

Orange Municipal Council News



Welcome

Thank you to all our residents for the positive feedback we received on our first Orange Municipal Council Newsletter. In the coming months, we'll continue to provide our community with the latest news highlighting the many programs and events that our Councilmembers initiate and participate in that benefit their Ward and the entire City.

Your elected officials believe that it's very important for every registered voter to come out and support their candidate. Have your voice heard by voting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. This issue provides the information you need to cast your ballot.

For other information, please visit the City website at: <http://orangetwpnjcc.org>

On behalf of the Municipal Council, I look forward to assisting you at City Hall in the coming months.

Sincerely,
Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Make Your Vote Count in the Municipal Election

The Municipal Election is Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Mark your calendar and make your vote count!

For this election, there are 3 easy ways registered voters can cast their ballot.

1

Secure Ballot Drop Boxes are available 24/7. Mail-in-Ballots can be placed in Secure Drop Boxes up until 8:00pm on Election Day, May 10, 2022. A Secure Ballot Drop Box is located in the front of the Orange Township City Hall, located at 29 North Day Street, Orange, NJ.

For your convenience, Mail-in-Ballots can also be dropped in any Essex County Secure Drop Box location.

2

Mail your completed ballot in the pre-paid postage envelope that is provided with your ballot. The ballot must be mailed and postmarked by the USPS with a postmark on or before May 10, 2022, and must be received by the County Board of Elections by Monday, May 16, 2022 by 4:30pm.

3

Ballots can be hand delivered to the County Board of Elections located at 495 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, Newark, NJ up until 8:00pm on May 10, 2022. Please note that identification is required.

Every registered voter also has the option to complete a provisional ballot on Election Day at a designated polling site.

For more information, please contact:

Joyce L. Lanier, City Clerk
973-789-7668



Meet the Team at the City Clerk's Office

Pictured left to right: Gabrielle Sims-Shelton,
Margarett Homere and Tamara Robinson



Council Vice President Tency A. Eason North Ward

Councilwoman Eason is a persistent advocate for a better education for our children, a voice for our seniors and our youth. Since 2002, she has worked to help improve the lives of residents and the business community. Currently, Councilwoman Eason is working to improve many of the buildings and properties in her district.

As an avid supporter of quality education for our children, progress on the renovation of the Cleveland Street Elementary School continues

on the approximately 11,500 square foot addition and the existing building.

In the works are plans to develop the abandoned building site at 336 Washington Street, turning this property into more housing units which would not only grow the community but also improve the conditions of the surrounding areas. And, the Mount Vernon new housing development, featuring 38 units does just that for the community. Councilwoman Eason states, “As our community grows, it benefits all residents and helps our small businesses grow and thrive.”

Having toured the City with Mayor Warren, Councilwoman Eason was instrumental at setting up COVID vaccine and testing sites throughout Orange so that residents could have access to proper healthcare.

Helping to improve the quality of life in the community, the Councilwoman teamed up with the Public Works Department to have a “Clean-up Day”. The Department went around picking up papers and cleaning up sites to help beautify the community and improve the quality of life for all residents. Councilwoman Eason continually works with City Hall, the Orange Police Department and the Fire Department to improve relationships that benefit the community.

Councilwoman Eason continues to be a voice for our Senior Citizens. She continues to co-sponsor numerous legislations to improve the life of our Orange Community. She is always available to her constituents and all residents in the City of Orange Township.

Council Vice President Eason can be reached at:
e-mail: teason@orangenj.gov
phone: 973-651-7439



Councilwoman Eason supports local businesses that partnered with the Essex County Health Department to distribute free COVID-19 vaccines



Councilwoman Eason attending the Robert L. Brown Street Naming Ceremony



Councilwoman Eason and Orange Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., on a tour of the Mount Vernon building

Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.

West Ward

Dear Orange Residents,

Please accept this message from me to you with nothing but love and gratitude. It's been my joy and pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve on the Orange Township City Council for the last seven and a half years. Representing the West Ward and getting to know most of my constituents personally made my job on the City Council that much easier and impactful.

The journey started out a little rough as I expected it would. Now I will be the first to say we have a winning formula for making positive strides at resolving some major issues and we seem to have turned the corner. The Township of Orange, New Jersey has a very bright future.

So, as I head into full retirement, you will probably see me around town at events and volunteering. Just remember me as the guy who asked his neighbors to give him a shot at going to City Hall to represent their best interest, and with God's help, he did his best.

Sincerely,

Councilman Harold J. Johnson, Jr.



