

what's

vibrant

orange city, iowa

help us help you! water conservation!

Although we have been very fortunate here in Orange City with no water restrictions to date, we have asked our larger users to help cut back the last year and a half during some tough times with our well levels. Even though we have not had any restrictions, it would be very helpful if residents would also help to conserve water the remainder of this summer and maybe always for mother nature's sake.

The reason we are bringing this up is the fact that during the week of July 8 - 15, 2013 we had 3 of our 9 main distribution wells develop problems. Two had shorted motors and have to be pulled, and one has a problem with the screen at the bottom of the well. Two of these wells are very critical to our supply and are also very deep. This creates a problem with getting them going again quickly. We have the one small well going again, but the other two deep wells will take longer. We hope to have one deep well done by July 31st and the other we do not know yet at this point. So if you could help us conserve as much as possible, we should not need to get into restrictions. At this time it is asked on a volunteer basis. Maybe you could shorten your lawn irrigation cycles or eliminate a day. Use your sump pump water to help water your lawn. We have also identified some other water conservation tips: taking shorter showers by one to two minutes, fix or shut-off dripping faucets, let your lawn grow longer in the dry weather. If you are interested in an entire list one can be found at:

http://www.ripuc.org/consumerinfo/Conservation_Water.pdf



Memorial Day rains

The City of Orange City would like to let you know what we have done and what we intend to do to help the next time we have a more than a 100 year rain event.

In the last fifteen years, the City has been relining sanitary sewer main lines and manholes. Again this summer we have already done the manhole rehab which helps keep groundwater from entering these structures and make them more structurally sound. We have a contractor lined up this fall to reline sanitary sewers with a membrane that cures in place. This membrane will make the pipe more structurally sound and keep water infiltration from entering these pipes. These two system upgrades help eliminate the need to dig up the entire street for replacement and reduce flow in heavy rainfall events.

We have been reviewing ways on how we could help to relieve water filled sanitary sewer main trunk lines during and after a storm. Extra pumps have been purchased and their placement has been determined, while other pumps are being evaluated. Even with this plan in place, we will never be able to eliminate problems, but we hope to help keep them to a minimum. No sanitary sewer system can ever be expected to be a storm water system.

With that in mind, we again want to inform you that it is against the law to have your sump pump water entering the sanitary sewer system from April 15 to October 15. The only time this can happen is during the winter months (October 15th – April 15th) that the council has set aside so that the streets do not get iced up. Following April 15th all sump pumps are to be discharged outside in your yard or street.



garbage fees rising

The City Council is currently going through the ordinance readings to increase garbage rates by \$.50 per month per customer. The first reading was on July 15 and the next two will occur in August. This increase comes as a result of a \$5.00 per ton increase to haulers implemented on July 1st. The major reasons for the increase are more requirements for monitoring the effect of the landfill on the environment, synthetic liners for each cell used to deposit waste, closing existing areas that are full, funding an assurance fund for post closure costs, and future construction projects. Our landfill remains a great value to our citizens and the Landfill Board remains committed to operating it in a responsible manner.



it's weed season again

When summer heat arrives and the rains become sparse, your lawn goes dormant. The grass doesn't grow much and mowing seems unnecessary. Unfortunately, weeds do not become dormant. They continue to grow and some lawns are not very attractive. Be a good neighbor and keep the weeds under control. The City has ordinances that regulate weeds and mowing, but we prefer that you take action before we need to contact you. Thanks for your help.

* City of OC Officials *

--- Council Members ---

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sign up for equal pay

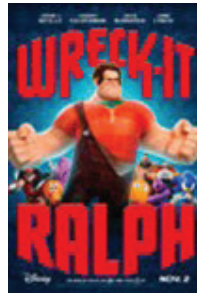
Are you tired of the swings in your utility bill from month to month? Equal pay is a free service that helps even out the fluctuations in utility bills from extremes due to winter heating and summer cooling expenses.

If you sign up for equal pay, OCMU customer service will add up your last 12 months of utility bills and divide the total into 12 equal payments. The amount you pay will stay the same from month to month. Accounts are reviewed periodically by OCMU to determine if the amount you pay monthly needs to be adjusted to match your actual usage. You'll continue to receive a paper statement with your actual usage so you can keep an eye on your energy consumption. To sign up for equal pay, call our staff at 712-707-4885 or send an email request to cityoc@orangecityiowa.com.



summer recreation

As summer continues to fly by, the Orange City Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank all of you for taking part in our recreation programs and the usage of the park system. We are really proud of the many different opportunities that we can offer. We hope you enjoyed playing and watching baseball and softball this summer at our new ball park east of our pool. We also just added a batting cage at our Vets Park ball fields; we hope you can improve your swing. Our recreation department served 1,254 participants in our 44 summer programs. On July 12th we had our annual summer rec. picnic, and there was a great turn out.



We hope you can come out on Wednesday, August 14th, to watch the great movie called "Wreck it Ralph". The start time will be at dusk. Please bring your kids and chairs to our downtown Windmill Park.

Puddle Jumper Trail 5th Addition

Work continues on the utility infrastructure for the Puddle Jumper Trail 5th Addition. The water and sewer lines are nearly all in place and storm sewer work is in progress. The next step will involve grading for the streets. The first street to be poured will be 14th Street going east from Quatro Composites, followed by Lincoln Place from 11th Street (near the hospital) south to 14th Street. Some of the lots along 14th Street and Lincoln Place will be available for construction in about a month. Puddle Jumper Trail will be occasionally blocked off while construction equipment crosses the trail. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by November 1st.

