

# Village of Orchard Park

## 2011 NEWSLETTER



### *A word from the mayor...*

This past year, particularly the winter, our Village infrastructure took a beating. Extended cold weather drove the frost deep into the ground where the snow cover was light. Our plowed roads provided the lack of snow cover and the frost settled in pushing the road surface up causing the brittle frozen asphalt to crack. Light thawing allowed water to enter the cracks only to freeze again and widen and deepen them. Our water system was not immune to the cold either. Cold water from Lake Erie, 80 year old pipes and bitter cold weather took its toll on our system.

Just like people, our Village systems break down as they age. Little has been done in the last decade to stabilize and upgrade our roads and water system. We have routinely done maintenance; however, it has been administered with short-term funding and an extended time schedule. Just as your home occasionally needs repairs and updating ... your Village infrastructure needs repairs and upgrades also. A large portion of the 2011-2012 Village budget increase is for infrastructure items.

Further, we are investigating the possibility of obtaining an Infrastructure Bond. Based upon a comprehensive road and water system evaluation, we will determine our most serious road and water issues and seek approval for the bond later this fall.

With the Village's NYS Retirement System contribution increasing by 30% or so and a 22% increase in health care costs, it's difficult to operate on a balanced budget without raising taxes.

We recently made some changes to our annual pay raise formula for our employees. Instead of an across the board percentage raise, we now have a "Merit Raise Program" in place. Our employees are evaluated from a self evaluation and an interview with the DPW liaisons. Recommendations are made to the entire board and raises are given based upon performance. The Merit Raise Program is incentive to achieve and produce based upon ones performance.

We have done our best to control costs; unfunded NYS mandates remain as some of the greatest costs in our budget. If the property tax cap proposed by the Governor were to be passed by the State Assembly (already passed in Senate) our Village would be able to generate about \$8600.00 in new revenue, less than half of the mandated 2012 NYS retirement increase. A tax cap should follow the elimination of many of the unfunded mandates.

On the brighter side, Trustee Hogenkamp and George Schichtel and friends have planted another dozen or so flowering cherry trees around Freeman's Pond. The County will place the pond level adjustment weir on the spillway soon and the pond water level will return to its former level.

We have a new bank in the Village. Community Bank now occupies the old Continental Paper and Packaging world headquarters on South Buffalo and Clark Street. Continental moved around the corner on West Quaker Street. We are so fortunate that we don't have empty store fronts and have business owners that are involved in the community.

We have our full calendar of activities coming up this summer:

**The Memorial Day Parade** - come out and honor our veterans, say thanks to those that are with us and honor the memories of those who have passed.

**Quaker Arts Pavilion** - will have evening entertainment all summer long; stop by on an evening, you'll enjoy it.  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July / Independence Day Parade** - march in the parade, watch from the curb, enjoy the fireworks.

**Quaker Days Activities** - Caribbean Night or the Lions Club Car Show ....it's all fun and there for you to enjoy.

**Summer in the Park** - The Ice Cream Social and the Street Dance will close Quaker Days festivities.

It's a Village thing that everybody can enjoy. C'mon out and visit with your neighbors, dance a little, put the troubles of the day aside and have some fun; I'll see you there.

And remember ...if you need help or have a problem, get to me before you get mad. I can't solve every problem but I'll try.

*Best Regards*

*John B. Wilson, Mayor*

### Board of Trustees

**John B Wilson**  
Mayor

#### Trustee David A Rood

Deputy Mayor  
Finance and Budget  
Youth Coordinator  
Solid Waste & Recycling  
Building Dept. Liaison

#### Trustee Francis T

**Hogenkamp**  
Street Lights, Sidewalks,  
& Signals  
Senior Projects  
Town Board Liaison  
Business Community Liaison  
Beautification

#### Trustee Joseph R. Wales

Revenues from outside Vlg  
Events & Celebrations  
State & County Liaison  
Planning Board Liaison  
Master Plan Update

#### Trustee Jo Ann Litwin

Public Works / Water  
Village Code Review  
Zoning Board Liaison  
Franchises  
Insurance

4295 South Buffalo St.

662-9327 Phone

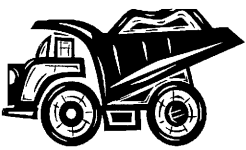
662-0891 Fax

Office Hours: 9 am-5 pm

Monday-Friday

[www.orchardparkvillage.org](http://www.orchardparkvillage.org)

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



## Department of Public Works

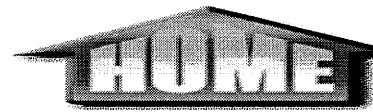
662-3866

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 up 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. 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. Permit applications can be found on our website ([www.orchardparkvillage.org](http://www.orchardparkvillage.org), Code Enforcement Tab).

### 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 Code Enforcement Officer, 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. Recycle bins can be purchased in the Village 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 Myrna Woodard. 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 Code Enforcement Officer 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 Code Enforcement Officer 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: Matthew Flaughner, Ted Pieczonka, Steve Snyder and Gary Phillips. Clara Lewis is the secretary. The Village Code Enforcement Officer 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 Daniel B. Kane, Acting Village Justice Philip M. Marshall and Prosecutor John C. Bailey, who is also the Village Attorney.

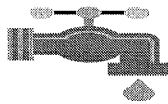
## Tree Planting and Beautification

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](http://www.ecwa.org)

## POLICE—FIRE—EMERGENCY 911

NON EMERGENCY 662-6444

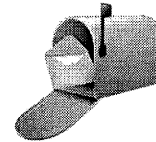
The police station is located in the back of the Municipal Center. Police Chief Andrew Benz and his very competent detectives and police officers are always available to serve and protect us. The police department uses an enhanced 911 emergency calling system that helps locate the origin of any call received. The appropriate police, fire, or medical emergency personnel are then sent in response. Fingerprinting, by appointment, is available for 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 662-7178

Senior Citizen Van 895-0400 / 662-8378

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](http://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 30, 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 27 (Wednesday) (6:00-10:00 pm)

**Summer in the Park:**

**Ice Cream Social:** July 29 (7-9 pm)  
(followed by fireworks)

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



**Erie County Fair and Expo:** August 10-August 21  
(649-3900) [www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org)

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

**Quaker Arts Festival:** (667-2787)  
September 17-18 at the Orchard Park Middle School

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



**Holiday in the Park:** December 3 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.