★ Congratulations on Your Many Years of Service ★

The Orange Councilmembers, the City Clerk's Office and all of those who have had the privilege to work with Councilman Johnson, Jr., thank the Councilman for all the great work he has done over the years that was a benefit to the West Ward and for the Residents of the City of Orange Township.

Congratulations on a successful career and wish you all the best as you move on to your next chapter in life.

Enjoy your retirement!



Councilman Weldon M. Montague, III At-Large

February 21, 2022, Presidents' Day, was a very productive day in the City of Orange Township. Councilman Montague's Non-profit organization, "The People Over Politics" held a City-wide clothing give-away. Starting at 10:00am, a truckload of approximately 8,500 pieces of new clothing, shoes, hats and jackets were donated to Councilman Montague to distribute to those in need throughout the City. Clothing was provided to many of the churches, non-profit

organizations, citizens and community leaders in our area. A truck was also parked outside of the Orange City Hall for residents to come and have access to the available clothing.

It was a community effort and I would like to personally thank the Clergy Community, Non-profit Organizations and all the individuals who helped to make this event so successful. It's a proud day for me anytime there's an opportunity to give back to the City that helped raise me.

The weather is getting warmer which means that T-Ball is kicking off and I'm thrilled to be coaching the kids for the season. We've set up clinics where kids can learn the fundamentals of the game and good sportsmanship. Councilman Montague feels "Getting our youth out playing helps guide each child in a positive direction".

Working with Councilman Coley and Councilman Ross, a successful free COVID vaccine booster shot program for our Senior Citizens was held at 400 Oakwood Avenue in Orange. Over 100 people turned out to take advantage of the vaccine. Besides free booster shots, eligible individuals were provided with iPads, cell phones and other giveaways to help them stay connected and up-to-date with the latest health information.

Programs such as Financial Literacy and Credit Counseling services are also underway and being offered to residents. Additional assistance with employment opportunities and educational services can be found on Councilman Montague's FaceBook page.

Councilman Montague, III can be reached at:
email: wmontague@orangenj.gov
phone: 862-233-5701 or 973-496-8384



Councilman Montague's City-wide clothing drive was a huge success!



Councilman Montague with T-Ball player, Prince Barr



The T-Ball team gathers for a team photo

Councilman Clifford R. Ross

At-Large

Councilman Ross has been busy throughout the City helping to improve the quality of life for our residents by providing solutions for many of the issues that we face on a daily basis.

After Hurricane Ida hit, Councilman Ross toured the City assessing the damages that were left behind. Councilman Ross worked with Councilman Montague, III in getting FEMA representatives on-site to process claims and answer questions so eligible Orange residents could get the funds needed to rebuild their damaged homes.

During COVID, Councilman Ross enlisted the help of Essex County by coordinating efforts to provide funds to out-of-work residents struggling to pay rent and utility bills to avoid eviction and/or utility shut-off.

Working with others, Councilman Ross continues to address the problems of our Senior Community. From providing over 500 turkeys to residents of our Senior buildings during the holidays, to setting up vaccine sites to administer free COVID booster shots to help keep our Senior community safe. Recognizing the financial struggles many people face today, I-pads, cell phones and other give-aways were provided at the sites to eligible individuals.

This Spring, you'll see many of the streets and sidewalks being repaved and the continuation of the clean-up of the Orange Hospital site. A plan to help with the garbage issue to stop the rodent situation is also underway.

Always looking to improve the quality of life for the community, Councilman Ross is working with the Orange Police Department to install traffic lights and speed bumps in strategic areas where speeding has been a community concern. Be sure to Save the Date for our "National Night Out" on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. It's a free family event that provides the opportunity for the community and the police to come together to strengthen their partnership in fighting crime.

Councilman Ross states, "Addressing quality of life issues benefits residents and local businesses and is paramount to the growth of our City".

Councilmember Ross can be reached at:
email: cross@orangenj.gov
phone: 862-233-5612 or 973-666-1866



Councilman Weldon Montague, III, Acting Fire Director, Gerald Long, and Councilman Clifford R. Ross during the Fire Prevention Seminar at Orange High School



Councilman Ross meets with Seniors at the free COVID booster site



Councilman Ross worked with FEMA to get aid for eligible residents



Councilwoman Jamie Summers-Johnson South Ward

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson is heavily involved with the South Ward residents and strives to improve the lives of those she represents in her community. Over the last few months, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson has participated in many activities and continues to develop initiatives for her constituents. During the most recent Kwanzaa, which is the holiday that lasts seven-nights and is celebrated by millions around the world by Black and African families, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson taught children the

meaning of Kwanzaa. In turn, the children who were the students of this lesson, became the teachers as they taught the community the meaning of Kwanzaa at the celebration, passing the information and traditions forward.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Councilwoman joined various residents by lighting luminaries in his honor. In February, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson collaborated with the Orange Health Department, HUUB, La Casa De Don Pedro, Washington Shop Pharmacy and the Orange Food Bank to sponsor an event where residents could receive COVID Testing, COVID Vaccination and Boosters, and Flu Shots. Going one step further, residents also received gift cards, food bags, COVID home test kits, coats and toys.

