

what's

vibrant

orange city, iowa



Reynolds, Guthmiller, and Branstad

what an honor

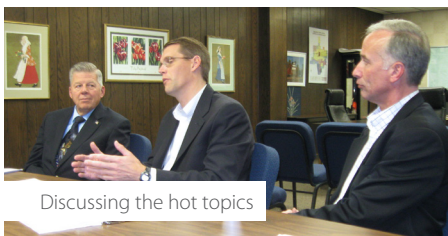
Orange City's Marty Guthmiller was recently inducted in the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame in Des Moines on February 21. Governor Terry Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds bestowed the award to five individuals and two organizations. Guthmiller was recognized for his efforts in marshaling a community response to the June 2008 fire that destroyed the former Hawkeye building. From those efforts, the Phoenix Project was launched which included the Hawkeye Center, Prairie Winds Event Center, and the forthcoming Unity Christian

High School and City of Orange City Performing Arts Center. Besides his main duties at Orange City Area Health System, he has also been very involved with the work of the Orange City Development Corporation.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1989 by the Governor's Office for Volunteerism. Names of inductees are engraved on the Hall of Fame plaque on permanent display in the State Historical Museum. Governor Branstad noted that the State of Iowa rated second nationally for most number of volunteers. ✨

talking politics

State Representatives Chuck Soderberg and Dewayne Alons and State Senator Randy Feenstra, held a Legislative Coffee with area residents on Saturday, January 14. Much discussion was held



Discussing the hot topics

regarding the state's efforts to provide property tax reform that would include the use of exemptions and assessment limitations. With a goal of reducing commercial and industrial property taxes by 40% of current levels, partial State backfills, or funding would be provided. There's also an effort to replace existing City tax levy limits with a link to the Midwest Consumer Price Index (CPI). The impact on local governments to secure the necessary funding to provide public services is a major concern. Other popular topics included education funding for public schools, community colleges, and future sources of energy.

The next Legislative Coffee is Saturday, March 31 at 2:30 pm at City Hall. ✨

recycling dates to remember

Orange City's annual spring cleanup, co-sponsored by the City of Orange City and Orange City Sanitation, will be held April 23-29.

Allowable items:

- Usual garage and home items
- Furniture and wood stuffs
- Mattresses and carpets

Non-allowable items:

- All appliances (white goods)
- Building and remodeling materials
- Wood chips
- Auto parts (tires, batteries, etc.)
- Concrete
- Steel and iron
- Yard waste
- Tree branches
- Oil, yard chemicals or wet paints

A household hazardous material collection event is scheduled for June 6, at 5:00-7:00 pm. It will be held downtown behind the band shell at Windmill Park. Some of the non-allowed items listed above can be recycled here. So, start now by setting aside those items that are no longer needed and recycle them! ✨

ragbrai is coming

The Des Moines Register recently announced the route for the 40th Annual RAGBRAI bicycle ride across Iowa. On the first day, Sunday, July 22, riders will travel from Sioux Center to Cherokee. Orange City was a natural stop to serve as a "pass-through" community to provide in-route accommodations.



RAGBRAI bikers as superheroes.

"This is the third time RAGBRAI has come to Orange City," Mike Hofman, Chamber Director commented. "We have gained a lot of experience and have plenty of notes from previous years. Our goal is for Orange City to earn the honor of 'most welcoming community to entertain RAGBRAI riders' along the entire seven-day route. We are looking for a great turnout from the community."

The Orange City Chamber of Commerce is forming a steering committee to coordinate this effort. Specific work areas will include coordinating food vendors, providing general entertainment, hospitality services, showcasing our Dutch entertainment, and general planning and logistics.

Those that are interested in lending their ideas and skills in showcasing Orange City to thousands of visitors are encouraged to contact Karen at the Chamber Office at 712-707-4510. Volunteers can also fill out an online form at OrangeCityIowa.com or email the chamber office at chamberwindmill@frontiernet.net with their contact information and work area preferences. ✨

building a vibrant community

We often talk about building a vibrant community, and even Orange City's new logo has the tagline, "color your life vibrant". However, defining it in so many qualitative terms can be very subjective and evasive. In pursuit of that challenge, the Mayor's office does from time to time, assembles a group of citizens to respond to the question, "What does it take for Orange City to become a more vibrant community?"

continued on back...

should I or shouldn't I?

