedback from the community. Please contact us at 662-3866.



Building Department 662-9327

To protect all residents and property owners, Building Permits are required to assure compliance with the NYS Fire Prevention and Uniform Building Code and the Village of Orchard Park Municipal Code.

A Building Permit is required:

- For all new construction or additions
- When the cost of a repair to an existing building exceeds \$10,000.00
- When a repair affects the structure of an existing building
- When an electrical circuit is installed or extended
- When a generator is installed
- When remodeling involves the removal or relocation of walls; or affects the structure of a building
- When a solid fuel device, such as a wood burning stove or fireplace is installed or repaired.
- When the use of a building is changed
(ie: a retail store to a doctor's office...)
- When the required fire safety features in an existing building are affected by repairs, remodeling or alterations
- For a shed, fence, pool, sign or new paved surfaces

Jeff Sweet, Village Building Inspector, will answer questions and help with the permit process. He is available Monday-Friday 4-5 pm, or after hours by appointment.

Garbage and Recycling 824-3766

Modern Disposal Services, Inc. is contracted to provide garbage and recycling collection for all one, two and three family homes in the Village. Each Tuesday all refuse and recycling must be within three feet of the roadside by 6am. They will collect up to eight cans/bags from each residence. Acceptable waste must be in watertight garbage cans with lifting handles or watertight plastic bags not to exceed 40-gallon capacity. Each can or bag must not exceed 60 lbs. Bulk items will be collected the first Tuesday of every month. A detailed list of guidelines is available in the Village Office. Recycle bins can be purchased in the Town Tax Office for \$7.50. (A list of garbage and recycling guidelines can be picked up at the Village office).

A low volume discount is available, call the Village Office for more information. For hazardous household waste disposal, call 858-6370.

If the following holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, your collection day will be on Wednesday for that week only: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Day.

Planning Board

The dedicated volunteers who presently serve on the Planning Board are Chairman Gunner Tronolone, Dale Pyne, Michael Borowiak, Matt Hartung and Sue Ryan. Clara Lewis is the secretary. Planning Board meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Municipal Center. The board reviews permit applications in residential and non-residential zones, all referrals from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and any other permits or matters referred by the Building Inspector or the Village Board. All permit applications must be submitted to the Village Office no later than noon on the Wednesday, two weeks prior to the meeting date. The Building Inspector and the Planning Board Secretary can be reached at the Village Office and will be happy to assist you through the process.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is also comprised of dedicated volunteers: John Leach, Chairman, Matthew Flaughter, Ted Pieczonka, Nancy Stock and Steve Snyder. Clara Lewis is the secretary. The Village Building Inspector reviews all permit applications to determine if variances to the Village's Municipal Code are needed. If a variance is required, the applicant completes a Zoning Board of Appeals application and a public hearing is scheduled. A public hearing is published in the Orchard Park Bee and notices are sent to all property owners within 200' of the subject property. At the public hearing the ZBA reviews the application and interested parties are given the opportunity to express concerns. The ZBA, which must follow specific criteria for granting any variance, then votes on the requested variance.

Selling a House in the Village?

A sewer inspection must be done on any property changing ownership in the Village of Orchard Park. The cost of the inspection is \$75.00, payable to "Village of Orchard Park". Please contact the Village Office when selling a house and we will contact Erie County Sewer to schedule the inspection. Once completed, we will issue a Certificate of Compliance.

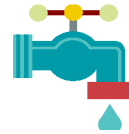
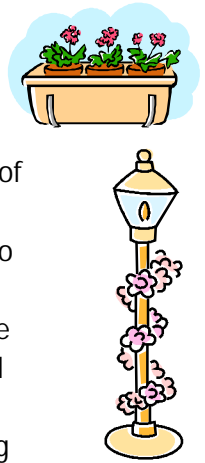
Village Justice Court 662-6415

The Village Court is in session the first Thursday of each month at 3 pm in the court room of the Municipal Center. The Village Court is represented by Village Justice Philip M. Marshall, Acting Village Justice Deborah Chimes and Prosecutor John C Bailey, who is also the Village Attorney.



