

NEWS



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1-6-12 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

Here in Orange County we are proud to provide a broad spectrum of programs and services to the people who live here. But more than the programs, it's the people of Team Orange, those on the front line providing direct service, as well as those behind the scenes providing support and assistance, that contribute so much toward the outstanding quality of life we enjoy here in Orange County and the reason that I think ours is the greatest county in all of New York to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you Team Orange for your on-going commitment to our residents.

Throughout the year, as space allows, I will use this column to highlight some of the County departments so that you may have a better understanding of what they offer and how they may serve you. I also invite you to spend time on the Orange County website at www.orangecountygov.com for a more in-depth look at what is available through our County departments.

Let's start by talking about the Orange County Office of Consumer Affairs and Weights & Measures. Located at 99 Main Street, Goshen, under the direction of Commissioner Charles Mitchell, the mission of this department is to promote an atmosphere of trust for consumers in the marketplace in which honest Orange County-based businesses can thrive. The department also works to provide Orange County consumers assistance and advice in handling problems encountered with the business community and, if necessary, within applicable laws, penalizes those who try to take advantage of consumers by illegal or deceptive trade practices.

The Office of Consumer Affairs helps people work out problems they may be experiencing with an unscrupulous business, provides information about product recalls, and alerts consumers to scams and hoaxes. If a deal or offer seems too good to be true, it probably is, warns Commissioner Mitchell. He encourages residents to call his office with questions or concerns *before* money exchanges hands.

On the Weights and Measures side, the department inspects all scales, scanners, gasoline pumps, fuel oil trucks, and consumer packages at businesses throughout the County for accuracy. They ensure that when you get a gallon of gas for your car or fuel oil for your home that you are indeed getting the gallon, or that at the deli counter the pound of cheese is truly a pound.

Throughout the year, Commissioner Mitchell also shares information about a variety of topics that will help you protect your personal information, prevent identity theft, and maintain your financial security. If you have questions about Consumer Affairs, or concerns about a scam circulating in your community, contact Commissioner Mitchell and his team at 360-6700.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness,

Edward A. Diana
County Executive