



ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013
Volume 15
Issue 2

Park Levy Renewal

There is much happening in the Orange Township Park Department this year. We are updating the Master Plan, re-surfacing one of the swimming pools, doing repairs on playground equipment, and constructing trail connections to the bike pedestrian bridge that will soon be constructed over US Route 23 connecting the east side of the township to the west. We are also applying for grants for additional trail connections and park improvements to the Walker Wood parcel. All of the wonderful trails and parks are supported by the Orange Township Park Levy.

The Park Levy pays to operate and maintain the existing parks and construct new improvements throughout the township. The current levy will expire in December, 2013. After much examination of the operating costs, proposed future construction costs and grant opportunities, the township is in the process of presenting a renewal levy to the residents in November.

On March 6, 2013, after several meetings discussing the township appropriations and operating expenses and reviewing the projects from the Master Plan, the Orange Township Community Park Board unanimously voted for a renewal of the current levy of 1.5 mills for three years. The Orange Township Board of Trustees on May 6, 2013 agreed with the Park Board recommendation and approved a resolution to start the process to put the levy initiative on the ballot in November.

One of the reasons we feel strongly that a renewal levy will be sufficient is the Park Department's success in obtaining grants. Since 2008 we have received \$2,789,727.00 dollars from various grants which have provided additional funds for the construction of trails and park improvements. However, the levy is very important to receiving these grant monies because 1) the grants are reimbursement grants. If the township can't show funds available for the projects the reimbursement grants are not available. 2) Passage of the levy shows the strong support for the park and trail projects that the grants fund. This support is always considered when the grant funding is awarded.



Trail at Township Hall Park



North Orange Park Playground

The first Park Levy was passed in November, 2000 for 2.8 mills. This levy set in motion the Park Department as it is today and construction on North Orange Park and Aquatic Center was begun. In November of 2003 a levy proposal for 3.6 mills was considered but was not approved. Then in

March, 2004 a levy for 2.25 mills was approved. The levy millage was dropped to 1.5 in 2007 and passed again at that same amount in 2010.

Throughout the next several months we will be providing additional information regarding the park levy. To receive emails or text information on upcoming meetings and information on the parks, trails, Aquatic Center, and levy information, Please sign up for Notify Me on the township website at www.orangetwp.org. Click on Notify Me and elect to receive notifications from as many of the listed categories as you would like.

Orange Township Parks, Delaware County



By: Trustee Debbie Taranto

Upon request by the Orange Township Community Park Board, and approved by the Orange Township Trustees, our Orange Township Parks and Trails has joined Facebook! So be sure to "Like" our page and get updates on current happenings around Orange Township Parks. This will be a great way to get up to date information on pool hours, unscheduled pool closings, Movie in Park, Music in Park, and other events/news regarding our Park Department.

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

Orange Township Economic Development Advisory Board
Complete list of meetings for 2013 is listed on our website: www.orangetwp.org

A complete schedule of all township meetings can be found on our website 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
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Music in the Park

Join your neighbors for an evening of music and fun at the North Orange Park Shelter on **June 30, 2013** from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

Movie in the Park

Family fun for everyone, bring a blanket and the kids and come join us for Movie in the Park featuring Dr. Seuss's The Lorax on **August 24, 2013** at North Orange Park.

Please visit www.orangetwp.org for additional details.

Orange Celebration 2013

The Orange Township Business Association brings to the community of Orange Township our 8th Annual 4th of July Celebration!

Watch for Detour signs along parade route July 4.

July 4, 2013

8:00 a.m.: Freedom 4Miler

9:00 a.m.: Firecracker Kids Mile **NEW***

10:00 a.m.: Parade - the parade route starts at Powell Road at the Oak Creek Center then travels east towards Old State then proceeds north on Old State towards Orange Road then east to Orange Middle School.

4:00 p.m.: Beach Bash at Alum Creek Beach **NEW*** Kids activities, Beer Garden, local vendors, food, sponsor booths

6:00 p.m.: Concert, 12 Step down and Pett Crow

9:00 p.m.: Boat Parade

9:45 p.m.: Fireworks

11:00 p.m.: Beach Bash closes

www.orangecelebration.com for more information

Happy 10th Birthday to the North Orange Aquatic Center!

