

City of Orchard Lake Village

Mayor's Letter

Jim Talpos, Mayor

Tempus Fugit!!! That's right, Time Flies, and with each passing year, the speed at which it flies, just seems to get faster and faster. As of this Mayor's Letter, we find ourselves already in the second-half of July. Wouldn't it be nice, if the beautiful days and nights of summer would pass-by as slowly as the bitter cold days and nights of winter? Obviously, there is no difference; they do pass-by at the same rate. Twenty-four hours are twenty-four hours...sixty minutes are sixty minutes...and sixty seconds are sixty seconds...and so on and so forth. Isn't it funny, however, how our emotions can play mind games with us to make us think otherwise? So, I hope all of you are in good health, and enjoying these wonderful summer months, here in **our** Orchard Lake Village. This is the time of year that we need to slow down that endless merry-go-round we ride throughout most of the year, and take a deep breath and look around and appreciate all of the natural beauty that surrounds us and say---**Yes**, this is why I choose to live here in **our** city---**The City of Orchard Lake Village**.

Next, as mentioned later in this Mayor's Letter, we have included a page devoted to certain retail proprietors that are located here in Orchard Lake, and who responded to our promotional/advertising offer. Due to the very slow economy, my colleagues on City Council and I wanted to do this small gesture for our local proprietors in an effort to stimulate, in some small way, their sales. Also, we wanted it to be informative to you, our neighbors and residents, to make you aware of these commercial businesses that operate in our

patronize these establishments in order to assist these entrepreneurs through some very difficult economic times.

Finally, and also mentioned later in this Mayor's Letter, on Tuesday, November 4th, there will be a General/Presidential election. Voting for all Orchard Lake Village residents and registered voters will be at City Hall. Specifically, included in all of the governmental positions that will be on the ballot that day will be two seats for our City Council. One of the positions (seats) is currently held by yours truly, and the other seat is currently held by Councilman Dave Boerger. I will be seeking my fifth, three year term (13th year) to the City Council. Dave Boerger, on the other hand, is unfortunately term limited, since he has served two consecutive three year terms. This necessitates that he rotate off of the Council for at least one year before seeking re-election. As of this writing, I am sure you will be glad to know that a long-time resident of the City, Ann Hartzell, has taken out nominating petitions to seek election to Dave Boerger's seat. I, along with my fellow colleagues on the Council, wish Ann the best of luck in her efforts.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a very enjoyable and safe remaining summer, and I look forward to writing to you in my next Mayor's Letter.

With God Speed...

Your Mayor,
Jim Talpos

Road Project Updates

By the time you receive this letter, extension of the northbound Orchard Lake Road lane from Pontiac Trail to Long Lake Road will be well underway. Construction is expected to be 100% complete by Labor Day, but the majority of the work should be done in about two weeks. The road will not be closed, but periodic lane closures will be necessary. No lane closures will be permitted between 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. and will not be permitted between 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The City Council continues to work to complete reconstruction of the south end of Indian Trail this year. The project includes drainage improvements and resurfacing the road and we hope to start work in September.

Upcoming Elections

Two more elections will be conducted by the City this year.

A Primary Election will be held August 5th in City Hall to select candidates from the Democratic and Republican Parties for the United States Senate, Representatives for the US Congress and the State Legislature, County Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner, Delegates to the County Convention, Judges of the Circuit Court and Probate Court, and a proposal relating to funding for the Detroit Zoo. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5th. Absentee ballots are now available if you are unable to attend the polls on August 5th.

A Presidential Election will be held on November 4, 2008 and in addition to voting for President, electors will be asked to vote on the offices included in the August Primary, on Councilmembers, and on several ballot proposals. More information on the November Election will be distributed in the next Mayor's Letter.

If you have children at school that will be out of town in November, or if you know that you will be out of town in November, you may

submit an absentee ballot application anytime. Ballots will be mailed out closer to the election date.

Going on Vacation?

If you are going on vacation, take a minute to notify the Police Department (Denise at 248 682 2400 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.). The Department provides "extra patrol" for vacant properties, either temporarily vacant, or permanently. You are encouraged to take advantage of this extra step in protecting your property.

Hours for gun registrations, parking issues and other police administrative services are 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Green Vision – Tree Orders

Included in this communication is a form to order trees through the City Green Vision Program. A variety of native and decorative trees are offered at outstanding prices and for a very reasonable fee the City DPW will plant up to four trees on the street side of your property.

See the enclosed for more information and the order form.

Insurance Savings Opportunity

Last year the fire service rating for property owners in the City was upgraded, providing an opportunity to save money on homeowners' insurance policies. The outstanding service provided by the Fire Department is being recognized and is being reflected in better rates. Contact your insurance agent to ask for the rate adjustment, as the agents typically do not routinely look for rating upgrades.

With fire safety in mind, please take a minute to notice whether there is a fire hydrant adjacent to your property and, if there is, whether there is any obstruction to that hydrant. The landscape around hydrants should not in any way block access to the hydrants. When winter plowing begins, please make sure snow is not piled around

hydrants to block access. Every second counts in a fire emergency!

Hazardous Waste Disposal Date

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for disposal of household hazardous waste at the West Bloomfield Civic Center site, 4500 Walnut Lake Road, in West Bloomfield. Free of charge, garden products, garage and workshop waste, pool chemicals, household batteries, chemical cleaners, expired medications, gasoline, and electronics (printers, scanners, televisions, computer equipment, microwave ovens, PDA's, etc) will all be accepted. In addition, on-site shredding of personal documents (no business records) will be available, up to 50 lbs per household, also without charges to you.

Items that will not be accepted are computer monitors with broken glass, appliances, water heaters, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners or tires. Contact Allied Waste at 800-858-0089 for disposal options of items not accepted. For more information on the October 4th program, visit www.wbtwp.com or call 248-451-4834.

Because the City is required to pay \$50 per car load, we are strongly urging you to combine waste loads with your neighbors, saving tax-payer dollars. Be sure to bring your driver's license so that the coordinators know that you are an Orchard Lake resident.

Orchard Lake Businesses

The City Council and Planning Commission recently completed a year long effort to create architectural design standards for commercial establishments in the City. It is our intent to develop a vision for the commercial areas and to help local businesses not only understand that vision, but also to achieve compatibility with it.

Also with the intent of helping businesses in Orchard Lake, we have included some information about a couple of local commercial establishments. We would

encourage you to patronize them when you need their services.

Signs, Signs

Along with our important right to vote is another important right – free speech, which is often communicated with signs. City ordinances do regulate placement of signs, including permanent and temporary signs, the most common of which are election signs and real estate signs. These must be located a minimum of 10' from the traveled portion of the road. Please make sure signs posted on your property comply with this requirement.

Your Local Government

Interested in volunteering your service to the City Planning Commission, Cable Board, Fire Board, Tax Board of Review, Election Commission, Election Board, or City Council? Appointments are made every year to these important positions, except for the City Council, and new faces are welcomed. If you are interested in becoming a City Councilmember you must seek election to this office in November of every year. The filing deadline this year is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5th. Please call or e-mail Jan at City Hall to get more information. You can help shape the community.

Jim Talpos, Mayor
Pete Russ, Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmen Dave Boerger, Jerry
Kosmensky, Joe Majcher, Tim McCabe &
Bruce McIntyre

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