



ORANGE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Ro Park Playground

Fall 2013 Volume 15 Issue 3

Park Levy Renewal

What is the Park Levy:

A levy is stated in terms of millage (mils) based on a percentage of real property. Value of a levy is established by the Auditor's Office based on the value of the real property (generally your home). The proposed Park Levy is a renewal of the existing 1.5 mil Levy. The estimated valuation of the Renewal Levy is \$1,545,137.00 with collection estimated at \$1,390,486.88.

The money generated from this levy is used to fund the Orange Township Park Department. Dollars from a levy can only be used for the specific purpose of that levy. The purpose of the Park Levy Renewal is for parks and recreational purposes, which means the money collected from the Park Levy, can only be used for those stated functions. Money collected from the Park Levy cannot be used for other departments such as Roads, Fire or General Fund.

What is the Park Levy used for:

The levy dollars are used to operate and construct all park and trail facilities. Operations include park staff, tools, equipment and materials used to clean, maintain and repair the park facilities. This includes small items like toilet paper and cleaning supplies to larger items like the recent resurfacing of the pool at the North Orange Aquatic Center. The soccer and baseball fields are mowed, trash is picked up, the trails are plowed and the playgrounds are maintained with funds from the levy.

Levy funds are also used to construct new trails and park facilities such as the Owenfield Trail that connects to the new pedestrian crossing at Powell Road into the new trail that was constructed jointly with Highbanks Metro Parks. The new Orange Road Trail and the Lewis Center Rail Trail were all constructed with levy dollars, as well as, the additional pool at North Orange Park.



Pond at Township Hall Park

Trail and park projects that are in the design and soon to be construction phase include the US 23 Pedestrian Bridge and the Graphics Way and Green Meadows trail alignments that will connect the bridge to the existing trail system. The Park

Department has also been working for well over a year to cross the railroads at E. Orange Road to provide a safe connection for the trail system. Additionally, for safety reasons the Walker Wood Park parking lot will be constructed this year. We have applied for several grants for construction of the parking lot and other amenities of the park which are to include a playground, shelter, drinking fountain and trails.



Trail at Township Hall Park

We know that the Park Levy dollars are being utilized by the community; attendance is high at the pool, the playgrounds are busy and there are lots of people on the trails. We recently borrowed trail counters from MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission). The results of the trail count were amazing. We counted eight locations for two weeks. A total of 6,889 walkers, runners, and cyclists used the trails in that period of time.

The Park Department has been able to sustain and request a renewal levy for several reasons. First, we are prudent and efficient with your tax dollars. We utilize a limited staff that is knowledgeable and resourceful to keep costs down. Second, we have also been very fortunate to have received all park land and trail easements by donation; to date not a dime has been spent on acquisition. Lastly, the Park Department has been very successful in obtaining grant money to construct trails within the community. Part of this success is the tremendous support from the community in participating in the Parks, Trails and Greenways Master Plan. The fact that we have a Master Plan greatly enhances our ability to receive grants because the grant funding organizations can see that we have a plan that has been completed with input from the community. Additionally, the community has supported the Park Levy which provides matching funds for the reimbursement grants.

If you have any questions regarding park and trail projects please check the Orange Township website at www.orangetwp.org or contact Beth Hugh, Maintenance & Parks Director at bhugh@orangetwp.org

Calendar of Community Events

The Olentangy Area Senior Citizens meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Orange Township Hall. For more information contact Doug Scott 740-879-3233.

Township Meetings

Trustee Meetings are held 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.

Veterans Memorial

Earlier this year the board agreed to move forward and investigate the possibility of putting a Veterans Memorial in Orange Township. We have just started the process to evaluate locations and we are looking for help from the community. The Township by law can only spend up to \$5,000 and we hope to collect additional funds through donations. If you are interested in helping with the project or would like to donate, please contact Trustee Robert Quigley at rquigley@orangetwp.org or call 740-548-5430, ext. 117.

Snow Removal

When snow is in the forecast, please park your vehicles in your driveway and do not place trash or recycle bins in the street. It is the residents responsibility to clear the snow from mailboxes.

Snow plows can be dangerous; never allow children to play near the street when the plows are present.

Your comments and concerns are important to us. Please contact Beth Hugh, Maintenance & Parks Director at bhugh@orangetwp.org or (740) 657-2630 with any of your snow plow concerns.

Orange Township Trustees

Chairman	Robert W. Quigley
Vice Chairman	Debbie Taranto
Trustee	Lisa F. Knapp

Fiscal Officer	Joel Spitzer
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Your Township Operations, Part II

By Trustee Robert W. Quigley

As a follow up to our spring newsletter article “Your Township Operations”, I wanted to provide you an update on our further developments to find ways to cut costs and be more efficient with your tax money.

Fire

You can see in more detail, in the Collective Bargaining Agreement article on page 4, the Fire Department has already saved approximately \$276,987.11 in the first 7 months of the new contract being signed.

Township

The board unanimously voted to increase the employee’s payment to their healthcare premium. We know this will help keep the townships healthcare costs down. In addition, we just recently signed an agreement for an energy aggregation that allows the provider to get the best price for our energy consumption at township facilities. A report showed that in one month we saved over \$1,800. If this trend continues, it would be an approximate savings of over \$21,000 a year. We are also looking to overhaul our Phone and Internet system and services. Dependent upon the direction the board chooses we have been shown a potential savings of approximately \$125,000 over a 5 year period.