Tree Planting and Beautification

Through the enthusiastic efforts of Maureen Davern and many other volunteers, financial contributions, and the commitment of the Village DPW, we enjoy hanging flower baskets and planter boxes. Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible donation to Beautify Orchard Park II (BOP II) may do so through the Village Office. Each year trees are added and dead or diseased street trees throughout the Village are replaced. Your concerns regarding trees can be called into the Village Office.



Annual Water Quality Report

Enclosed please find a copy of the Annual Water Quality Report, complying with State & Federal regulations. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Additional information is available in the Village Office, or on the internet at www.ecwa.org.

POLICE—FIRE—EMERGENCY 911

NON EMERGENCY 662-6444

The police station is located in the back of the Municipal Center. Police Chief Andrew Benz and his very competent detectives and police officers are always available to serve and protect us. The police department uses an enhanced 911 emergency calling system that helps locate the origin of any call received. The appropriate police, fire, or medical emergency personnel are then sent in response. Fingerprinting, by appointment, is available for pistol permits, adoptions, naturalization, securities licenses, liquor licenses and numerous other reasons, to all Orchard Park Town and Village residents at no charge.

Post Office 662-4110

The Orchard Park Post Office is located on School Street between South Buffalo Street and South Lincoln Avenue.



The hours of operation are:

Monday thru Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Saturday 8:30am – 1:00pm

Library 662-9851 4570 South Buffalo Street

The Orchard Park Library is part of the Erie County Library System. It is located at the corner of Highland Avenue and South Buffalo Street.

Churches and Organizations

A complete listing of area churches appears in our local phone book "Who's Who in Orchard Park". This book is prepared as a yearly fund-raiser by the local Boy Scout Troops. Copies can be purchased for \$5 in the Village Office or at various local businesses.

A list of community organizations and phone numbers appears on the bulletin board in the main hall of the Municipal Center.

RECREATION

Yates Park— Parking stickers are available at the Recreation Building or in the Town Clerk's Office for Orchard Park residents. For information regarding shelter rentals, call 662-6450.

Chestnut Ridge Park	662-3290
Senior Citizens	
Senior Center	662-6452
OP Senior Citizens	649-5043
Meals on Wheels	852-2626
Senior Citizen Van	895-0400
Senior Nutrition	662-8378
Senior Discount Cards	858-8526
Youth	
Boys & Girls Club	662-1941
Town Recreation	662-6450
YMCA	Eggert Rd. 662-9369
	Southwestern Blvd. 674-9622



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

www.opschools.org

General Information	209-6222
4040 Baker Road	
South Davis Elementary	209-6246
55 South Davis Street	
Eggert Elementary	209-6215
3580 Eggert Road	
Windom Elementary	209-6279
3870 Sheldon Road	
Ellicott Elementary	209-6278
5180 Ellicott Road	
Middle School	209-6220
60 S Lincoln Avenue	
High School	209-6242
4040 Baker Road	
Community Education	209-6295
4040 Baker Road	

AREA EVENTS

Memorial Day Parade: May 25, 9:00am from the Library to Veteran's Park, where a service is held.



Quaker Arts Pavilion Concert Series: (662-7387)
Concerts June thru August by a variety of musical performers. Programs available.



Fourth of July: (662-3366)
8pm parade from Baker Road to the Middle School. Fireworks at dusk.

Caribbean Night: July 22 (Wednesday) (6:00-10:00pm)

Summer in the Park:

Ice Cream Social: July 24 (7-9 pm)
(followed by fireworks)



Car Show & Street Dance: July 25
Car Show begins at 11:30 am
Street Dance from 7:30-11:30 pm

Erie County Fair and Expo: August 12-August 23
(649-3900) www.americas-fair.com

Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra: (662-5701)
September-March at the Orchard Park Middle School



Quaker Arts Festival: (667-2787)
September 19-20 at the Orchard Park Middle School

Veterans' Day: November 11
Service in Veterans Park at 11:00 am



Holiday in the Park: December 5 at the Depot

UTILITIES

Water	Village of OP	662-9327
Sewer	Erie County	823-8188
Electric	NYSEG	1-800-572-1111 service 1-800-572-1131 emergency
Gas	National Fuel	686-6123 service 1-800-444-3130 emergency

Information is available in the Village Office regarding the Prevention of Stormwater Pollution.