

Legislative News – August 2007

So what's been happening this summer in Orange County? As the legislator for the 7th District I would like to update you to events of the past few months.

1. **Camp LaGuardia** has been closed and is now being refigured in order to benefit the people of Orange County. The property has been renamed – Central Orange Development Area – and proposals are now being accepted via the county website at www.orangecountygov.com. To date, some of the preliminary discussions for the property have produced suggestions ranging from mixed use, agri-business, workforce and senior housing and high tech manufacturing. Top priority of the county and this legislator is to expand employment opportunities, tax ratables, and to respect our environmental policies.
2. **Text Paging System** for emergency responders, known as Orchestrator was activated on April 26, 2007 proving to be very successful. The system provides one more level of notification to emergency responders in order to make public safety a top priority in the county. The Orchestrator system can send messages to any device capable of receiving a text message, such as pagers, cell phones and Blackberry's. To date, 30 fire departments, 2 ambulance corps, and 1 police chief with a total of 382 volunteers within the system are using the system.
3. **American Red Cross** is also helping to make public safety a top priority in Orange County. During the past year, July 2006 to May 2007, the Red Cross responded to 2,790 emergencies across the greater New York area (Orange/Putnam/Rockland/Sullivan counties) providing assistance to 5,332 families. These services are assisting our efforts to provide quality services to all residents. Thank you to the American Red Cross for all they do.

To all the volunteers who give of themselves serving with the police department, fire departments, ambulance corps and EMT's I say "**Thank You**" on behalf of the people of Orange County. Let's continue to work together to serve the people of our communities.

I look forward to keeping the people I represent and serve informed as to the happenings within our communities. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at 845-343-2138, ext. 143.

Sincerely,

Greg Townsend
Orange County Legislator
7th District Legislative