



Volume 13  
Issue 1  
Spring  
2022

# THE BOOKMARK

## Oradell Public Library

### Spring 2022 Newsletter



## Local History Room

### Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Oradell Fire Department

This year the Oradell Fire Department will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of dedicated and distinguished service to the people of Oradell. The Postal motto: "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds" certainly applies to our Oradell firefighters.

Even before its official incorporation as Delford in 1894, (later renamed Oradell in 1920), it was clear to the community that an organized fire department was essential. Contemporary newspaper articles of the time chronicled local fires and the need for such a service. On February 9, 1894, a local newspaper, *The Bergen County Democrat* reported as follows:

*"Tuesday's fire has renewed the agitation for fire protection. Oradell certainly should have a fire company. It has among its residents two old New York State Firemen – A. Devore and John Hoyt, who distinguished themselves at the Leedy Fire. The home occupied by Mrs. Leedy and owned by Barney Cole narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Tuesday morning..... By hard work and liberal use of water, the flames were quenched. The damage is about \$300.00."*

Accordingly, with recognition of the danger of fire to the community's wooden structures, the formation of a volunteer fire department became of paramount importance. Thereafter, on January 19, 1897, The Delford Volunteer Fire Department was organized, electing A. Landmann as its president and D. Z. Westervelt as its first chief. By the summer of 1897 it would have 45 registered volunteer members; thus signifying a volunteer spirit which is a hallmark of Oradell and its fire department to the present day.



**Oradell Fire Department 1897**



### Oradell Fire Department 1910

The immediate task was to acquire firefighting equipment and a firehouse. With Borough Council support a hand-drawn hose cart and 700 feet of fire hose were purchased immediately and followed later by the acquisition of a hand-drawn hook and ladder vehicle. Shortly after taking ownership of the hose cart the department volunteers responded to its first fire in a wooden dwelling on Linden Avenue (now Kinderkamack Road), near the present corner of Kinderkamack Road and New Milford Avenue. It was reported that the blaze was extinguished quickly with little damage to the dwelling.

Shortly thereafter, the Borough authorized the construction of a firehouse on Linden Avenue (now Kinderkamack Road). A new firehouse would later be built across the street at the corner of Kinderkamack Road and Center Street and dedicated on July 2, 1949. In 2004, it was renovated to accommodate the increased size of current fire apparatus. The original firehouse is now the theater of The Bergen County Players.

Another priority would be establishing the means by which volunteers would be notified of a fire emergency. The first fire alarm was the sounding of the church bell of the nearby Reformed Church. Not long after steel train locomotive wheel rims were obtained and set up at various points in the community. The alarm would be sounded by beating these rims with a heavy hammer attached to the uprights of the supporting arches. In 1912, this system was changed to that of a series of signals sounded on a steam whistle which in turn would be superseded in 1927 by a siren set up on the roof of the old firehouse and relocated to its current spot behind the new firehouse. This system is still in use today. In keeping with modern technology, today's firefighters are now notified through pagers activated by the Oradell Police Department.

Over the years the department's equipment would evolve in accordance with changing needs, technology and dangers. In 1903, the hand-drawn hose cart would be replaced with a horse-drawn apparatus allowing a quicker response to emergencies. Thereafter, the hand-drawn hook and ladder also became horse-drawn.

By 1916 and 1917 the fire department acquired its first two motorized fire engines. One engine carried a hose and a chemical tank while the other was equipped with ladders and a hose. As the town grew, the need for more advanced equipment became crucial to keep pace with modern firefighting methods.

The department is particularly proud of the acquisition, in 1928, of its first Fire Pumper developed by the American-LaFrance Company which was capable of pumping a thousand gallons of water per minute. This original piece of apparatus is lovingly maintained by the department to the present day. With the support of the mayor and council and the diligent research of the department's membership, the fire department continues to modernize its equipment as needed.

The fire department's original dress uniforms consisted of a traditional red shirt, white pants, black bow tie and polished shoes. Although the uniform has changed in appearance over the years, the Oradell firefighters have continued the tradition of wearing this original style uniform in the many firefighter parades, in keeping with its history of embracing its distinguished tradition and the need of modernization.

Today, the Oradell Fire Department takes pride in maintaining the utmost of professional excellence in protecting the people and property of our community from fires, storms and other disasters. Oradell's volunteer firefighters sacrifice considerable time and effort to make this happen through training and continued education. This includes 171 hours of training conducted in 57 classes at the Bergen County Law and Public Safety facility in Mahwah. Completion of this training is necessary to obtain a New Jersey Basic Firefighting Certificate. A further 50 hours of training is required for the officers of the department. In addition, the department conducts its own in-service training and drills. Much of this training is conducted after hours of the traditional work week or on weekends. These dedicated firefighters will often be called away from family events, celebrations and other activities to answer the call of need for their community. It is important to celebrate this sacrifice and dedication.

