



# ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013  
Volume 15  
Issue 1

## Your Township Operations

*By Robert Quigley, Trustee*

The last couple of years have been difficult and there are many residents who have concerns about the future of their township. Local government is being challenged with funding cuts, decreased revenue sources and increased costs. Overall annual property taxes (including Delaware County, libraries, Health Dept., Olenangy Local Schools, etc.) for a \$300,000 home collected approximately \$6,746.43 in 2012. Many might not know when looking at their 2012 tax bill that Orange Township only made up approximately 12% of the total property taxes paid. Using the previous example of a home valued at \$300,000, Orange Township only collected approximately \$790.14 a year or \$65.85 a month. That \$65.85 a month helped pay for your Fire, EMS, additional Sheriff's Deputies, Township Administration, Zoning, Road Maintenance, Snow Plowing, Parks and Trails, etc.

Even though the township has a history of being conservative, I know we need to always be looking for ways to run as efficient as possible. There are many things that have been done, or are in the process of being done, that are generally overlooked when the township is challenged to save money. Over the last year, I have heard a few concerns about the township needing to be more fiscally responsible and I want to take a moment to provide some information on a few items.

### **Parks**

The park department operations and development is through the monies collected from the park levy. The levy funds are used to build and maintain the parks, trails, and other recreational amenities throughout the township. Those monies cannot be used for anything else other than for parks. To help be most effective with the money collected, the township aggressively applies for grants each year to help complete projects that residents have identified as key to the growth and quality of life of the township. These are typically

75% reimbursement grants. The township has to have the funds to initially complete the project. Over the last five years, the park department has successfully applied for \$2,789,727.00 in grants. These grants have essentially allowed the township to stretch your investment and aggressively continue to develop the trail system and parks that many residents value and use.

Sustainability is also one of our goals. A couple years ago, the Board understood that there are many  
*continued on page 6*

## Sheriff Contract

*By Robert Quigley, Trustee*

Recently the board voted to cancel its contract for police services with the Delaware County Sheriff. This agreement was for the provision of additional deputies above and beyond those provided by the Sheriff and County Commissioners. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Sheriff's Department will continue to patrol Orange Township and respond in time of need.

The .5 Mil levy that originally supported the contract and additional deputies did not pass its last vote and funding for additional deputies has run out. As much as we would like to continue to have the additional deputies, the general fund cannot sustain paying the \$500,000 a year necessary to support the contract.

Because of contractual language, we are still obligated to fund the additional deputies for the next 6 months. In the next month we will be sitting down with the Sheriff and County Commissioners to discuss possible plans for 2013 utilizing the remaining available contract funds. In addition, we will discuss the potential future coverage of Orange Township by the Sheriff's department in the absence of the contract for additional deputies.

Thank you,

Robert W. Quigley  
Orange Township Trustee

## Park Volunteers

Orange Township is starting a volunteer program that would assist the Orange Township Community Park Board throughout the year with events such as Movie in the Park, Music in the Park, trail counts, and park clean up days. If you would like to join our new volunteer group, please contact Beth Hugh at [bhugh@orangetwp.org](mailto:bhugh@orangetwp.org), or Debbie Taranto at [dtaranto@orangetwp.org](mailto:dtaranto@orangetwp.org). We will send you Volunteer sign up forms and notify you when a volunteer opportunity arises. Or you can sign up on-line at [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org). Thanks for your interest and we look forward to seeing you in the Parks.

## TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

**Trustee Meetings** are the first and third Mondays of the month, 7 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals** meetings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, as needed 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**Orange Township Community Park Board**  
Complete list of meetings for 2013 is listed on our website: [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org)

**Orange Township Economic Development Advisory Board**  
Complete list of meetings for 2013 is listed on our website: [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org)

A complete schedule of all township meetings can be found on our website [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org), or follow the Notify Me link to sign up for our list serve notifications.

Orange Township Trustees  
 Chairman            Robert W. Quigley  
 Vice Chairman     Debbie Taranto  
 Trustee                Lisa F. Knapp  
 Fiscal Officer     Joel M. Spitzer

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## Arbor Day

*By Beth Hugh, Maintenance and Parks Director*

April 26<sup>th</sup> is Arbor Day and the Township would like to invite you to help observe this tree planting holiday. The Parks have experienced devastating effects of the Emerald Ash Borer. The Park staff has been hard at work over the last year to remove dead Ash trees within the park nature areas in order to keep these active areas safe for children to play. While we will be successful in removing the dead trees it will be a long and difficult task to re-establish these areas that are the jewels to our parks.

