



County Legislature

Gregory W. Townsend, Legislator
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Legislative Update: April 2008

So – what has been happening so far this April in Orange County? As the Legislator for the 7th District, let me update you to events of the past few weeks.

1. Commuter Advisory Council held an Open Forum Meeting to discuss issues of concern with Short Line Bus Company on Wednesday, April 9 at the Senior Center in Monroe. Representatives from the Bus Company addressed questions and concerns from the 50 or more commuters in an effort to correct problems and provide a safe trip for all riders. Many county officials including our County Executive, Edward Diana were in attendance. If you have a problem or issue residents are asked to complete a Service Issue Report form found on-line at www.monroeny.org clicking Links on the lower left side and under Gregory W. Townsend click on Service Issue Report to obtain a form.
2. Orange County Clerk Donna Benson announced extended hours for Passport acceptance at the Orange County Clerk's Office. Starting April 2, 2008 the Orange County Passport Acceptance Center will be open at 9 am and remain open until 7:30 pm on Wednesdays only. This is a step in making County services available to individuals who may have difficulty visiting the office during regular business hours. For more information you can contact the Clerk's Office at 845-291-2698 or visit the website at www.orangecoutnygov.com.
3. County Executive Edward Diana issued a remind to Orange County residents to watch the main for important information from the Internal Revenue Service to obtain their benefits under the 2008 economic stimulus payment. They will be mailing special information packages to 20.5 million recipients containing everything the recipient will need to file a 2007 tax form. You maybe eligible for minimum payment of \$300 or \$600 for married couples. You must file an income tax return in order to receive the payment.

4. The launch of a new initiative was announced recently “Ready by 21 in Orange County.” This program is collaboration with Orange County United Way and NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The program will help prepare our next generation of young people for the competitive challenge of the 21st century and we cannot afford to approach this issue as business as usual. It is a challenge to all who care about children and youth to think differently so that they can make decisions that lead to bigger goals, bolder strategies and better partnerships. We need to reaffirm our nation’s commitment to ensuring that all young people are ready by 21 for college, work and life.
5. March of Dimes Walk America Event will be Sunday, April 27th at Woodbury Common Premium Outlet. Come join the event.
6. The “Not One More” Committee will be holding a series of events to heighten the awareness of safe driving practices for young people. Check your local papers for further details of programs being held in the area.
7. Orange County Veterans Service Agency and the VA Hudson Valley will be hosting the Annual Veterans Picnic on Saturday, May 17 held at the Land of Goshen Town Park on Craigville Road directly across from the Orange County Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The festivities begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. For more information call the Veterans Service Agency at 845-291-2470.

The County continues to face new challenges each day. Many issues concerning the safety and well being of the residents continue to be the priority of the Orange County Legislature and I will continue to keep you informed. I look forward to your continue support and involvement helping to make our community the best it can be.

Greg Townsend
Orange County Legislator
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