

Legislative Update: December 2007

So -- what's been happening this December in Orange County? As the Legislator for the 7th District, let me update you to events of the past few weeks.

1. Save Energy! Save Dollars! Series on Energy Conservation scheduled for December 17 at Orange County Government Center, Legislative Chambers. If interested, RSVP by calling 291-4311. Learn about your "Energy Choices."
2. Orange County Warms Residents of Jury Scams – The Scam works like this: the phone rings, you answer and the caller, who claims to be a court officer states, "You failed to report for jury duty and a warrant has been issued for your arrest." You protest that you never received the notice and then the caller offers to clear up this obvious misunderstanding if you will only provide your birth date, social security number and maybe a credit card -- **at this point it is critical to just hung up.** If you have questions regarding jury duty you are encouraged to call the Commissioner's Office at 845-291-4040.
3. Cell Phones for Soldiers Campaign – The County has reached its goal of 2,500 cell phones thanks to the support of its residents. The enormous response was amazing and the County has decided to continue collecting cell phones until the end of the year. Collection bins are located at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
4. Orange County Selected for Transit Supportive Development – Case Study to focus on Harriman Station. Orange County Executive Edward Diana and Orange County Commissioner of Planning David Church are pleased to announce that Orange County Planning's proposal has been selected by the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for a case study to analyze the feasibility of implementing transit supportive development adjacent to the Harriman Metro-North Train Station. Transit supportive development refers to a higher-density, well-designed mixed residential and commercial development approach, which seeks to maximize access to

and from transit facilities and which encourages pedestrian connections between the lands uses and transit service.

5. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Orange County Commissioner of Social Services David Jolly announced the opening of our Home Energy Assistance Program as well as the kick off of our annual Energy Conservation Campaign. Orange County served 7,800 residents through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) during 2005-2006 heating season. HEAP provides grants for heating bills ranging from \$50 to \$540 depending on a household's income, living arrangements, heating expenses, family members, and type of heat. Both renters and homeowners can be eligible for assistance. For more information please contact the Orange County Department of Social Services at 291-2800 or access the website at www.orangecountygov.com.
6. Harriman Treatment Plant Resolution – After touring the facility earlier this month, I was able to convince the Legislative body by a 21 to 0 vote to revisit the Resolution at this time. The Resolution has gone back to committees for further review in order to provide the best action for all parties involved.

It continues to be a busy time here in Orange County. 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.

During this holiday season, I wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Thank you

Greg Townsend
Orange County Legislator
7th Legislative District