



SPOTLIGHT

Orange Township is Growing!

To meet our changing staffing needs and better serve the residents, we've added new positions to our workforce as well as filled vacant positions throughout the year. Here are the new people you might see around the Township.

Valerie Bunting, our Office Manager, started with Orange Township in fall of 2020. She brought years of state government experience to this newly created role. She's provided invaluable help with outfitting Township Hall as construction projects are completed. Valerie has also been an integral part of keeping our human resources department running while the Township searches for a Human Resources Senior Manager.

Cody Jenkins, who was recently promoted to Parks Maintenance & Facilities Assistant Manager, also started in the fall of 2020. Cody helps maintain the townships lands and facilities and has extensive experience in HVAC and grounds maintenance. Cody is currently assisting the township with building renovations while also helping keep our parks in great shape.

Todd Thobe, our Fiscal Officer Assistant, started with Orange Township in winter of 2020. Todd worked for the state for over 30 years before retiring. He brings considerable experience to his role in the Fiscal Office and plenty of fresh vegetables and homemade dishes for his coworkers!

Continued

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Looking Ahead

It has been an eventful year in Orange Township as we transitioned back to normalcy.

Our pool reopened with record attendance, movie in the park was a hit, and we are looking forward to a successful holiday kickoff event. We have also welcomed many new team members, and wished a few others success in their retirement. Read more in the spotlight sections.

I have worked with our Fiscal Officer Lisa Kraft since last year to scrutinize our payroll and levies. We started with the Fire Department and implemented a cost-benefit approach for them to use. This helps ensure alignment, and most importantly that we get the most for your tax dollars. To mitigate overtime, we made changes to recruit part-time firefighters. I have been very pleased with the Fire Department's responsiveness and collaboration.

Fire/EMS Levy Renewal

With unanimous approval from the Board Township of Trustees, your Orange Township Fire Department will be placing a renewal of the existing 7.0 mill fire levy on the November 2021 ballot. This renewal will allow the Fire Department to continue providing Fire, Rescue and EMS services to the residents of Orange Township.

The department serves a community of more than 30,516 residents; approximately 10,439 homes, 1335 commercial businesses, 30 schools and daycare facilities and other infrastructure including I-71; US RT 23, trails, parks and reservoirs.

By scrutinizing our spending and implementing a fiscally responsible approach, we can continue operating without increasing taxes. As a result, we are asking residents to approve a renewal levy. Renewal levies are beneficial since we retain a state offset. As we grow, renewal levies result in lower taxes for each household. For example, this specific levy started years ago at 7 mills, but the "effective millage" is now only 5.44 mills. In summary, township taxes continue to go down as we implement efficiencies and grow responsibly.

Please support this levy. It is fiscally responsible and allows our Fire Department to continue providing incredible service. Check the auditor's website for more information, or feel free to email me directly.

Ben Grumbles, Orange Township Board of Trustees
bgrumbles@orangetwp.org

Increased growth of the Township equates to an increased call volume for the Fire Department. Your Orange Township Fire Department responded to a total of 2,282 calls for service in 2020. If the department continues on its current path, we will easily surpass the 2020 requests for service. As the Township continues to grow both commercially and residentially the fire department needs to be able to handle that growth while continuing to provide a high level of service, making the upcoming fire levy renewal a necessity.

SPOTLIGHT CONT

Silas Bowers, our Director of Operations, joined the Orange Township team in the spring of 2021. Silas is working on multiple capital improvement projects across the township including creating a new Parks Master Plan, which will create a 10 year vision that covers everything from green and court space to trails and playgrounds. Silas oversees our Public Works department, which maintains the township roadways and cemeteries. Silas also works closely with the Orange Township Outreach & Communications Committee and wants to create an exciting holiday event this year.

Brett Wiemken was a Zoning Intern with the Township for a year before he was retained full-time as a Zoning Inspector in summer of 2021. He received his degree in city and regional planning with a minor in architectural studies where he dotted the “i” in Script Ohio with The Ohio State University Marching Band! Brett’s architecture background has proven crucial in zoning plan review.

