



County of Orleans

**Department of Highways/Buildings &  
Grounds**

**Gerald R. Gray**  
Highway Superintendent  
Email: [Jerry.Gray@orleansny.com](mailto:Jerry.Gray@orleansny.com)  
**Craig D. Lape**  
Fuel Farm Manager  
Email: [Craig.Lape@orleansny.com](mailto:Craig.Lape@orleansny.com)

225 W Academy St.  
Albion, New York 14411 - 1591  
(585) 589-6145 & 589-7016  
Fax (585) 589-1620  
Email: [Jackie.Tarricone@orleansny.com](mailto:Jackie.Tarricone@orleansny.com)  
Email: [Lisa.Mannella@orleansny.com](mailto:Lisa.Mannella@orleansny.com)

**Michael L. Cliff**  
Deputy Highway Superintendent  
Email: [Mike.Cliff@orleansny.com](mailto:Mike.Cliff@orleansny.com)  
**James J. Noreck**  
Asst. Superintendent  
Email: [Jim.Noreck@orleansny.com](mailto:Jim.Noreck@orleansny.com)

**THE ORLEANS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Orleans County Highway Department has (19) full-time employees and (1) part-time Fuel Farm Manager. This department is responsible for maintenance and reconstruction of 196.22 miles of County Roads and 72 Bridges.

We are required to patch pavement, patch shoulders, grading, cleaning and improving ditches, traffic sign repair and replacement, bridge repair, cutting tree brush, culvert pipes, reconstruction and replacement of roads and bridges and plow and haul snow and ice for county office parking lots. Cost information on labor, equipment and materials plays an essential part in maintaining payroll and job costing.

We also provide vehicle service and maintenance on all county vehicles, Soil and Water tractor mower, Orleans Transit Service buses, and work in collaboration with the Orleans County Planning Department to provide maintenance on our docks at the Marine Park and Point Breeze.

A large part of Highway's responsibilities is to administer the Fuel Farm, which includes ordering of fuel, maintaining pumps, invoicing, collections and the distribution of fuel cards.

The merger of Highway and Buildings and Grounds has saved thousands of dollars in administrative costs and sharing of manpower. The new Highway and Buildings and Grounds work together at the Point Breeze Dock, Marine Park, County parking lots and use of vehicles. We have also required that all products bought by us be looked at for purchase locally first and outside of Orleans County 2<sup>nd</sup> to keep tax dollars local.

The Orleans County Highway Department works cooperatively with the Towns on maintaining highway projects. In 2011, Highway completed 14 miles of resurfacing and construction of roads which were split into eight (8) projects. There were also two new bridges that were finished; Knowlesville over Oak Orchard Creek and Eagle Harbor over Otter Creek.

The year 2012 has been challenging. Costs have risen and highway's budget has been cut. Our employees are doing more with less and are a great asset to our department. In 2012, OCHD has added the Villages of Albion, Holley, Lyndonville and Medina to the Shared Services agreement to expand the cooperation of departments and keep budgets in line. Our goal for 2012 is for 14 miles again of road construction and/or resurfacing divided up into eight (8) projects. From 2012 through 2014, two more bridges will be under construction; Waterport Bridge over Oak Orchard Creek and Hulberton Road Bridge. This construction is 95% funded by the State and Federal Government.

The Highway's fleet of equipment has had limited updating and continues to age having many units approximately 10 to 20 years old. With the Towns sharing the use of our equipment, it becomes a major challenge for our department. A flowboy trailer has been purchased to better utilize our lowboy tractor. It offers great capacity, less down time for the tractor and a big savings in fuel cost.

Our goal for a new Highway building with Orleans Transit Service and to combine the two current garages into one will result in savings by not having duplication. We have outgrown the current facilities and can better service and share workforce with one location. The old building would be used for storage of expensive equipment that now sits outside, plus be used to build concrete box culverts for use on local projects. Also, many EDA projects, demo of Village properties, PSB parking lot addition, paving and bridge repair round out an ambitious year.

## **LEGISLATION AND FUNDING**

The Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) provides State funds to municipalities to support the construction and repair of highways, bridges, highway-railroad crossing, and other facilities that are not on the State highway system.

Apportionments to municipalities are calculated annual by the New York State Department of Transportation. Upon approval of the State Budget, NYSDOT determines each municipality's final CHIPS Capital apportionment for the new State fiscal year and notifies the municipality of the available amount. Special requirements for CHIPS Capital projects do apply and are located on the NYSDOT website at [www.dot.ny.gov](http://www.dot.ny.gov).

Orleans County currently receives \$1,070,000 in CHIPS aid from New York State. This funding is in jeopardy as the state has yet to adopt a long-term transportation funding plan. The failure of the State to adopt the CHIPS program or any other local funding program will have a dramatic impact on the ability of the County to maintain its roads without increasing the tax on local tax payers.

CHIPS funding has remained steady, but material costs such as asphalt and fuel have gotten out of control. This has created issues where road repairs have not been able to keep up with the deterioration.

To support CHIPS and other state infrastructure funding, please email or contact your New York State Senate – 62<sup>nd</sup> district and your New York State Assemblyman – 139<sup>th</sup> District.

*Gerald R. Gray, Highway Superintendent  
Orleans County*