Many Arbor Day websites have memberships that will sometimes send out between ten to twelve trees to new members for joining. If you have been thinking about joining one of these sites, but you don't know what to do with that many trees, the Township would be happy to accept your donations to replant the park areas. If we can receive enough donations and interested volunteers we will coordinate a planting day. If you are interested in participating or have questions please contact Beth Hugh, Maintenance & Parks Director at (740) 657-2630 or [bhugh@orangetwp.org](mailto:bhugh@orangetwp.org). Your donations will be recognized by the Township Trustees and any and all tree donations are welcome. Park staff will plant the trees if we are unable to coordinate a volunteer day. Thank you for your consideration and have a great spring.

## Help us Celebrate Earth Week!

### Neighborhood Challenge

Orange Township challenges you and your neighbors in "operation clean sweep". Gather your friends to pick up trash and recyclables in your neighborhood (or an area in Orange Township) and the Orange Township Maintenance crew will supply gloves and collection bags for everyone! On Friday during Earth Week (April 26th) Orange Township will pick up the collection bags at a location you select.

### Call

Please call Orange Township with your drop off information, for bags to be filled and gloves for use as you clean up an area. We will also take calls to arrange pick up of those bags. 740-548-5430, ext. 110



## Orange Township Parks, Trails & Greenways Master Plan Update

*By Beth Hugh, Maintenance and Parks Director*

The Park Department will be updating the Parks, Trails & Greenways Master Plan this year. We would like to make this a real grass roots effort with input from everyone including residents, homeowner associations, walking groups, bike organizations and mommy groups. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to participate in the process. The original Master Plan was completed in 2003 with an Update for our current Master Plan completed in 2008. We currently have a committee comprised of the Maintenance & Parks Director, Trails Coordinator consultant, a Trustee and two Park Board Members. We will be meeting to outline our goals and objectives for the update and scheduling Open Houses where everyone can come and join in the discussion of what we have accomplished with the current Master Plan, what still needs to be accomplished and additional parks and trail connections that you would like to see included in the updated Master Plan. Please keep an eye on the website for Open House meeting dates or sign up for an e-mail or text notification for the meetings on our re-designed website [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org) under NOTIFY ME sign up for the notices under Agenda Center / Park Board. 

We are very excited to share all of the construction projects that we will be working on this year including the US 23 Bike / Pedestrian Bridge and the trails that will connect to the bridge as well as hear from you on what projects are important to you. We look forward to meeting you at an Open House. In the meantime if you have any questions please feel free to contact Beth Hugh, Maintenance & Parks Director at (740 657-2630 or [bhugh@orangetwp.org](mailto:bhugh@orangetwp.org)).

A copy of the current Master Plan is on the Orange Township website at [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org).



## Oak Creek Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Learn about Local Government

*By Debbie Taranto, Trustee*

The Oak Creek Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> graders make an annual fall trek to the Township Hall to complete their study on local government. I had the pleasure of meeting with the children on a Thursday, and Trustee Rob Quigley was able to meet the rest of the classes on Friday. We received a letter from each child and their desire to keep our community clean from trash, recycle, and most importantly, their request for a spray park, skateboard park, ice skating rink and ferriswheel were all duly noted.

I was able to talk to them about the unique form of government that makes up a township and that the Pilgrims brought the township form of government to America in 1620. In Ohio, township government was our first form of government, even before state government. A township government is made up of 3 Trustees, and a Fiscal Officer. Their original job was to oversee the poor, the roadways, justices of the peace, and constables. Today a township is a political subdivision of the state, called "local government". It is responsible for zoning, cemeteries, waste disposal, roads, parks and recreation, and in some cases fire, and police.

One of the things I was able to talk to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about, which I in particular enjoy about being a trustee, is the intimate knowledge that we as trustees have about our community; its needs, community feedback, and a more personal service than any other form of government.