Jess Hewett, the Township Hall receptionist, also started in summer of 2021. Jess has years of office experience at different levels of government. Jess has been working hard to organize Township Hall, streamline administrative processes, and increase the Township’s internet presence.

Alex Rozanski, our most recent hire, filled the newly created position of Project Manager. Alex works closely with Silas Bowers, our Director of Operations, and is currently focused on expanding our trail network through planning and pursuing funding sources. Alex is a third-generation government worker – his grandfather and father retired from city government and his father now works at another township!



Fire/EMS Renewal Levy Facts

- **Two Fire Stations:** 7700 Gooding Blvd. & 7307 S. Old State Rd.
- **\$7.5 Million in Vehicles & Equipment:** 3 Engines, 1 Aerial Ladder, 3 Medics, 1 Tanker, 1 Boat, 1 Grass Truck, 3 Prevention Vehicles, 2 Station Vehicles, 1 Chief’s Vehicle, 1 Investigative Trailer & 1 Educational Trailer.
- **Services Provided:** Fire Suppression, EMS, Vehicle Crash Response, Haz-Mat/WMD Response, Water Response, Technical Rescue, Fire Code Enforcement, Fire Investigation, Safety & Fire Education and Hydrant Inspection & Flushing.
- **Education Outreach & Training Provided:** CPR/AED/First-Aid, Car Seat Inspections (with Delaware General Health District), Smoke Detector Batteries, Fire Extinguisher training, Home/Commercial Building Inspections, School Presentations, Fire Station Tours & Special Event Standbys.
- **Service area over 22+ square miles:** with 10,439+ houses, 1335+ commercial

businesses, 30+ schools & daycare facilities and infrastructure including I-71, US 23, RR, Parks & Reservoirs.

- 2,282 calls for service in calendar year 2020, 45.13% were EMS runs.
- 1 Fire Chief, 9 Officers, 40 Full Time Firefighter/Paramedics, 8 Part Time Firefighter/Paramedics/EMTs, 4 Fire Prevention Inspectors, 1 Doctor & 1 Mechanic.

3-YEAR RENEWAL LEVY WILL FUND:

- Maintain current level of service for Fire, EMS & Safety Education.
- Maintain all Apparatus, Trucks & Facilities.
- Technology advances to provide efficiency of services.
- Continued collaboration efforts with neighboring Fire/EMS Departments.
- Replacement of aging apparatus.
- Development of a 5-year Succession Plan.
- Pursuit of National Accreditation.



7.0 MILLS FIRE/EMS RENEWAL LEVY

For more info about the renewal levy:

Nathan McNeil, Fire Chief
740-657-8290 | nmcneil@orangetwp.org

In July, the township trustees voted to place a 3-year 7.0 mill renewal levy on the November 2nd ballot. The current levy was last approved on November 6, 2018 and expires on December 31, 2021. If this renewal levy is approved, the annual cost would be \$166.61 per \$100,000 of valuation for property owners and would be levied in 2022. This levy does qualify for a rollback from the state of Ohio, which is a tax reduction to the property owner that are fully reimbursed from the state.

COST PER \$100,000 OF PROPERTY VALUATION

	PER YEAR	COST PER DAY
Existing 7.0 mills Fire/EMS Levy	\$214.41	\$0.59
Proposed 7.0 mills Renewal Fire/EMS Levy	\$166.61	\$0.46
Total Levy Increase	\$0.00	\$0.00

These rates do not include the Delaware County Auditor’s collection rate

Zoning Code Rewrite

The Zoning Department is excited to begin a rewrite of the Zoning Code this winter. This has been a goal of the department for the last few years after the development of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2018) and a Zoning Diagnostics (2020).

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan, developed by this department with support of students from The Ohio State University, which provides a zoning vision of the township. The Township contracted Calfee Zoning to provide the township with a diagnostic report to find any discrepancies between the zoning code and comprehensive plan. After we received the report, we began working with legal counsel to start the process for a whole zoning code rewrite.

