

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

April 6, 2011

For Immediate Release

04-06-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

Let's start with a little Orange County history trivia this week ...

Q. Skeletons of what ancient ancestor of the elephant have been found in Orange County?

A. The mastodon – more mastodon skeletons have been unearthed here than any other place on Earth.

Q. What well known cheeses were first created in Orange County?

A. Cream cheese in Chester and Velveeta and Liederkranz in Monroe.

Q. What Orange County native devoted 24 years to preserving and promoting Orange County history?

A. The recently retired Orange County historian, Mr. Ted Sly, of Middletown.

Please join me in congratulating Ted on his retirement. It was my pleasure to proclaim Friday, April 1, Ted Sly Day in Orange County. As is Ted's style, he left on a high note amidst the whirlwind of activity that surrounded one of his favorite events – Orange County Youth in Government Day.

This was Orange County's 51st year hosting this annual event in partnership with BOCES. This year, 74 students from 11 different school districts shadowed 64 County employees from 33 different County departments, as well as the Legislature and the Courts. Students had the opportunity to get a first-hand look at how government works on a daily basis. It's a great day for the students who attend and is always enjoyed and much anticipated by the County employees who host their student representatives.

On his last day, Ted also had the opportunity to announce and welcome his successor, Ms. Cornelia Bush. Like Ted, she is a native of Orange County with strong family ties to the community. In fact, her family tree has roots in Orange County back to the 1600s. Like many Orange County residents, Cornelia also boasts a strong Scottish heritage. She shared with me that April 6 is National Tartan Day, a day designated to recognize the historic role Scottish-Americans have played in our County, State, and Nation from Colonial times. In fact, the Scots' Declaration of Arbroath is one of the documents of freedom and liberty on which our own Declaration of Independence is based.

It's my pleasure to welcome Ms. Bush and wish Mr. Sly the very best wishes of Orange County on his retirement. You will forever hold a place in our history.

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana
County Executive