Debbie Taranto  
Orange Township Trustee

## The High Price of False Alarm Calls

By Lisa Knapp, Trustee

False alarms, they happen to all of us. But did you know that 1/3 of all calls by Orange Township residents are due to security system alarms, and about 97% of them are false? Responding to false alarms can be very costly to our community in a number of ways:

- False alarms take officers away from real emergencies and other life-threatening situations. It takes two deputies to respond to a burglar alarm, and up to an hour to resolve the issue, including travel time and paperwork.
- Higher taxes are needed to fund additional deputies, vehicles, and fuel, and also staff time to monitor and bill for false alarms (the fine for more than 2 false alarms per calendar year is \$25 per false alarm).
- There is a risk to the community and to the deputies because of the necessary accelerated response to alarms.
- “Alarm inoculation” can occur, which is when deputies who respond repeatedly to false alarms have to fight complacency, which in turn puts the public and the deputies at a greater risk if they are confronted by committed criminals.

What can you do to prevent false alarms?

- Call your monitoring company immediately to report a false alarm.
- Secure pets prior to activating your alarm each time.
- Make sure items such as banners, balloons, and holiday decorations are placed away from motion detectors.
- Make sure everybody who has access to your home knows how to deactivate the alarm and knows the authorization pass code.
- Make sure your monitoring company has your current contact information, including cell phone numbers.
- Work with your security system company to test your system regularly.

We can all work together to reduce false alarms and help make our tax dollars go further!

Lisa Knapp

Orange Township Trustee

## Zoning Variances

By Tom Farahay, Zoning Inspector

When a resident or business needs relief from the provisions or requirements set forth in the zoning code they can ask for an area variance or a use variance as long as such will not be contrary to the public interest as determined by the township’s Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

An area variance may be granted by reason of the exceptional narrowness, shallowness or unusual shape of a specific piece of property, or by reason of exceptional topographic conditions.

In the event that the variance requested relates solely to area requirements established or imposed by the code, the BZA shall have the power to authorize a variance from the terms of the code upon a finding that literal enforcement of the code will result in practical difficulties and that the spirit of the code will be observed and substantial justice done.

Use variances, although rare and much more difficult to obtain, follow many of the same guidelines in their determination. They most often involve commercial or industrial properties.

If the use variance requested relates to restrictions or requirements established or imposed by the code or the terms imposed on a property during the rezoning process, the BZA again has the power to authorize a variance upon finding that the literal enforcement of the code will result in unnecessary hardship and the spirit of the code will be observed and substantial justice done.

Most determinations of the use of properties are decided in the rezoning process, not in a variance or appeals situation.

For more detailed information contact the Zoning Office at 740-548-5430 extension 124.

## Orange Township announces re-designed website

[www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org) underwent a re-design process by CivicPlus, the leading government website provider. The website now will be simpler to use, as well as have an easier layout to navigate.

The new streamlined site will allow the township to create many list serve notification lists. List serve subscribers may then select the type of notifications they wish to receive.

To sign up for list serve notifications, follow the Notify Me link on [www.orangetwp.org](http://www.orangetwp.org)

## Orange Township Fire Department

*By Matt Noble, Assistant Fire Chief*

Your fire department can respond to emergency medical calls; structure, vehicle and outside fires; vehicle crashes; hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction calls; technical rescues (i.e. water, rope, confined space, trench collapse, cave-in, and industrial entrapment); and other requests for service (carbon monoxide checks, unknown odors, malfunctioning safety equipment, etc). As a result, your fire department needs to remain ready to respond with the needed equipment at any time to any of these types of calls. In order to accomplish this state of readiness, the department keeps crews together on a fire truck.

The fire department attempts to provide services as recommended by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and other nationally excepted standards. These standards are the guidelines that we follow when determining the number of people and apparatus needed to respond on various types of calls. In the past, we sent an engine or rescue with a medic vehicle on approximately 10 different Advanced Life Support EMS calls (i.e. trauma, cardiac, obstetrics, etc). We did this for several reasons:

1. All firefighters are trained in EMS. This allows us to staff all major fire apparatus with paramedics.
2. We try to send the closest vehicle to the incident. If one medic vehicle is tied up on another call, it may take a little longer for a medic vehicle further away to arrive at the incident site, so sending an engine or rescue with trained paramedics enables a quicker response and patient care.
3. The extra personnel are there to support the medic crew as well as the family during their time of crisis.
4. Sending an engine or rescue allows us to keep a second medic vehicle in service for another call. The department responds to almost 3 EMS incidents to every one fire call.
5. Many studies have been done that support the sending of a fire apparatus with a medic vehicle. There are static costs involved such as paying salaries whether crews are on an emergency call or at the station. Therefore, having the engine and rescue crews respond

whether or not they are being utilized on emergency scenes, puts the personnel on the street, maintains driving and medic skills, and provides additional assistance to the medic crews.

Recently, we have received many questions regarding this practice and the potential financial impact on the department with increased wear and tear on apparatus and fuel usage. So, taking feedback from the community, the department has scaled back responding to EMS calls by now sending an engine or rescue with a medic vehicle to only cardiac/respiratory arrests, people who are unconscious and as a first responder if a medic is tied up on another call. We will send two medic vehicles on all child birth calls as there may be two patients needing care.

Many residents may also notice that we leave our apparatus running at all incidents. This is done for several reasons:

1. All medic vehicles have refrigerators (for some of the drugs/medicines they carry) and all apparatus have electronic devices on board that need to be kept running.
2. Depending on the time of year, it keeps the transport compartment of the medic vehicle climate controlled (cool or warm) for the patient.
3. It is not good on diesel motors to be started and stopped on a continuous basis and the cost of the fuel for motors to remain running is minimal.
4. In the event of a bad situation or another call where the firefighters have to leave quickly, all apparatus is already running and ready to go.

Your fire department has scaled back their responses when it comes to fire alarm activations as well. Previously, on a residential fire alarm the department was sending one fire engine and one ladder truck while commercial fire alarms were receiving two fire engines, one rescue and one ladder truck. Now, if we respond to a residential fire alarm, the department sends one fire engine and a commercial fire alarm receives one fire engine and one ladder truck.

If you have questions regarding fire department operations or department expenditures, please feel free to contact the fire chief.

*continued from page 1*

residents that do not use the pool and who felt they were in some way subsidizing its operations. Therefore the Maintenance and Parks Director was asked to complete a cost analysis for operating the pool and it was determined that we were running slightly in the red. The findings were presented to the Board at that time and it was determined to increase the season passes slightly. We have continued to watch the pool operations since, and I am pleased to say the pool is operationally self-sufficient.

### **Maintenance**

The maintenance department has been looking for ways to bring more work in-house to give us better control (results & service) and also reduce costs. With the experience of our maintenance department, the maintenance crew is now performing items such as the repair of concrete curbs, crack sealing, minor asphalt repairs and much more. The maintenance department brought a lot of repairs and maintenance in-house over the last 3 years at no additional personnel costs, saving the township money as opposed to using more expensive outside contractors.

### **Zoning**

A couple years ago we experienced a loss when Mr. Gladman retired from the zoning department. Mr. Gladman's longtime assistant, Mr. Farahay, was able to move into the position of Zoning Inspector. As a cost saving measure, the board did not appoint a replacement to Mr. Farahay's former position of Assistant Zoning Inspector. Reviewing last year's books for permits and fees compared to zoning operations costs, the zoning department almost ran itself in 2012. Had we backfilled the Assistant Zoning Inspector position, this would not have been the case.

### **Fire**

The union contract just negotiated has made many changes to key financial areas that haven't been modified in quite some time. Here is a quick summary:

- Phase out of the employer paying employee pension contributions. At the end of this contract, employees will be paying their 12.25% pension contribution.

- Overtime money saved with more managerial flexibility as related to day-to-day staffing.
- Eliminates FLSA overtime in exchange for Earned Days Off (EDO).
- Expands the use of part-time firefighters alongside full-time firefighters.
- Replaces employee uniform allowance with a one-for-one exchange of uniform pieces due to wear and tear or line of duty damage.
- Decreases overall expenses per firefighter.

We are estimating the savings to be around \$1.3 million over the life of the contract (\$455,023.09 yearly). We have already seen savings from:

- Not implementing the recommended Battalion Chiefs, Training Officer and Additional Firefighters suggested in the Master Plan and Update, saving at least \$500,000
- Replacing the bed, water tank and pump on existing grass truck instead of replacing the whole vehicle, saving approximately \$15,000
- Utilizing Township Maintenance Employee to handle day to day building and equipment maintenance issues instead of hiring outside vendors saving thousands of dollars.