This spring, we published a request for proposal (RFP) for consulting companies to help the township rewrite our zoning code. A selection committee consisting of the Zoning and

Development Director, Senior Zoning Officer, Zoning Assistant, Zoning Commission Chairman, and Zoning Commission Vice-Chairman was formed and after careful review of several qualified candidates, the committee selected ZoneCo (previously Calfee Zoning). This consultant's staff is the same that produced the zoning diagnostics report and are familiar with areas in the code that need amended. This will be a very thorough project examining the current code while developing a new code that will serve the township for many years to come. Stay tuned for more information regarding opportunities to participate in the Zoning Code Rewrite through the public engagement process.

Please e-mail the zoning department orangezoning@orangetwp.org if you want to be notified when public engagement opportunities arise for this initiative.

End of an Era



It is hard to believe it has been ten years since I began this journey of serving my community as your township trustee. I wanted to thank you for the privilege of working for you. I am proud of many accomplishments and thankful for the people I have had an opportunity to work with.



Your township staff are an amazing group of people, those who have moved on and those who are currently with us. It has been wonderful to work alongside them.

This last decade, built upon the hard work of the trustees who served before, saw many positive changes for our community. I am proud of so many things but wanted to mention a few.

- Changed Ohio law so that townships across the state could fund community

events, like movies in the park. Bringing residents together and celebrating our hometown is what makes us a community.

- Built a bridge over SR 23 which connects the east and west sides of the township, the Orange and SR 23 road improvements, the Orange Road improvements and the much-needed traffic lights at those dangerous intersections improving safety and commute times in the area.
- Created our "Do Not Knock" registry, our first electronic recycling program and brought accessible playground equipment to our playgrounds.
- Kicked off the Orange railroad track underpass, making it a future reality.
- Built beautiful new parks, trails and connections within the community.
- Probably one of my favorite opportunities was working with Boy and Girl, and Eagle Scouts, and the Oak Creek

Elementary 3rd graders each year. Teaching them how rewarding working for your community can be.

This job has given me the opportunity to meet and talk with so many of you. Whether we are walking down the aisle at the grocery store, enjoying the trails together or hanging out at the pool, listening to your concerns, following up and, hopefully, making a difference has been the most important job of serving you.

I will still be around in the community and hope to see you in our parks, playing pickle ball on our future courts, or even attending a trustee meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It has been an honor.

Debbie Taranto, Trustee
dtaranto@orangetwp.org





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Capital Improvement Projects

Lewis Center Trail Phase 2: This trail project of a shared use path along Lewis Center RD from Bale Kenyon Rd to Waukeegan Ave was opened in May of 2021.

Lewis Center Trail Phase 3: This trail project will complete the next phase of the Lewis Center Trail, which will ultimately connect Bale Kenyon Rd to S. Old State Rd. This connection from Waukeegan Ave to Harbor Dr will include a crossing to the Alum Creek Visitors Center, providing a direct link to the Alum Creek State Park Beach.

North Rd Trail: This trail connection project will link the trail that parallels North Rd to connect with the trail coming south from the North Farms Subdivision.

Orange Rd Phase 2: This project was a \$3.3 million road widening project that included utility relocation, bike path installation, drainage improvements and the addition of 3 traffic signals. This project was completed in 2021 by the Delaware County Engineers.

Township Hall Renovations: This project will create much needed office space and building renovations for Orange Township Hall. Total cost of this project is still being determined, with funding coming from the federally funded CARES Act.

FD 361 Roof Replacement: The roof replacement of Fire Station 361 is scheduled to begin in October.

North Orange Aquatic Center Entry: The entry renovations for the North Orange Aquatic Center will commence this fall. New features include turn-style-like entry and exit features, ADA upgrades and hardware/software improvements to better serve the residents of Orange Township.

2021 Roadway Improvements: The annual street improvement program is almost complete in Orange Township for 2021, through the Delaware County Engineers Office.

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