

Let's take a trip to when the Harlem Shake was the craze of the nation, selfie was the word of the year and FroYo was the newest food trend. The Superbowl featured the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens, but the biggest part of the night was the blackout in the second half that delayed the game for more than 30 minutes. Hockey fans may recall the Chicago Blackhawks' 2 goals in 17 seconds to win the Stanley Cup over the Boston Bruins. The year was 2013. In 2013, the population of Orange was approximately 26,000 with 8,556 residential homes and home to 754 businesses. The cost of an average fire engine ranged from \$400,000 to \$500,000 and a ladder truck upwards of \$750,000 to \$900,000. Fueling the department's trucks cost approximately \$46,000 for that year. Outfitting a firefighter, just for the personal protective equipment including helmet, gloves, hood, boots, jacket and pants cost roughly \$3,500.



Fast-forward to today. The population of Orange Township, according to the U.S. Census, is 37,452 with approximately 13,320 residential homes and boasting over 1335 commercial businesses. The cost of a fire engine ranges from \$800,000 to \$1,100,000 and a ladder truck \$1,900,000 to \$2,200,000; not including all the hose and equipment needed to be ready to respond to an emergency call. To operate the vehicles in 2022, the department spent \$68,700 in fuel cost, a 49% increase from 2013.

Outfitting a firefighter today costs at least \$8,515, a 143% increase, for the same personal protective equipment listed above. This does not include additional self-contained breathing apparatus, eyewear, radios, flashlight; as well as, required annual cleaning and maintenance. The gear must be replaced every 10 years, or prior, if damaged beyond repair, to ensure the safety of the firefighters. Another piece of essential equipment that is now carried by firefighters is a ballistic vest for responses to hostile situations requiring medical assistance. The vest costs a little over \$1400 for each firefighter.

Orange Township Fire Department has done their best to be good stewards of your tax dollars since the passing of the current levy in 2013. However, with the increases in the prices of the assets, equipment, and facilities required to remain response ready; the department needs additional funds to help secure the future of the Orange Township Fire Department. We want to continue to keep your family and local businesses safe. These funds will be utilized to assist the fire department to build and prepare for the future, provide increased community involvement, grow fire department services as our community continues to grow, provide basic and advanced training to the firefighters to ensure readiness for all hazard responses, and maintain assets and equipment to help firefighters respond to your emergencies.

The 2-mil additional levy will cost home owners \$70 per year or 19 cents a day for every \$100,000 of property value. Orange Township Fire Department has had the honor to serve the community for over 60 years. Recently adopting a new motto, the Orange Township Fire Department promises to provide "Our Best...For your Worst."

Cost per \$100,000 of market value

	Per Year	Per Day
Existing Fire Levy	\$165.09	\$0.45
Additional Fire Levy	\$70.00	\$0.19



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Over the past year, the Township has been hard at work creating events that bring our community together. Last year we created a new position for an Events & Communications Coordinator, currently held by Sydney Herbert. In 2023 Under Sydney's leadership, our events committee and staff have planned a Business Appreciation Breakfast, a township wide scavenger hunt, our Independence Day Parade, and our Founders Festival. It has been gratifying to see the community come together at these various events. Our next opportunity as a community to come together is our annual Holiday Event that will be held at North Orange Park. We are looking forward to music performances, free hot chocolate, the train ride, and of course the tree lighting and visit from Santa Claus! Lastly, we have our second annual light fight where we are encouraged to drive around the Township and vote for our favorite holiday decorations. We are grateful for the community support and participation at these different events. I know we are a stronger Orange Township when we get to know our neighbors.

-Erica Fouss
Trustee Chair

Fall is a great time to plant a tree! Besides just being beautiful, trees:

- Can increase the value of your home by up to 19%.
- Purify the air and provide oxygen.
- Provide homes and food to animals.
- Cool our homes and streets.
- Protect against erosion, floods and water pollution.
- Ease the mind during stressful times.

So, plant a tree today!

-Lisa Knapp
Trustee Vice Chair



Dear Orange Township community residents,

Olentangy Schools is committed to creating an environment where students can flourish and graduate as leaders that keep our communities strong. As families move to the central Ohio area, they can choose to live anywhere. We are proud that many choose the Olentangy area for the reputation of our schools and the quality of life offered by places like Orange Township.

Below are a few accolades Olentangy Schools has earned this school year:

- Olentangy Schools received a five-star overall ranking on the Ohio School Report Card, the highest possible rating;
- All four high schools ranked in the top seven high schools in central Ohio by the U.S. News and World Report; these four schools also ranked in the top 22 high schools in the state;
- First Ohio school district to be certified by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services; and
- Recognized by Forbes as one of "America's Best-In-State Employers 2023."

