

what's

# vibrant

orange city, iowa



City employees & officials discussing 2012 strategic plan



### January 2

City Offices & Public Library CLOSED

### January 3 & 16 @ 4:30PM

City Hall  
City Council Meeting

### January 3 @ 7:00PM

City Hall/MOC Floyd Valley High School  
Republican Caucus

### January 7

Your home  
Christmas Tree Pick-up

### January 13-31

Northwestern College Te Paske Gallery  
Regional Glass Exhibition

### January 18-February 20

City Hall  
Youth Basketball

### January 21 @ 10:00AM-2:00PM

Living Waters Community Center  
Orange City Bridal Fair

### January 23 @ 7:00PM

OCAHS Main Campus Conference Room  
Sweet Talk: Diabetes Support Group

### January 26

OCAHS Main Campus Lobby  
Usborne Book Sale Fundraiser

### January 28 @ 9:00-11:40AM

City Hall  
Puppet Class

To see the entire Orange City calendar of events, visit [OrangeCityIowa.com/events](http://OrangeCityIowa.com/events)

If you would like to sign up for Orange City's weekly "What's Vibrant? ... this week" emails, visit [OrangeCityIowa.com](http://OrangeCityIowa.com) or email [marketing@orangecityiowa.com](mailto:marketing@orangecityiowa.com)!

## new year resolutions vs. strategic goals

Perhaps not fulfilling your New Year resolutions may have limited consequences. However, that's not the case when a community fails to achieve its strategic planning goals. City Council recently confirmed its intentions to accomplish a number of items that were identified at its day long November planning retreat. Those items included operation guidelines and administrative oversight responsibilities for the following:

- Unity Christian Performing Arts Center
- Support housing expansion in conjunction with residential developers, contractors, and home-buyers
- Implementation of the retail master development plan
- Prioritize and pursue community recreation and leisure opportunities

- Sioux County Regional Airport
- Build upon Orange City's new marketing brand
- A succession plan for retiring City employees
- Future collaboration with the City of Alton
- A 10-year City Department Capital Improvement Plan
- Expand communications with civic groups and organizations.

"I'm very appreciative of the time and effort invested by the Council and staff to develop this strategic plan," Mayor Douma commented. "I'm very committed to seeing us implement this plan in the coming months. If we are successful, Orange City will continue to thrive as a vibrant community that we all can be proud of. We are definitely looking forward to the year ahead." ✨

## preparing the ground & building our future together

Most of us will not be mentioned in the history books, have statues of our likeness found in city parks, nor buildings named after us. However, all of us can make history by joining the progress to develop a vibrant community.

The OC 21 Foundation was originally established 24 years ago with the purpose of building a prosperous community. During its existence, nearly \$400,000 has been raised to fuel Orange City's growth through Orange City Municipal Utility bill donations.



In an effort to re-vitalize its mission, the foundation has been re-organized and is launching a new fundraising

campaign in February, 2012. When you read of its accomplishments and dreams for Orange City, you will have the opportunity to make history yourself. You can help—with as little as \$1.00 a month—by checking off an easy and convenient

monthly donation. When all Orange City residents and businesses work together, we can make history together. ✨

## christmas tree pick-up

If you need to dispose of your live Christmas tree after the holiday season, a complimentary pick-up service will be provided on Saturday, January 7. Please place your tree at your regular garbage pickup site by 7:00AM. All decorations

must be removed! The tree may NOT be enclosed in plastic. However... leftover presents can stay with the tree to be given to the sanitation crew. We appreciate Orange City Sanitation for this fantastic service. ✨

## shrinking your electric bill

Energy plays a big part in the cost of living, operating a business, and manufacturing products. In efforts to better manage those costs, Missouri River Energy Solutions (MRES) and Orange City Municipal Utilities (OCMU) sponsored a Bright Energy Solutions—Trade Allies—meeting for area electrical



and plumbing contractors. Kurt Houser, a  
cont on next page...

## shrinking your electric bill

cont... MRES electrical engineer reviewed new electric incentive and rebate programs for residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Contractors learned how to complete program applications to maximize their rebates. Ken Meendering, City Code Enforcement Officer, also reviewed current State electrical and plumbing inspection requirements. Contractors were able to sign up for a monthly e-newsletter for new utility program updates.

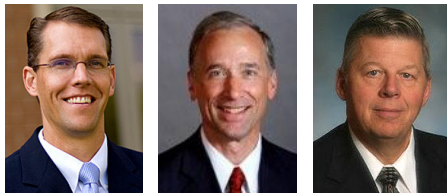


Houser reviews energy rebates

"The feedback from the meeting was very positive," commented Bryan Gerritson, Public Works Director. "We are already planning our next one. It's a huge benefit whenever we can reduce costs for our customers as well as our own power generation requirements. That's a win-win!" ✨

## city council & legislators discuss politics

With the Iowa Legislative Session beginning on January 9, there's anticipation as to what the top issues will be. State Senator Randy Feenstra and State Representatives Chuck Soderberg and Dwayne Alons were on hand for the December 19 City Council meeting to share their insights. They predicted tax increment finance modifications, commercial property tax reform, and a fuel tax increase for transportation funding would be some of the topics to come before the legislature. The City Council urged the legislators to hold city governments harmless if possible, by not adversely impacting local budgets.



