

vibrant

orange city, iowa



reserve your favorite park

Summer means picnics, reunions, and outdoor birthday parties. After being inside all winter, we can all agree outdoors is the place to be. For a very inexpensive “get away”, Orange City has five shelters which are available to rent for your group activities. All of these City-owned facilities have a refrigerator, stove, sink, and counters.



Vets Park Scout House (\$50/day)



Vets Park Shelter (\$50/day)



Woudstra Family Park Shelter (\$50/day)



Swimming Pool Shelter (\$50/day)



Windmill Park Shelter (\$50/day)

For descriptions of the shelter houses, or to reserve a shelter house **ONLINE ONLY**, scan the QR code, or go to:

orangecityiowa.com/shelter-houses/reserve-campsites-shelter-houses

Outdoor picnic areas can be used without a fee or reservation if the shelter house is not reserved.



addressing a need

Have you ever needed to find a building when you're not familiar with the neighborhood? It's both frustrating and time consuming when there are no address numbers on homes or businesses. Imagine you're an EMT, police officer, or fireman responding to a call for help. Time is wasting while you look for the correct address.

Street address numbers are not only valuable in an emergency, it's also Iowa law. The Code of Iowa in Section 364.12(3d) and the Orange City Municipal Code of Ordinances both require homes and buildings be numbered. The numbers must be “in a conspicuous place to the street in figures not less than four (4) inches in height”.

Check if your house or building has address numbers and that they're visible from the street. If you don't have address numbers, install them for your safety. If you're not sure on the exact number, contact the City Office. We'll help confirm the correct number. It's a recipe for disaster when you need help and emergency personnel can't find you.



Book SALE

AUGUST 3-15
IN THE LIBRARY BASEMENT

Now taking donations of recently published, good condition books.
No text books and medical books please.

activities at the library

The Orange City Public Library has been a hub of community activity this summer with people coming in to check out books, puzzles, games and movies, to attend events, and to use our space just to hang out. We love it!

We will be holding a Book Sale in our basement from August 3-15. There will be a wide range of books available for children through adult. We are currently accepting donations of recently published, good condition books to be added to the sale. Please no textbooks or medical books.

August means graduation time for our youngest readers! If your child is participating in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and has finished reading 1000 books in their reading log please RSVP for a special graduation ceremony on the evening of August 18 to Victoria at vbrander@orangecitylibrary.org.

siren test

The City of Orange City will be conducting its monthly siren test on Friday, August 7.



**nights at the museum:
how wwll memories shaped dutch immigrants at**

The Dutch American Heritage Museum (DAHM) will welcome historian and author Dr. Richard Reitsma to present a public talk examining how memories of Nazi occupation shaped the lives of Dutch immigrants who came to North America after World War II on Tuesday, August 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The presentation builds on his participation in the 24th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS), held in 2025.



In his upcoming talk, Reitsma will reflect on insights from the AADAS conference and explore how wartime memories created a persistent but often unspoken “background noise” in immigrant households. He notes that the first generation rarely discussed their experiences—an idea central to his historical novel Forgetfulness.

Reitsma’s interest in Dutch history began during his studies at Calvin College and later led him and his wife Margie to spend nearly a decade living in the Netherlands, where he completed a PhD on the province of Overijssel. His career also includes serving as Library Director at Northwestern College in Orange City.

Now retired in Rock Rapids, Reitsma continues to research and write about Dutch history and immigration. The presentation is part of the museum’s popular Nights at the Museum series, which highlights regional history, Dutch immigration, and Sioux County storytelling. Additional upcoming programs include:

Sept. 29 — Bruce Mouw: “Taking Down John Gotti and the Gambino Crime Family” (Special Location will be in the Vogel Room at Northwestern College)

Oct. 20 — Ann Minnick: “Privy to the Past: What outhouse pits reveal about health, beauty and the ads that sold them.”

The event is free and open to the public and will be held at the museum, 120 Third St. SW. Doors open at 6 p.m., and seating is limited.



share your story vibrant.orangecityiowa.com/you/why-orange-city

Have you moved to Orange City in the past few years? We would love to hear why you chose our vibrant community to call home! Use the QR code or follow the link to share your story!



mayor and council members contact info

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**new online tools now
available for west lawn
cemetery**

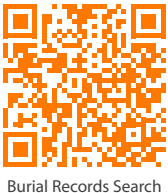
The City of Orange City is pleased to introduce new online cemetery software designed to make it easier for residents to access information and plan ahead at West Lawn Cemetery.

Residents can now view an interactive lot selector that displays available cemetery lots for purchase. This tool allows users to explore available spaces and submit an online request to purchase a lot. Submitting a request will notify City staff for review; availability is not guaranteed until the request has been confirmed. Those who prefer may also contact City staff directly for assistance.



Interactive Lot Selector

In addition, an online burial records search is now available. This tool allows users to search for records and view burial locations marked with a pin on a map, making it easier to locate gravesites when visiting the cemetery.



Burial Records Search

In the future, this system will also include a mobile app that will help visitors navigate directly to burial locations with step-by-step directions. These new tools are part of the City’s ongoing efforts to improve access to information and better serve our community.