Great schools are vital to strong, thriving communities; and great schools partner with businesses to ensure students have access to resources that prepare them for life after graduation. We have already partnered with ten top employers through the Olentangy: BridgED program and will continue to expand our relationship with other employers to provide students with valuable opportunities and experiences.

I am grateful for Orange Township and our greater One Olentangy community for playing an integral role in the success of our district as we work to fulfill our mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student. We are committed to doing our part to help Orange Township thrive for years to come.

With Gratitude,
Todd R. Meyer
Superintendent
Olentangy Schools



Fall is in the air! The leaves are changing color along Alum Creek Lake and football season is in full swing. As autumn activities begin, construction season is finishing up on two road projects before winter frost arrives. Bale Kenyon Phase 1 between Orange Road and Kendal Lane is scheduled to re-open this year. Site preparation for Bale Kenyon Phase 2 between E Powell Road and Pine Ridge Drive is slated to start after Phase 1 with road construction scheduled for next year. Bale Kenyon Phase 3 between Kendal Lane and Pine Ridge Drive will be the final phase of widening Bale Kenyon. On Lewis Center Road, a roundabout with sidewalk is being finished to connect the Home Road extension. One focus of mine as Trustee is connecting our neighborhoods, and I am excited that these projects will help relieve traffic and increase the walkability of our community.

-Mike Ringle
Trustee



The first Orange Township Founders Festival was a huge hit! The community learned about Orange Township history through a scavenger hunt and enjoyed a day of fun activities! Thank YOU for coming out!



2023 Reappraisals

The Delaware County Auditor's Office has been conducting property value reappraisals. Auditor, George Kaitisa attended the October 4th Board of Trustees meeting to provide clarification about the process. You can find the video and audio from the meeting on the Orange Township website. For a further explanation of the process, scan the QR code below.

WHERE PROPERTY TAXES GO

County General Fund	1.7%
Schools & Career Center	74.6%
Levy Agencies	10.4%
Townships & Corporations	9.6%
TIF Districts	3.7%
Total	100.0%

(Delaware County Auditor's Office)



Fiscal Report

The Fiscal Office has made a number of improvements in its internal processes over the last 3 years and continues to work to safeguard the townships funds.

The Auditor of State has recently approved Orange Township's audit report for 2021-2022 and found no noncompliance, internal control deficiencies, material weaknesses, or fraud. The township also received the highest possible result for its Sunshine Law Star Rating System (StaRS) report. These reports are available on the Auditor of State's website as well as the Orange Township website.

-Lisa Kraft

Fiscal Officer

VETERANS MEMORIAL UPDATE

If you have driven by the intersection of South Old State Rd. and Orange Rd. in the past few weeks, you have likely noticed the beginning stages of the highly anticipated Veterans Memorial construction. While current progress includes the preparations for concrete walls and flag poles bases, as well as dirt work for site grading, additional work will continue through May 2024 prior to the grand opening around Memorial Day 2024. Memorial bricks remain for sale through the Orange Township website. If you are looking for a unique and lasting gift to honor an active military member or veteran, recognizing them with a memorial brick is a great way to honor their service to our country. Numerous private donations have been made through the Delaware County Foundation to support this stunning memorial, which is also funded by a generous grant from the State of Ohio. Information on how to make private donations from businesses and individuals to the Veterans Memorial project can be found on the Orange Township website.



Green Meadows Trail Connection

This trail project will fill a current void in Orange Township's expansive network of trails. Construction is expected to be complete this fall and is funded from our Parks Levy, TIF funding and a \$40,000 Recreational Trails Grant from the Delaware County Commissioners. Once complete, Green Meadows Drive will provide another beautiful multi-use trail for our community to enjoy, adding to the over 19 miles of trails in Orange Township.



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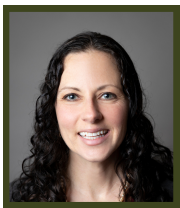
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Visit us at orangetwp.org



Orange Township, Delaware County, Ohio

Follow us on Facebook for more Township updates and news!



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Trustee

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Lisa Kraft

Fiscal Officer

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these 2023 events!

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting	November 1 3:00p.m. Township Hall
Election Day	November 7 see vote.delawarecountyohio.gov for your voting location
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting	November 15 3:00p.m. Township Hall
Holiday Event	December 3 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m. North Orange Park
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting	December 6 3:00p.m. Township Hall
Holiday Light Fight	December 8 - December 31
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting	December 20 3:00p.m. Township Hall

Upcoming Office Closed Notices

Veteran's Day	November 10
Thanksgiving Day	November 23
Day after Thanksgiving	November 24
Christmas Day	December 25
New Years Day	January 1

