

Legislative Update: May 2008

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

1. May 1st we joined Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County cut the red ribbon on their new facilities at 18 Seward Avenue in Middletown. Cornell provides many services to the children and adults in Orange County while sponsoring many programs of to children and families. Visit Cornell Cooperative at www.cce.cornell.orange@edu and explore the many programs and opportunities the deliver. An example: right now is planting season for our area – have a problem with your soil – take a sample into the center and you will receive an evaluation of the soil and what the problem is. Have a bug visiting your home and don't know what it is, contact Cornell. Having budget problems, visit Cornell and sign up for classes being offered.
2. Annual Veteran's Picnic at the Land of Goshen Park on Craigville Road was held this Saturday. This was an opportunity to welcome home our Operations and Iraqi Freedom Veterans and thank them for their service.
3. Orange County Executive Ed Diana announced Orange County was successful in obtaining \$358,000. under New York State's Shared Municipal Services Incentives (SMSI) for the Mid County Study Group Shared Water Feasibility Study. The group and the creation of regional water systems will give Orange County the ability to meet the needs of our citizens while maintaining the quality of life we have all come to enjoy.
4. I am proud to announce the Celebration of the 325th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Orange County as one of the original counties of the Province of New York. The theme of this yearlong celebration is "Making Our Mark in History". The first event to kick off the celebration is the "Poster and Essay Contest" for 4th graders. The county officials and

departments are encouraging students and parents alike to participate and learn the history of Orange County as it unfolds with the many activities scheduled for the year. Learn more about the 325th Anniversary by visiting the county website at www.orangecountygov.com.

5. Employment Day was held on May 7 for young people ages 18-25 to help explore careers and opportunities. Also, the government center hosted a mock trial session in the Legislature chambers for children from the Goshen Intermediate School. The children debated an extended school day – pros and cons. The county continues to make education a priority for our children.
6. Dog Park in Monroe opened last weekend.
7. Note from the Health Department – Asthma and allergies are running wrap this season. The season is upon us and people need to consult with their physicians to prevent emergencies and stay healthy.

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
7th Legislative District