By Trustee Lisa Knapp

The North Orange Aquatic Center opened on July 19, 2003. Trustee Knapp, a township employee at the time, attended the grand opening with her family and recalls how excited the residents were to finally have such a nice facility to call their own.

Our pool is a great place to spend the summer with friends and family.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!



Collective Bargaining and Overtime

A very important topic, overtime, was addressed during the most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations with the firefighters' association. During the past several years, overtime costs have continued to rise. Seeing a need to control all costs, especially in light of the November 2012 fire levy failure, both the firefighters and management agreed overtime could be reduced. In 2012, overtime totaled approximately \$269,766.69, up from \$207,417.36 in 2011. It was obvious that if an agreement could not be reached to control overtime, costs would continue to rise.

The staff of the Orange Township Fire Department is made up of full-time firefighters and supplemented with part-time firefighters. Without accounting for scheduled time-off, in most cases, daily staffing of full-time firefighters would be fourteen with the potential of two part-time firefighters as additional. However, due to vacation, sick leave, and other time-off, fourteen full-time firefighters on-duty will not occur. The 2009-2012 CBA mandated that if staffing dropped below twelve full-time firefighters, overtime was required to maintain twelve full-time firefighters, regardless of whether or not part-time firefighters were working. As a result of the most recent CBA negotiations, the staffing level required for overtime was reduced from twelve full-time firefighters to nine total firefighters. Now, part-time firefighters can be used to maintain the minimum requirement of nine firefighters per day, whereas previously, they were not able to be used.

The new CBA went into full effect mid-February of this year, and almost immediately the reduction in overtime costs was noticed. The average monthly overtime spent in 2012 was approximately \$22,481.00. The overtime costs seen in March and April were \$1,262.00 and \$1,468.93 respectively. After comparing just those two months alone with the 2012 monthly average, monthly overtime costs were reduced by approximately 94%.

While overtime may never be fully eliminated, the new agreement with the firefighters' association has drastically reduced those costs. This is just one means by which the fire department is working to reduce costs and spend fire levy tax dollars more efficiently. It should be understood, overtime has been successfully reduced by reducing the number of daily personnel thereby reducing fire and EMS vehicles that respond to emergencies. As emergency calls continue to increase, there will be fewer Orange Township fire and EMS vehicles available to respond. While the reduction of personnel has not affected department operations yet, this issue must continue to be carefully monitored and could result in future changes if operations become adversely affected.



Stella Spitzer with Coyote Decoy

Stella Spitzer isn't afraid of the coyote decoys in the parks but the geese are. Last year Orange Township instituted a coyote decoy program that seems to be very successful in deterring the geese from visiting and nesting in the parks. The coyote decoys are moved around the parks so they can be in different locations and parks to keep the geese guessing. Nesting geese can be very aggressive and we all know the mess they can leave behind. As part of the program we ask residents - **Please Do Not Feed the Geese.**

First Come/First Serve Shelters

A little known fact is there are three parks in Orange Township that have covered picnic areas available on a “first come/first serve” basis. They are Ro Park, Glen Oak Park, and Township Hall Park.

Ro Park, 6804 Snapdragon Way, in the Glen Oak Subdivision, consists of a covered picnic area with 8 tables and electric outlets available. This shelter is situated by the playground equipment.



Two of the Glen Oak Park Shelters

Glen Oak Park, 7126 Blue Holly Drive, also in Glen Oak Subdivision, has three “first come/first serve” shelters. All three shelters have electric outlets. The first and largest shelter has 8 tables and is adjacent to the pond. The pond does have fish and fishing is catch/release. The second shelter has 4 tables. This shelter is attached to the restrooms. The third and smallest shelter has two tables and is the shelter furthest away from the parking lot.

Lastly, at Township Hall Park, 1680 East Orange Road, there is a small shelter with 3 tables and also there is a gazebo with 2 picnic tables. These small picnic areas are nice for people who enjoy a peaceful setting. There is no playground equipment; but boasts of ponds where catch/release fishing is allowed. There is also a basketball court available, to help work off some of that yummy picnic food. Throughout this very picturesque park are individual picnic tables, grills, and park benches.

Glen Oak Park and Township Hall Park have walking trails that connect to the township trail system.

Visit our website at orangetwp.org for additional information. ENJOY!

Township Meeting Places

Have a birthday party, graduation or bridal shower coming up? Did you know that Orange Township has rental facilities available for your events? Facilities that can be reserved include the Orange Township Community Room and the North Orange Park Shelter.



North Orange Park Community Room

Orange Township Community Room, located at North Orange Park on Gooding Blvd., is available to residents for \$35.00 an hour, and non-residents for \$60.00 an hour. The Community Room has a



North Orange Park Community Room

two-hour minimum and a \$100.00 security deposit.

The North Orange Park Shelter is available for rent to Orange Township organizations and residents. The shelter is \$10.00 an hour with a three hour minimum, and a \$25.00 security deposit.

Proof of residency is required for the resident rates. Payment is required to hold the date for your event with at least a 30 day notice prior to the event. Renters are required to pick up their keys at Township Hall up to 5 days prior to the event.

The Township Hall is available to Civic Organizations based in Orange Township and local or State governmental agencies when not already in use by the township. Security deposit for Township Hall is \$50.00 per room.

For more information, contact the Township offices: 740-548-5430 ext. 110.

What is a Conditional Use in the Zoning Resolution or Code?

Township zoning “is enacted for the purpose of promoting public health, safety, morals, comfort and general welfare; to conserve and protect the natural resources and scenic areas: to secure the most appropriate use of land, to facilitate adequate but economical provision for public improvements, all in accordance with existing county or township plans or plans which may be later adopted and as permitted by the provisions of Chapter 519 of the Ohio Revised Code.”

Conditional Uses may be permitted for the owner or lessee of any land or building within a zoning district within the township, allowing them to apply to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for the authority to carry out any use designated as a Conditional Use within that district.

An example of a conditional use in a residential district would be a home occupation such as a day care, a home office for which the operator may want a sign in the yard advertising such, home businesses that require zoning approval as part of their regulatory licensing such as a mortgage broker working from home or a person who, in the Farm Residential District (FR-1), might wish to operate a welding shop in his garage.

The township uses the conditional use process to regulate monument style ground based signs in both residential and commercial or industrial districts. These signs are limited with regard to their design, regulating their height, size and aesthetics while allowing businesses and subdivisions to create or maintain their separate or unique identities.

When the BZA approves a conditional use it may impose reasonable conditions (thus the name), safeguards and restrictions as it deems necessary to insure that the use will be conducted in the best interest of the zoning district.

In addition to the specific requirements for conditional uses specified in the district regulations, or elsewhere in this zoning resolution, the Board of Zoning Appeals shall review the particular facts and circumstances of each proposed use in terms of the following standards and shall only approve such conditional use if it determines that such use at the proposed location is in compliance with such specific requirements and that:

- 1) The proposed use is in fact a conditional use as established under the district regulations or elsewhere in this zoning resolution.
- 2) The proposed use is of such a nature, and designed to be constructed, operated and maintained in such a manner, so as to be harmonious and appropriate with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity and that such use will not change the essential character of the same area.
- 3) The proposed use will not be hazardous or disturbing to existing or future neighboring uses.
- 4) The proposed use will be served adequately by essential public facilities and services such as highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, refuse disposal, water and sewers, and schools.
- 5) The proposed use will not involve uses, activities, processes, materials, equipment, or conditions of operation that will be detrimental to any persons, property, or the general welfare by reason of excessive production of traffic, noise, smoke, fumes, glare or odors.
- 6) The proposed use will have vehicular approaches to the property which are so designed as not to create an interference with traffic on surrounding public thoroughfares.
- 7) The proposed use will be consistent with the objectives of this zoning resolution and the Orange Township comprehensive plan.
- 8) The proposed use will be in the interest of the public health, safety, and morals.

Failure to comply with the terms of a conditional use permit shall result in a zoning violation and/or possible revocation of the conditional use permit by the BZA.

If the decision of the BZA is felt to be incorrect by any of the parties involved, especially including owners of neighboring or nearby properties, it may be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County. Such an appeal must be filed with the court within 30 days of the BZA’s decision.

