

Legislative Update: January 2008

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, I remain confident that while many challenges lie ahead, working together we will continue to make Orange County a great place to live, work and raise a family. So – let's see what has been happening this January 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!** Energy Conservation workshops being held on Jan. 28 in the Town of Blooming Grove Town Hall at 12:30 PM with lunch being served and on Jan. 29 in the Town of Montgomery Town Hall "Historical Room" at 12:30 PM with lunch also being served. You need to RSVP by calling 291-4311.
2. **Funds available for Senior to Repair Homes** – The County's Office of Community Development will provide grants and loans up to maximum of \$20,000 for major home system repairs and handicapped accessibility improvements. An eligible senior household of two can earn up to \$47,200. If you are interested in more details call 845-291-2424.
3. **Diana Signs Child Safety Zone Law** – County Executive Edward Diana signed "Local Law Introductory No. of 2007" thereby establishing Child Safety Zones. These zones prohibit certain sexual offenders from loitering within 300 feet of specified locations, making such violations a Class "B" Misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment and/or fines. These zones are schools, childcare facilities, licensed child care centers, parks and playgrounds, recreational areas and areas in which children congregate.
4. **Harriman Treatment Plant** Resolution has been pulled and postponed at this time while the Orange County Legislative body reviews and explores more proactive approaches to the situation. My recommendations include a study of the "Green" component to reduce energy consumption, explore other energy production sources such as solar, effluent turbine, green roof replacement, reduction of sludge disposal costs, and reduce operations and maintenance costs. Once additional research is completed the Physical Services and Means &

Ways Committees will review the findings before moving forward.

5. **State Income Tax Changes for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Credit** –This provides a resident who serves as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker for the entire year with a \$200 tax credit against their personal income tax. If both spouses filing a joint return qualify for the credit, they may both take the credit. Credit is effective for tax years beginning on or after 1/1/07.

So as we begin the New Year I look forward to your continue support and involvement helping to make our community the best it can be.

Greg Townsend
Orange County Legislator
7th Legislative District