The vision and dedication of those early firefighter pioneers of 1897 is carried on with distinction today by Chief Joseph Lomoriello and President James Koth and its nearly 60 dedicated volunteers. The Borough of Oradell can justly be proud of their continued service and sacrifice.

As the Oradell Fire Department celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary there will be a series of events in its honor during this year. Please consult Fire Department and municipal websites for information about these events as they are listed. For further information about the department's history, please consult its website at: [www.oradellfire.org](http://www.oradellfire.org)

We continue to offer a mix of virtual and in-person programming, including some behind the Library building, some on other Borough grounds, and some at the Senior Veterans Building thanks to the support of the Borough of Oradell.

**William "Pat" Schuber**  
**Borough Historian / Archivist**



**William "Pat" Schuber**

I am humbled and honored to have been appointed by the Mayor and Council as Oradell's Historian and Archivist. Upon moving to Oradell in February of 1993 I received a copy of J. Irving Crump's masterful history entitled *Biography of a Borough – Oradell*. I have been fascinated by the rich history of our community ever since.

I am grateful to my predecessor, George Carter, who served in this position for over two decades and has now received the honored title of Borough Historian and Archivist Emeritus. His guidance, words of encouragement and extensive knowledge of the history of Delford/Oradell have been very much appreciated by me. I know we are all thankful to George for his dedicated service to Oradell in preserving its extensive history.

As for me, I grew up in Bogota, went to its local schools, and would become Chairman of the Bogota Library Board and eventually a Councilman and Mayor of the community. I would go on to serve for ten years in the State Legislature representing Oradell and participated in many of its events and celebrations including the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of 1994.

I later served for twelve years as Bergen County's second County Executive and was honored to be appointed a Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for six years.

I am a graduate of Fordham University and Fordham Law School and practiced law for over three decades. I am currently a Professor of Global and Public Affairs at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

As a young student I always had a passion for history. I have engaged in writing and lectures on historic topics before schools and civic groups including often times for The Friends of the Oradell Library. My passion has been to lead tours of historic sites, including the battlefields of the American Revolution, the Civil War and World War II. Like all of my fellow residents I take great pride in Oradell's history. Many hundreds of Oradell residents across multiple generations have had a hand in making, recording and celebrating this history. I pledge all of my efforts in continuing to chronicle, collect and present its history. This includes helping to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our outstanding Oradell Fire Department.

If you would like to share your recollection or items of Oradell history, please do not hesitate to contact me at [wpschuber@optonline.net](mailto:wpschuber@optonline.net).

## Youth Services Librarian



Helping our children and young adults get back to everyday routines is paramount in the Junior Room at the Oradell Library. We are following the CDC and Borough guidelines. Everyone is wearing masks and keeping socially distant. After school, we are limiting the age of children to 4<sup>th</sup> grade through middle/high school without parents; however, all younger children are invited to join us with a parent or guardian. So far, it has been

very successful, and the children are doing their homework and reading! Computers are available for students to do research or complete assignments. We have eliminated computer games as that encourages congregating. Parents may register or find the OPL application on the OPS website. There is no tutoring at the library as there are not enough seats to accommodate our patrons and students with tutors.

We are reaching out to the tweens and teens in grades 6 through high school to join the TAB/CREW. They are naturally an essential part of our community. Meeting their needs is continually part of the Junior Room's mission. Our first meeting will be to reconnect with the youth of Oradell. Our Pizza Party will allow them to get to know each other and build community. They have been isolated for the past 17 months, and hopefully, the Crew will help them reconnect. The mission of the TAB/Crew is to have fun and support a variety of activities in the library. This opportunity to volunteer helps build confidence and gain experience working with others, setting an example as a role model, developing project management skills, and thinking outside the box.

The TAB/Crew helps the staff by providing extra hands-for programs and allowing the younger kids to have more one-on-one attention and a relatable mentor. Our teen volunteers will also assist with behind-the-scenes tasks, such as preparing materials for "The Grab & Go Crafts, will develop parts of our collection that require a youthful perspective and keep us current. We invite all Oradell students in Grades 6 through 12 to attend one of our TAB/CREW meetings, always held on the second Tuesday of the month. Volunteerism is a great way to share talent and time with others!

We are in the process of developing a Reading Buddy Program. If your child could use a buddy or would like to be a buddy, please see Carol Blakeslee to apply for the program.

As always, we continue to provide Grab 'n Go Crafts for the kids. We can't wait until we return to in-house crafts and programs. Our Wee Folks have been attending Story Time on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Call or email Carol Blakeslee to join our mailing list for Story Time and other events!