To learn more, contact the zoning office at 740-548-5430, attend a Board of Zoning Appeals or Zoning Commission hearing, a land use plan hearing (a process currently being completed by both boards and interested residents) or view the complete texts of the Orange Township Zoning Resolution and Comprehensive Land Use Plan under Zoning at: www.orangetwp.org

Booster Seats: Give Your Child's Safety a Lift this Summer

By Trustee Lisa Knapp

Ohio law requires that children less than 4 years old or 40 pounds must use a child safety seat, and that a child less than 8 years of age must ride in a booster seat or appropriate child safety seat unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Booster Seats Prevent Injuries

Seat belts were designed for adults, and their use can leave a child at risk of serious injury in a motor vehicle crash. Using a booster seat helps protect your child by raising a child up so the shoulder belt fits correctly, by lying over the middle of the shoulder and the center of the chest – the strongest parts of a child's body. The booster seat also positions the lap belt across the child's upper hips or thighs, not over the stomach. Without a booster, the lap belt can ride up onto the stomach and cause severe hip, stomach and spinal cord injuries in a crash.

Recommendations

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommend the following best practices:

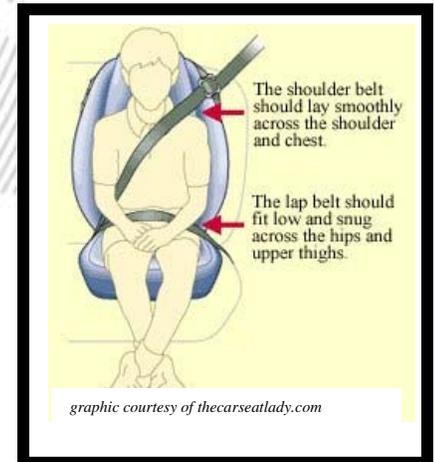
- Keep your child rear-facing at least until age two, preferably until your child outgrows the rear facing mode by height or weight. Rear facing is five times safer than forward facing.
- Harness child forward facing until they outgrow the top height or weight given by the seat manufacturer.
- Your child should remain in a booster seat until they are 4'9" tall or can pass the "5 Step Test":
 - 1 Can your child sit with his back against the vehicle seat?
 - 2 Do his knees bend at the edge of the vehicle seat with his feet touching the floor?
 - 3 Is the lap belt low on the hips and not on his tummy?
 - 4 Does the shoulder belt cross the center of the collar bone? The shoulder belt should lie across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not near the neck or face.
 - 5 Can your child ride in this position for every ride without slouching?

If you answer "yes" to all of these questions, then your child is ready to ride in a lap and shoulder belt.

- As many as 4 out of 5 safety seats are installed incorrectly.
- Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years age.

For more information or to schedule an appointment for a car or booster seat inspection, please visit the Delaware County Health District website at www.delawarehealth.org or call (740) 368-1700

(with contributions by Jenifer Way-Young, Child Passenger Safety Technician, Delaware General Health District)



Master Plan Update

Orange Township will be updating the Parks, Trails and Greenways Master Plan over the next several months. We are VERY interested in your opinions and input into this process. We would like to hear from everyone including residents, homeowner associations, walking groups, bike organizations, runners, mommy groups, everyone and anyone who enjoys the parks or has any input for the process. Workshops, meetings and focus groups will be held over the next several months. If you would like to be involved in the process please log on to the Orange Township website at www.orangetwp.org, click on the Notify Me, and select to receive emails or texts under Park / Aquatic Center. You will be notified of the meeting schedule and when new information is posted on the website. The original Master Plan was completed in 2003 with an update for our current Master Plan completed in 2008. The current Master Plan is on the Orange Township website. If you have any immediate questions please contact the Maintenance and Parks Director, Beth Hugh at (740) 657-2630 or bhugh@orangetwp.org. We look forward to your input.

