

Village of Orchard Park 2010 NEWSLETTER

A word from the mayor...

The 2009-2010 fiscal year for our Village was one with little to smile about. The 2008 economic down turn continued to influence municipal finances from the federal level right down to local government. Our mission is to make the best of the situation and deliver the highest level of service at the most reasonable price.

The Village's revenue sources are limited. Our "investment portfolio" is restricted to the least risky corners of the market with the most conservative rates of return. Investing our reserves and portions of our budgeted accounts produced \$101,550.00 in interest revenue in 2007. In 2009 following 2008's disastrous economic roller coaster ride, the best we could do was \$13,773.00. Things don't look much better for 2010.

A few additional examples of revenue loss include our share of the sales tax revenue down \$48,000.00, Mortgage tax revenue down \$14,000.00, assessed valuation is down \$1,750,000.00, and our state retirement contribution for our employees is up 22%. All of this in two short years.

We have cut spending and have been carefully using our reserves to keep our general village taxes the lowest in Erie County. This year we felt that the use of those portions of our reserves used over the past two years should be limited and where possible should be replenished. We accomplished this with a general village tax increase of \$.25 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. I can assure you the Village is running in the black, we are on firm financial ground and with some economic good fortune we will continue that way into the future.

Now, a couple other things ... We are all aware that an activist is going about collecting signatures on petitions to dissolve all of the villages in Erie County. To my knowledge his work has not begun in our village. The volunteers may or may not be residents of the Village of Orchard Park. Remember what makes our community so special is that we respect each other and we are polite. If you do not wish to sign the petition, politely ask the volunteer to leave. If you choose to listen to the volunteer, keep in mind that the facts presented are facts selected to enhance the dissolution of village government. There may be details that have been deliberately omitted. Chances are there is more to the story.

As a Legislative Representative with the New York Conference of Mayors I have been active in creating a legislative agenda that benefits villages through out the state. I recently met with members of the Attorney General's staff, Senate Majority Leader John Samson, and Governor Patterson. I spoke with each of them regarding amending the Attorney General's Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. As the law was written a study of cost and a dissolution plan must take place after the vote to dissolve a village has taken place. The study should come before the resident votes so he or she can have the facts and know the costs and make an informed decision before voting.

On a brighter note our Village Code of Ordinances has been recodified. After almost two years of work, the redundant and outdated local laws have been weeded out and our Village laws are 100% compliant with New York State law. The whole code is available on our website (orchardparkvillage.org).

Fran Hogenkamp recently worked with George Schichtel and some of the residents on Freeman Pond beginning a program of planting ornamental fruit trees around the pond. Fran and George envision the trees eventually surrounding the pond.

Joe Wales, Dave Rood, and their committee have everything well underway for the Summer in the Park events. Remember, in addition to the Village run events, we have the Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July Parade, Caribbean night, and of course the Pavilion activities all summer long.

Come out and support one or all of the events. It's your Village and you make it the wonderful place it is. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

I look forward to serving you and meeting the challenges ahead. I wish you well ...
and remember, get to me before you get mad.

Best regards,

John B. Wilson, Mayor



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 St.

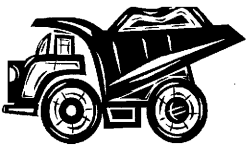
662-9327 Phone

662-0891 Fax

Office Hours: 9 am-5 pm
Monday-Friday

www.orchardparkvillage.org

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 constantly working to provide world class service at a reasonable price for the residents of the Village. They are available 24 hours a day seven days a week to handle any situation that may arise. If you have an emergency, please contact the OP Police at 662-6444 and they will notify the proper personnel to assist. The department provides many of the services that are offered by the village. We monitor and maintain the Village Streets; this includes all pavement maintenance, management and snow plowing duties. The staff is continually staying current with new state and federal guidelines regarding pavement maintenance and traffic control devices. Daily, we monitor the water quality and quantity that travels through the 14 miles of waterlines that are owned and maintained by the village. The DPW is implementing the Stormwater Management Plan to stay current with the EPA and DEC regulations to prevent pollution to our local lakes and streams. As part of the program we annually clean approximately 3 miles of storm sewer pipe and 110 storm sewer catch basins. A portion of the plan requires for community involvement; anyone that is interested in helping can contact our office for more information. The DPW is learning of the new DEC Dam program and inspection guidelines, to prepare for the take over of the new spillway of Freeman's Pond from the County, as part of the agreement with the new bridge construction. We annually install and maintain numerous landscape beds throughout the village, as well as team with the OP Garden club to plant, water, and maintain the flower boxes and hanging baskets that beautify the streets of the village.