These are only a few of the actions taken to rein in costs. We are still working on many more projects that will help cut our costs and save you money in the long run. I understand that, as a society, we want to see results instantly. I would ask for your patience, as some things are being done strategically for long term savings while ensuring a stable and strong township for the future. As we have always said, anytime you want to sit down with us to discuss our operations and costs, we are more than happy to meet and will provide you with any publicly available information you seek.

Thank you,  
Robert W. Quigley  
Orange Township Trustee

NORTH ORANGE AQUATIC CENTER-ORANGE TOWNSHIP  
2013 SEASON POOL PASS APPLICATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

**ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AT TOWNSHIP HALL ONLY. SEASON  
PASS APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE POOL.**

-PROOF OF RESIDENCY AND/OR AGE IS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAIL A COPY OF A RECENT UTILITY BILL SHOWING CURRENT ADDRESS ALONG WITH SEASON PASS FORM AND PAYMENT. SENIORS PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR GOLDEN BUCKEYE CARD.

-PAYMENT ONLY BY CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **ORANGE TOWNSHIP**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____	PHONE: _____
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E-MAIL, IF PROVIDED, WILL BE USED FOR BUSINESS RELATING TO ORANGE TOWNSHIP ONLY, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

**\*REQUIRED FIELDS: FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, AGE, BIRTHDAY, & M/F**  
PLEASE WRITE ADDITIONAL NAMES AND INFORMATION ON A SEPARATE SHEET

*FIRST NAME	*LAST NAME	*AGE	*BIRTHDAY (MMDDYY)	*M/F

BABYSITTER (MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE)				
NAME	AGE	M/F	CATEGORY	
				\$25.00

**NO CHANGES AFTER ORIGINAL APPLICATION IS PROCESSED  
ALL SEASON PASSES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE**

CATEGORY		CHECK ONE	CATEGORY		CHECK ONE
YOUTH	\$ 85.00		FAMILY (3)	\$155.00	
ADULT	\$ 95.00		FAMILY (4)	\$165.00	
SENIOR	\$ 65.00		FAMILY (5)	\$175.00	
FAMILY (2)	\$145.00		FAMILY (6)	\$185.00	

ADD \$10.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE MEMBER AFTER 6

**TOTAL = CATEGORY \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + BABYSITTER \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT. SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL FORM, REQUIRED PROOF OF RESIDENCY AND CHECK (MADE PAYABLE TO: ORANGE TOWNSHIP)

TO: ORANGE TOWNSHIP  
ATTENTION: JOEL SPITZER, FISCAL OFFICER  
SEASON POOL PASS APPLICATION (SPPA)  
1680 E. ORANGE ROAD  
LEWIS CENTER, OHIO 43035

## POOL INFORMATION AND DEFINITIONS

**RESIDENT:** You pay Orange Township Park Levy and you're in tax district 27, 46 or 58. You can login to Delaware County Auditor web site @[www.oh-delaware-auditor.governmax.org](http://www.oh-delaware-auditor.governmax.org) to verify your tax district.

**CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER:** (Birthdates must be after (September 1st, 2011), ARE FREE, but must be listed on the application. Do not count when choosing the pass category and fee.

**DEFINITION OF FAMILY:** Family Pass Admits up to two named Parents in the same household and all dependent aged children (under the age of 21). Parents must be residents of Orange Township.

**GRANDPARENT PASS:** Admits up to two named Grandparents in the same household and all dependent aged grandchildren (under the age of 21). Grandparents must be residents of Orange Township. Select the correct corresponding Family pass category.

**YOUTH:** Children 12 and under will not be permitted upon the Aquatic Center grounds unless under the direct supervision of a parent or other responsible person at least 16 years of age.

**BABYSITTER:** One babysitter can be added to Season Pass Application (at time the application is submitted only) as an additional person to the pass. However, all babysitters must be accompanied by the children without the parents at the pool. Babysitters may not utilize the pass individually. Babysitter must be at least 16 years of age.

**SENIOR:** Please include a copy of your Golden Buckeye Card with application.

DAILY & TWILIGHT PASSES ARE **NOT AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE**

OTHER FEES:	RESIDENT RATE	NON-RESIDENT RATE
DAILY PASS	\$6.00	\$12.00
TWILIGHT DAY PASS	\$4.00	\$10.00

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**Orange Township Newsletter**

1680 East Orange Road, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035-9502

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