Also in February, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson hosted the very first virtual South Ward Renters Association Meeting, an organization initiated by the Councilwoman to arm tenants with legal information. She has taken on the responsibility of engaging knowledgeable people on the issues in order to raise awareness. In March, a presentation by the South Ward Renters Association provided information to the attending residents on free emergency aid for civil law cases. Residents should attend these events as they provide information and support that can be shared with others.

As a champion for public safety, Councilwoman Summers-Johnson hosted a virtual meeting where keynote speaker, Chief Vincent Vitiello of the Orange Police Department discussed crime and the importance of crime prevention in the South Ward community.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson enjoyed meeting and speaking with the many residents who attended the South Ward Easter Egg Hunt that took place on Saturday April 16th at Metcalf Park. Residents participated in Zumba, Raffles, Giveaways, COVID Testing, and Voter Registration with South Ward District Leaders Ms. Stacey Martin, Mr. Jeff Wingfield and Mr. David Armstrong.

Councilwoman Summers-Johnson can be reached at:
email: jsummers@orangenj.gov
phone: 862-272-1155



Councilwoman Summers-Johnson shares the meaning of Kwanzaa at the City's Celebration



The Councilwoman with a young Orange resident and Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., as she hands out gifts at The South Ward Easter Egg Hunt



Councilwoman Summers-Johnson joins the community in lighting luminaries to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten

At-Large

Councilwoman Adrienne Wooten's second term on the City Council has become a term of first achievements. The people called for innovative approaches to problems and she responded. Across the City, Wooten recognized the need to battle intolerance and to embrace difference. In 2018 she raised the LGBTQ flag for the first time in the City's history to kick off Pride Week and continues that tradition today. She followed up with the first Hanukkah Menorah Lighting in celebration of the Jewish tradition of Hanukkah.



Respect was also the theme as Councilwoman Wooten proposed to establish the first Human Rights Commission in the City. Her legislation calls for an 11-person panel to advocate for points of fairness and equity in City policy. That Commission's work would also support the Annual Purple Tree Lighting that Councilwoman initiated to bring awareness to domestic violence and to honor survivors, remember victims, and encourage advocates. Well attended by City Leaders, State Legislators, Clergy, Survivors, Victims, Advocates and the City of Orange Community.

Councilwoman Wooten is committed to helping ensure a high quality of life for Orange's Senior Citizens. Based on popular demand, she created a Grandparent's holiday toy giveaway and Grandparent's book bag giveaway program. These events enabled Grandparents to share time, love and presents with their Grandchildren. The Grandparent's toy drive continues to be a huge success with over 500 toys distributed to Grandparents.

In honor of the late South Ward resident Mrs. Anne Jackson-Johnson, Councilwoman Wooten initiated the first garden tour of the City recognizing the time and effort Orange residents put into growing unique and beautiful gardens that beautify the City. COVID-19 disrupted this effort but did not stop the Garden Tour as it is on the 2022 community calendar.

Culturally, Councilwoman Wooten brought the first Juneteenth Holiday celebration to Orange last year. She collaborated with various community groups to uplift the men, women, and children whose freedom should never had been denied. Juneteenth also highlighted the resilience, solidarity, and culture of the Black community. Councilwoman Wooten has committed to make every future Juneteenth an enjoyable one in the City.

Palm Sunday has always been an important day in the Councilwoman Wooten household. During the height of COVID-19, when it became apparent that churches would not be open for Palm Sunday, Councilwoman Wooten searched for ways to make this day special for residents. She found palms available for sale, and with masks, gloves, palms, and a team which included Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Councilwoman Wooten distributed palms. One of the Palm Sunday Event highlights was watching a senior overcome with joy after receiving her palm. Councilwoman Wooten has introduced or co-sponsored countless legislation and is responsible for organizing numerous community programs during her tenure as Councilwoman-At-Large.

Councilwoman-At-Large Wooten can be reached at:

email: awooten@orangenj.gov

phone: 973-518-3360

This number is answered 24 hours per day



Councilwoman Wooten, Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Councilwoman Summers Johnson, and Fatimah Turner attending a Domestic Violence Event



Councilwoman Wooten speaking at the City's Kwanzaa celebration



Councilwoman Wooten at the Chanukah Lighting of the Menorah