The Village makes every effort to recycle or reuse many products in an effort to remain environmentally friendly. In the past year we have reused multiple loads of blacktop millings from our road projects, recycled hundreds of tons of blacktop and concrete that was removed during construction projects, and recycled one ton of tires. We also recycle hundreds of loads of brush, leaves, and wood chips that are collected curb side throughout the Village. The regulations for curb side brush collection are; tree limbs (4" diameter maximum) can be placed at the curb with the cut end toward the street. In the winter months we will collect Christmas trees that are placed at the curb, but they must be free of all decorations including tinsel, wires, and lights. In the fall we do curb side leaf collection using leaf vacuums; the leaf piles must be free of any foreign objects to prevent personal injury to the employees and damage to the equipment. All of the brush and leaves that we collect are processed at the Town's Compost Facility at 6909 Milestrip Rd and available for purchase to Village residents; for more information contact the Town Clerks Office at 662-6410.

Sidewalks within the Village are a responsibility of the property owner to maintain and repair. This includes keeping them clear of snow during the winter months. In an effort to assist, the Village operates a sidewalk plow; however, if additional clearing is necessary, it is the property owner's responsibility. It is also stated in the code that the depositing of any material, including snow, into the municipal right of way is illegal. Please notify your snow plow contractor of this regulation; the practice of placing snow in the street or across the street is a burden on our department, and creates unsafe driving conditions for the residents.

The Department of Public Works is committed to constantly providing the best service and in an effort to improve in the future we encourage feedback from the community. Please contact us with any question or concerns 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 (i.e.: 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

Other Information:

- House numbers are required to be placed on all houses in the Village of Orchard Park. Numbers must be at least 4" high and visible from the street.
- Remember to keep all generators, pressure washers or other gasoline-powered tools outside and NEVER store or use in garage, carport (covered patio) or basement. Keep all gasoline powered tools well away from windows, doors and air-intakes. They all produce large amounts of carbon monoxide (CO) that can build up to dangerous levels in minutes.
- Open burning is prohibited; recreational fires must be a minimum of 25 ft. from structures and CAN NOT produce smoke as a nuisance to surrounding neighbors.

As of February 22, 2010, Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors are required:

1. Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, on each story having a sleeping area.
2. Within each dwelling unit or sleeping unit, on each story where a carbon monoxide source is located.
3. Where the dwelling unit has appliances, devices or systems that may emit carbon monoxide or has an attached garage.

PROHIBITED LOCATIONS: Carbon Monoxide alarms shall not be located within or near the openings to garages, bathrooms or furnace rooms. Shall not be located in or near locations specified as "prohibited", "not recommended" or the like in the manufacturer's installation instructions.

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 Clerk's 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, one week 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: Chairman John Leach, Matthew Flaughner, Ted Pieczonka, 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 Press 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.

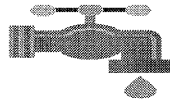
Tree Planting and Beautification

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.



Rain Barrel

A Rain Barrel is a great way to help conserve water and reduce harmful water pollution to the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers. It collects and stores rain water for future uses, such as watering landscaping, and for decreasing the amount of storm water runoff that leaves your property. More information on rain barrels as well as how to purchase one, can be picked up in 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

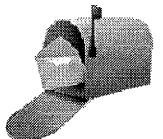
POLICE—FIRE—EMERGENCY 911

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.

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

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.

AREA EVENTS

Memorial Day Parade: May 31, 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 28 (Wednesday) (6:00-10:00 pm)

Summer in the Park:

Ice Cream Social: July 30 (7-9 pm)
(followed by fireworks)

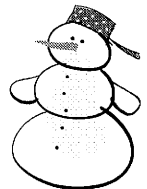


Car Show & Street Dance: July 31
Car Show begins at 11:30 am
Street Dance from 7:30-11:30 pm

Erie County Fair and Expo: August 11—August 22
(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 18-19 at the Orchard Park Middle School



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

Holiday in the Park: December 4 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.