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will install another Story Walk at OPS featuring the book Thank you, Neighbor! By Ruth Chan. Be sure to stop by to play some games, guess the number of Candy Corns, and win some prizes! Looking forward to seeing you all in the Junior Room!

**Carol Blakeslee, Youth Services Librarian**

## Information Services Librarian

Thanks to a new statewide telehealth program, **NJHealthConnect@your Library**, Oradell residents can now borrow an iPad from Oradell Public Library to see a doctor or find trustworthy health information. More than 150 libraries across the State of New Jersey are participating in this program, which will run through September of 2022. This program was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), administered by the NJ State Library and implemented by *Just For The Health of It!* at East Brunswick Public Library. For further information about NJHealthConnect@your library, see <https://www.njhi.org/submissions/new-jersey-libraries-promote-health-equity-with-njhealthconnect-your-library/>.

There are numerous benefits to telehealth. You can get care at home when it is difficult to get to your provider's office or get care after hours, or from a specialist who is not close by. Since virtual visits may be cheaper than in-person visits, it may also have a lower cost.



### **Borrow an iPad with NJ HealthConnect@Your Library**

- See a doctor, 24/7
- Health information in your language
- COVID updates
- Crisis hotlines
- Mental health support
- Teen help
- Meeting apps (Zoom/Google)

**To reserve an iPad, or to find out more, please call the Library at (201) 262-2613 or email Information Services Librarian at [linda.pabian@oradell.bccls.org](mailto:linda.pabian@oradell.bccls.org)**

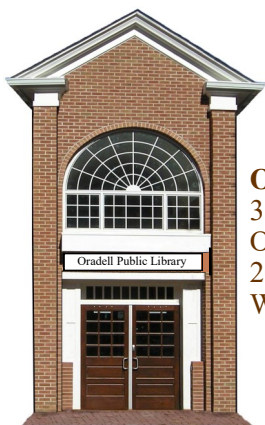
Each iPad is preloaded with apps and links to:

- Telemedicine sites of major hospital systems,
- Medlineplus.gov site for multilingual health information,
- Places for Mental Health Support,
- Covid resources in English and Spanish, and
- ***Just for the Health of It*** Health Portal.

If you have any questions about this program, or any other adult library program, resource, or service, you are always welcome to email, call, or visit me, Linda Pabian at the Library. I am here to help and I look forward to assisting you

**Linda Pabian, Information Services Librarian**





**Oradell Public Library**  
375 Kinderkamack Road  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
201-262-2613  
Website: [oradell.bccls.org](http://oradell.bccls.org)

**NON PROFIT**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Paramus, NJ**  
**Permit No. 307**

## Postal Customer Local Oradell, NJ 07649

**Library Director:** John J. Trause

**Library Board of Trustees:**

Sheila Sterling, President

Eileen Gabriele, 1st Vice President

James Lessersohn, 2nd Vice President

Jessica Holmes, Secretary

Anne Sullivan, Treasurer

Joseph Colella, Trustee

Susan Jung, Trustee

Miriam Yu, Council Liaison

Eric Mangol, School Liaison

**Friends Officers:**

Elaine Franek-Materon, President

Joseph Colella, Vice President

Elaine Franek-Materon, Secretary

Tracey Valente, Treasurer

Shasta Clinch, Membership Secretary

Dianne Daniele, Program Committee Chair

**Library Hours: (fall thru spring)**

Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(Junior Room 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Library Hours: (summer)**

Monday – Friday same as fall thru spring

Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday Closed

## The Friends of the Library

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are writing to you asking for help. We really need your time, energy and enthusiasm. Friends have a special place in our town. Alas, we are getting older, fewer and some of us have health issues. We have the experience and enthusiasm to continue our activities but we need “new blood”. The only thing missing is you, our loyal patrons.

What kind of help do we need? Help with Programming is our biggest challenge at the moment. We are now poised to resume our active programming season, but we need some assistance. What kind of assistance? Very specific jobs. Refreshments: ordering, purchasing, and setting up for events. Setting up chairs....possibly take them down, but that could be shared. Sending out thank-you letters to our presenters. Buying and mailing gift cards to presenters,...small but important jobs such as these. Suggestions for future programs are

always appreciated. Dianne Daniele has a large and varied file of possible programs, but many more names keep coming up. Neighbors suggest other neighbors. We never run out of interesting people in our town. You will always have a partner to work with and all expenses will be reimbursed. You may also come up with some other way you would like to participate. We have great programs and convivial sessions after the programs. Maybe you could offer a program based on your experiences and talents.

Come, enjoy our programs, meet your neighbors, and help to continue our great tradition at the Oradell Public Library.

I hope that if you are able, you find something, big or small, to contribute.

Your Friend,

**Jane Gaffin, Friends E-Newsletter Publisher**

### Library Meetings

Board of Trustees, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Library  
Friends of the Library, First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom