

what's

vibrant

orange city, iowa

Puddle Jumper #5 Housing Addition is now open and lots are available for sale!

a home for your dreams

Located near the popular, beautiful Puddle Jumper Trail, these lots are:

- Family Friendly
- Ready to Build
- Affordable

Call Your Local Realtor



The City of Orange City is pleased to announce that the low cost residential lots in our Puddle Jumper 5th Addition are now available for sale to the public. This addition is directly south of Orange City Area Health System and Puddle Jumper Trail.

The City hopes to see a lot of activity in the Puddle Jumper #5 Addition next year and in the years to come. These lots sell for \$20,000 each. We have already sold the first lot and the construction will start yet this fall. We encourage any builder or family looking to build a new home to check these lots out! Contact any local real estate agent or go to www.orangecityiowa.com to find out more about this exciting opportunity.



get ready for the heating season: natural gas safety

As your natural gas supplier, we want you to know how to safely use natural gas in your home and to recognize hazards when they occur.

gas leaks

While natural gas is typically a safe and efficient fuel choice, it is important to recognize that it is a flammable gas that is easily ignited by nearby heat, sparks, or flames. Natural gas is colorless and odorless in its natural state. Orange City Municipal Utilities (OCMU) adds a distinctive “rotten egg” odor to help alert you to potential gas leaks.

If you are inside and suspect a gas leak, leave the home immediately without turning any lights on or off. If you are outside and detect a gas leak, move away from the area and stay upwind of the leak. If you suspect a leak anywhere, call OCMU’s emergency gas line at **707-5000** from a neighbor’s home or cell phone when you are safely out of the area. You can also call 911. Our crews will respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

carbon monoxide

Burning natural gas can produce toxic gases such as carbon monoxide. If appliances are maintained and used properly, the amount of carbon monoxide present is usually not hazardous.

If appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can result. You can’t see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels it can kill a person in minutes. Symptoms of mild exposure to CO poisoning include flu-like signs (no fever) such as nausea, headache, shortness of breath, and fatigue. Continued exposure leads to a severe throbbing headache with drowsiness, confusion, and a fast heart rate.

Carbon monoxide detectors are available to help alert you if levels rise in your home. Never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm! If it sounds, move to fresh air and call 911 and OCMU at **707-5000**. If your alarm does not sound, but you still suspect symptoms of poisoning, leave the home and call 911 and OCMU.

Carbon monoxide alarms are important, but an alarm is only added protection. The best thing you can do to protect your family is to have your appliances inspected every year by an expert. For more information, please call OCMU gas services at **707-5000**.

winter heating cost preview

As the weather cools down, we start to get customer questions about our projections for home heating costs. Heating costs are dependent upon two main factors: temperatures and the market price of natural gas.

While we can't predict the weather, we do forecast that the market price of gas that OCMU pays and passes through to customers will be higher this year than last year. This means that overall bills could be around 5% higher.

Keep in mind that our projections could change as quickly as the Iowa weather. We'll keep you updated as we move through the heating season.



keep your sidewalks clear

Property owners are encouraged to keep their walkways cleared this winter, especially when you are out of town. When removing snow, never push or blow snow from the property, sidewalk, or driveway into the street. Property owners are responsible for keeping their public sidewalks clear of snow and ice within 24 hours of accumulation. The City inspects uncleared sidewalks on a complaint basis, and property owners are notified of violations and given 24 hours to clear their sidewalks. If sidewalks remain uncleared upon re-inspection, the City will clear the snow and ice at the owner's expense. To report an uncleared sidewalk, please call 707-4885 and provide the address of the property.



The City of Orange City does not permit on-street parking between 2:00am-6:00am.

please keep meters clear

When the snow piles high, we know it can be a challenge to keep the driveway, sidewalks and stairs clear. But OCMU asks you to keep one other area free of snow and ice - your gas meter and the path to it. Heavy or hard-packed snow and ice on your gas meter may present a safety hazard. Heavy, deep snow and ice can limit ventilation and affect the regulator on your gas meter.

Please use these guidelines for helping OCMU staff access and accurately read and service your home's meter:

- Keep meters easy to reach. OCMU's meter readers need access each month and quick access in an emergency can be critical for your safety.
- Remove snow and ice from your meter; never let it get completely covered. Do not shovel snow up against your meter.
- NEVER kick or hit the gas meter or its piping to break away snow or ice. Use a broom to gently sweep it away.



Sinterklaas Day

Don't miss Sinterklaas Day on December 7! Join us at the Windmill Park downtown Orange City at 3 PM where we will welcome Sinterklaas and his faithful helper Piet. Join in the parade to the town hall followed by a puppet show, activities for Pre-K to 4th graders, and the announcement of the winners of the coloring contest. Sinterklaas and Piet can't wait to see you!



The City Offices will be closed on November 28 and 29. For non-emergencies during that time, the OC Police Department may be contacted at 707-4251. For OC utility emergencies, please call 707-5000.