Do you ever find yourself trying to determine whether a discarded item is recyclable or not? In many households, the recycling bin is located next to the regular trashcan. As you approach them, you have an instantaneous decision to make—to grant a new lease on life or commit the item to the landfill to which never to return. In order to make the process a little easier, the following is a list of common items people ponder:

- Qater softener pellet bags—YES
- 5 gal plastic buckets—YES
- Ice cream pails—YES
- Grayish paper egg cartons—YES
- Phonebooks—YES
- Newspaper retail inserts—YES
- Metal lids off glass jars—YES
- Butter and yogurt plastic containers—YES
- Styrofoam egg cartons—NO
- Children's plastic toys and swimming pools NO
- Plastic lawn chairs—NO

For more information, visit the "Go Green" page on OrangeCityIowa.com—it's a little green tulip. ✨

oc21 foundation fundraising campaign

Last month, Orange City 21 Foundation launched its new fund raising campaign. Since then, over 30 contributors have added their pledges to the already 125 monthly donors.

"Every dollar makes a difference," said Daryl Beltman, Orange City 21 Foundation committee leader. "100% of donations are used toward this community's future."

The foundation is asking residents to invest in Orange City's future by donating as little as \$1.00 a week. They've also made it easy for anyone to donate. Community members can sign up online or by bringing or mailing in the pledge card they received in February to City Hall. "We know how busy people are today," continued Beltman. "So we tried to make it as convenient as possible." (There is also another pledge card included in this utility mailing)

Over the past few weeks the Orange City 21 Foundation committee has presented to numerous groups and



Beltman presenting to the Kiwanis Club

organizations in Orange City—such as the Lion's Club, Kiwanis Club, Orange City Growth Organization, Orange City Ambassadors, and local merchants. "We're trying to spread the word," stated Bert Aarsen, Orange City 21 Foundation committee and Orange City Development Corporation board member. "Too many people didn't know what we did or who we were. Now we've revved up the communication with the community, and have been excited about the support the foundation is receiving."

More information on Orange City 21 Foundation—the fundraising arm of the non-profit Orange City Development Corporation—can be found online at OrangeCityIowa.com, Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. If you have questions contact Daryl Beltman at 712-737-8226 or ciui@orangecitycomm.net. Or Bert Aarsen at 712-737-8880 or bert.aarsen@vogelpaint.com. ✨

prairie winds event center going strong

Prior to the City Council meeting Monday, February 20, Marty Guthmiller, event center advisory board chair, gave a walk through tour of Prairie Winds Event Center. "The expected completion date is now April 27," Guthmiller shared with the Councilmen. "We are approximately five weeks ahead of schedule."

Installation of the bathroom tile, stone work on the columns, and kitchen flooring have all begun, and workers are making tremendous progress. A single coat of paint has been applied with the finishing coats to be painted closer to completion. Landscaping and concrete work will begin as the weather permits.

Over 30 events have been booked so far with 75% of those being wedding receptions and ceremonies. In February, the advisory board agreed to make

June available for reservations—previously July was the scheduled opening. "In two weeks we booked five weddings events in June alone," said Maria Plueger, Manager. "It's reassuring to see how excited everyone is to hold their events here!"

With the summer opening fast approaching, dates are filling up quickly. But Plueger assures readers. "There are still a few available weekend dates this summer."

The grand opening is still scheduled for June 27; along with the City's Annual Customer Appreciation Picnic and Onstage Orange City's talent show.

Tours of the construction site are now available to renters. If you are interested in reserving Prairie Winds Event Center, contact Maria Plueger at 712-707-6516 or events@orangecityiowa.com. ✨



Guthmiller describing the outdoor pavillion to the councilmen

building a vibrant community

cont... The discussions have encompassed a board range of topics, but some common ones include the following:

- More recreation trails
- Maximizing the City of Orange City and Northwestern College relationship
- Population growth
- More housing options
- Strengthen and align Orange City's organizations
- Foster and support the Orange City Growth Organization
- Re-energize Orange City retailers
- Promote Orange City as a designation with "stay & play" packages
- Maximize collaboration with Orange City and Alton

The detailed information will be shared with the City Council and staff, the Orange City Development Corporation and Orange City Chamber.

Mayor Douma commented, "These meetings are very informative and insightful to what our citizens view as future opportunities for this community. This is truly 'grassroots' stuff that can provide energy to move things forward. The commitment these volunteers have to Orange City is quite evident and makes us all very proud." ✨



*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!