Township Health Insurance

By: Trustee Debbie Taranto

Fiscal Officer Joel Spitzer

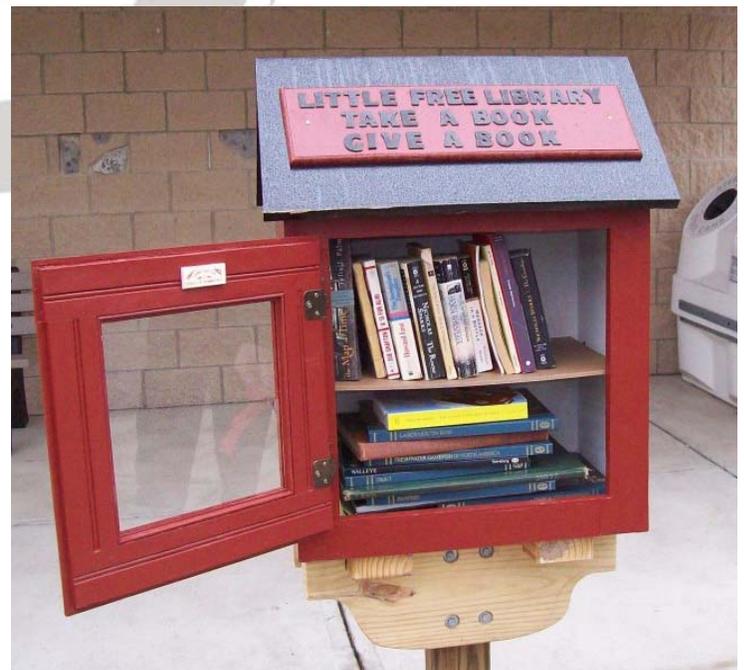
Health insurance is an important benefit for all of us whether through our employer, self-insured, or here at the Township. With the drastic increases in health insurance over the last decade, the township has historically been aggressive in seeking out insurance to avoid the huge increases that many companies have seen. By increasing deductibles, higher co-pays, and even changing health care providers, we have done a good job overall keeping the costs the same or a minimal increase. We have made a switch again this year, seeing only a 1.76% increase, avoiding a 33% increase that the, then current carrier was asking. This renewal package now requires employee contributions of 5% towards their premiums. Additionally, the employee contribution portion will increase 5% annually for three years for a contribution total of 15% to be paid by employees. The renewal plan also included an opt-out opportunity for township employees who may have coverage through a spouse. The township has agreed to provide cash-in-lieu of benefits for participating employees. The cost savings associated with this option cannot be quantified until the township understands how many employees will take advantage of the program. It does provide the opportunity for the township to save thousands from the employees who opt-out because the cash payments pale in comparison to the insurance costs associated with coverage. The township will ultimately realize savings of over one million dollars. This is enormous accomplishment considering there have been no changes to township provided healthcare in the history of the township. Further, the accomplishment is bigger when considered with the recent requirements for union employees to contribute towards their retirement. It is important to note that during union contract negotiations, the fire fighter's union conceded over \$10,000/per fire fighter in pay reductions with the current contract.

We appreciate all of our employees here in Orange Township. They work hard to keep our community running smooth, keeping it safe, taking care of our roads and infrastructure, keeping our parks looking beautiful and helping all of us to reduce cost and keeping our township healthy and strong.

Little Free Library

By Joel Spitzer

A new addition is coming to North Orange Park, Ro Park, and Township Hall Park. Fiscal Officer, Joel Spitzer recently asked the Board of Trustees if they would agree to install three little free libraries. Little free libraries will be a great way to share books by providing small out posts for free give-a-book/take-a-book exchanges. The Board of Trustees agreed that it would be an exciting way to join the network of little free libraries to encourage the exchange. Longtime township employee Dick Ray will donate the majority of the materials and construction for the project. To find out more about little free libraries or to donate books, please contact fiscal officer Joel Spitzer at jspitzer@orangetwp.org. Interested persons can also learn more at littlefreelibrary.org.



Delaware County's Tobacco-Free Parks Provide Healthy Place to Play

As the weather is becoming more pleasant, more children want to go to the park to play. Thanks to a large number of Delaware County parks and playgrounds going tobacco-free, parents can rest assure that the whole family can enjoy a healthier environment to play and visit.

The Delaware General Health District's Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition and Go Healthy! Delaware County Coalition both commend those jurisdictions that have chosen to provide a healthier atmosphere for their community members. Those areas in participation include all the parks in Genoa Township, Orange Township and Sunbury, all athletic fields and playgrounds in Liberty Township, all the shelters, athletic fields and playgrounds within the City of Powell and all playground areas of Preservation Parks.



“Parks, playgrounds and other outdoor recreational areas are places where children get plenty of healthy physical activity,” Tobacco-Free coalition coordinator Linda Diamond said. “We are so thankful for the townships, cities and villages that understand this concept and want to provide the healthiest opportunity for them by going tobacco-free.”

The Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition is a community partnership formed by the Delaware General Health District. Coalition partners include representatives from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Delaware County doctors, nurses and community residents.

The Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the Old Bag of Nails located at 66 N. Sandusky St. in Delaware.

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

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