Randy Feenstra Chuck Soderberg Dwayne Alons

The City—along with Feenstra, Soderberg, and Alons—will sponsor legislative coffees again in 2012. Dates will be available in future newsletters or at [OrangeCityIowa.com](http://OrangeCityIowa.com). ✨

## city officials

**Mayor, Les Douma**  
712-737-4203  
304 Martin Dr. NE  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[ldouma@orangecitycomm.net](mailto:ldouma@orangecitycomm.net)  
Term Expires: 12-31-13

**Councilman, Rod DeBoer**  
712-707-6861  
603 2nd St. NW  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[rbdeboer@orangecitycomm.net](mailto:rbdeboer@orangecitycomm.net)  
Term Expires: 12-31-13

**Councilman, Chad Oolman**  
712-707-3883  
216 Albany Ave. NE  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[chad@oolman.com](mailto:chad@oolman.com)  
Term Expires: 12-31-15

**Councilman, Steve Roesner**  
712-737-3623  
908 6th St. SE  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[sroesner@orangecitycomm.net](mailto:sroesner@orangecitycomm.net)  
Term Expires: 12-31-13

**Councilman, Mick Snieder**  
712-737-4236  
516 Colorado Ave. NW  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[@MickSnieder](mailto:msnieder@northwesternbankonline.com)  
Term Expires: 12-31-15

**Councilman, Earl Woudstra**  
712-707-3169  
205 Kansas Ave. NW  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[earl@nwciowa.edu](mailto:earl@nwciowa.edu)  
Terms Expires: 12-31-11

**City Administrator, Duane Feekes**  
712-707-4885  
City Hall, 125 Central Ave. SE  
Orange City, IA 51041  
[cityadmin@orangecityiowa.com](mailto:cityadmin@orangecityiowa.com)

## monthly insight...

- During a recent workout at the Orange City Area Fitness Center, a young lady was observed running on a treadmill while texting on her cell phone. Since this combination requires more concentration, multi-tasking, and dexterity than most people can master, perhaps you burn more calories doing this?
- If the mission of the fitness center is to promote physical fitness, exercise, and healthy bodies, why is the main TV often tuned to the Food Network channel? Many of us attend the fitness center because of our over indulgence in the first place!
- Listening to Holiday music over the PA system while viewing the downtown street decorations is a pleasant, enjoyable experience. Thanks to those who made it all possible. ✨

## prairie winds event center reservations being accepted

As you drive through the east side of Orange City, it's hard to miss the towering structure taking shape on Highway 10. The peaked roof line, brickwork, and arched windows of the new event center are indicative signs that the construction is making significant progress. "We are on schedule, and confident of the May 31, 2012, completion date as originally planned," reported Marty Guthmiller, chair of the Event Center Advisory Board. "The roof is nearly complete, and the brick work has finished." According to the construction update, the facility has been completely enclosed, which allows interior work to continue regardless of weather conditions.

With the project on schedule and the opening in mind, the event center manager has begun taking reservations for events starting in mid July, 2012. The proposed rental fee structure and policies were approved at the Orange City Council meeting on November 7. For more information on reservations and rates, visit [OrangeCityIowa.com](http://OrangeCityIowa.com).

The results of a city-wide naming contest for the new event center in Orange City were presented to the City Council by the Event Center

Advisory Board on November 7. More than 50 names were submitted in response to the naming contest, and each were reviewed by the board. The Council endorsed the advisory board's



Advisory board tours Prairie Winds Event Center.

recommendation of "Prairie Winds Event Center." The individual who submitted the name—who wishes to remain anonymous—wrote, "The style and interior architecture of the facility reflects our location on the prairie and plains. The exterior reflects our Dutch heritage. The Dutch harnessed the power of nature in their windmills, and we live in a place where wind is a regular part of the landscape. Wind moves the prairie grasses like waves in the sea. Wind spins our windmills. Wind is movement."

Information is available at [OrangeCityIowa.com](http://OrangeCityIowa.com). Inquiries can be forwarded to Maria Plueger, Event/Brand Manager, at [events@orangecityiowa.com](mailto:events@orangecityiowa.com) or 712-707-4885. ✨



\*Oops! We noticed a printing error too late! Orange City's ZIP Code is 51041. We are trying to be green and not throw them away. Bear with us for a couple of months. Thanks!