Parks

The Park Department operations and development use 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. The Township continues to aggressively apply 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.

Zoning

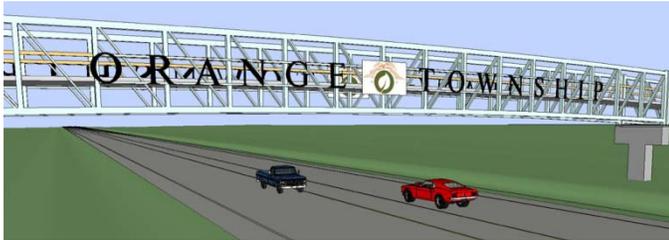
Once again, the zoning department seems to be on track to cover its operations from the fees it collects for applications and permits.

These are only a few of the actions being taken to rein in costs. We are still working on other projects that will help cut our costs and save you money in the long run. As we have always said, anytime you want to sit down with us to discuss our operations and costs, we are happy to meet and will provide you with any publicly available information you seek.

Robert W. Quigley
Orange Township Trustee
Rquigley@orangetwp.org

Orange Township Parks, Trails & Greenways Master Plan Update

The Parks, Trails & Greenways Master Plan is almost complete. The final report will be made available on the Orange Township website at www.orangetwp.org. Thank you to our consultants POD Design, staff and especially to all of the residents who took time out of their schedules to provide input into this very important document.



Future Pedestrian Bridge

Pedestrian Bridge Update

The construction drawings for the bridge are complete and going through the ODOT process. We anticipate that initial construction will begin this fall with installation of the abutments for the bridge. The pre-fabricated bridge will then be installed across US 23 in early spring.



Future Walker Wood Park

Walker Wood Park Update

The design for the Walker Wood Park is complete. Several grants have been submitted for the construction of the park which will include a parking lot, shelter, playground, drinking fountain and trails. Because of safety issues, construction of the parking lot will be completed this fall prior to grant notifications. If grant money is awarded to this project additional parts of the park could be constructed in 2014.

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.

Orange Township Community Events

By Trustee Debbie Taranto

It has been an exciting and successful two years for the Orange Township Community Park Board and our inauguration of more community events for Orange Township and its families.



Music in the Park

In early July, we kicked off summer with "Music in the Park" featuring Shucking Bubba! It was a great turn-out under the shelter at North Orange Park. The kids even got to participate in making music.

Late August we presented, "Movie in the Park"; over 200 residents came together to enjoy an evening of fun, friends, and community. Family entertainment included a bounce house, concessions, and the Delaware County K-9 unit. Thank you to all who came out and made this an exciting event!



Movie in the Park

Special thanks to our all volunteer Park Board for their time, effort, and helping make Orange Township a great place to live. Park board members are: Len Fisher, Rande Masciola, Tony Benishek, David Chambers, Joe Stock and Teresa Johnson. Also, a special thank you to our Park Supervisor Doug Fraser for his hard work setting up and tearing down, and Parks and Maintenance Director Beth Hugh for all the "behind the scenes" work that nobody sees. Our township employees do a great job!

To receive email/text notifications about events like these or other township news, sign up for Notify Me ✓ on our website at www.orangetwp.org.

Debbie Taranto
Orange Township Trustee
DTaranto@orangetwp.org

Collective Bargaining Agreement

A new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Orange Township and its firefighters was officially signed on March 19, 2013; however, the CBA was implemented almost a month earlier on February 20, 2013 following the passage of the Fire Levy. Prior to the implementation of the new 3 year CBA, it was estimated that a savings of approximately \$1.3 million would be seen over the life of the newly negotiated agreement, or approximately \$455,000 per year. These estimated savings accounted for many negotiated article changes within the contract, not just savings due to overtime.

As of July 31, 2013, the approximate savings from CBA concessions is estimated at \$276,987.11. However, these savings are not the only savings within the fire department. As a direct result of concessions made by the fire chief and assistant chief regarding payment of their employee pension contributions and fuel costs, along with no increase in pay, an estimated \$18,577.45 has been saved during the same time period. Other department changes, including the reduction to one administrative assistant, a reduction in fire prevention from three inspectors to two, not replacing full-time firefighter/paramedics who have already left, and a delay in the hiring of seven part-time firefighters, has saved the department an estimated \$126,142.32 in the first seven months of this year.

A proactive approach was taken in preparing the fire department appropriations for 2013 because many of the anticipated savings mentioned above had already been accounted for. As a result, the 2013 fire department appropriations were approximately \$691,551.70 less than what was actually spent in 2012. Other expenditure reductions have made it possible for the fire department to spend approximately \$170,370.38 less through the first seven months than at the same time in 2012.

However, savings come at their own price. The fire department has eliminated the practice of attending block and birthday parties when invited and attending special events occurring throughout the Township. Another event eliminated is the annual Fire Department Open House in October. While there will not be an open house, residents are welcome to stop by and tour the fire stations. Long-term impact from these savings will be felt in the way of equipment and apparatus replacement. The fire department is working hard to balance service to our residents and safety with the continued search for ways to reduce costs. Anyone wishing to learn more about fire department expenses or questions pertaining to the fire department please contact Chief Stewart or Assistant Chief Noble to schedule a time to come in and meet.



NOTIFY ME

To receive email or text notices of various meetings and township news, visit our website www.orangetwp.org and follow the Notify Me link. Once there, users may select the type of notifications they wish to receive.

Orange Township Newsletter
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