

january 2021

what's

# vibrant

orange city, iowa

## friends of the festival foundation continues

As 2020 draws to a close and preparations for the 2021 Tulip Festival are well underway, we'd like to ask for your continued support of the Friends of the Festival Foundation.

In 2021, we hope to fund the following important ventures through the Friends of the Festival Foundation:

- *with our 80th Tulip Festival in May 2021, we are building a new float and doing some much needed restoration to a number of floats in our line up;*
- *increasing the tulip beds that our visitors can view and stroll through;*
- *improving and adding ticket kiosks for visitors to use during the festival.*

Being a Friend of the Festival with a minimum contribution of \$100, you will receive early access to purchase your tickets to next year's Night Show starting December 1, 2020. Regular ticket sales begin on January 15, 2021. A special window cling is given to businesses for entrance doors as well as a special plaque for first-time donors. We also recognize all donors at our annual wrap-up meeting of volunteers.

Please consider making a tax-deductible, year-end gift to the Friends of the Festival Foundation in support of these projects. Your contribution enables us to share our thriving Dutch heritage with visitors and community members.

**Donate online at:**

[www.octulipfestival.com/  
get-involved/giving/](http://www.octulipfestival.com/get-involved/giving/)

**Deliver or mail to:**

Tulip Festival Office  
509 8th Street SE  
Orange City, Iowa 51041

(Please make checks payable to:  
Friends of the Festival Foundation)

ORANGE CITY  
**TULIP**  
FESTIVAL

FRIENDS  
OF THE  
FESTIVAL  
FOUNDATION



## grants & low interest loans available to assist low & moderate income homeowners with home repairs

The Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund, Inc. (NWIRHTF) provides financial assistance to low and moderate income homeowners in making the necessary repairs to their homes. The financial assistance will be in the form of both grants and grants/low-interest loans.

NWIRHTF is a non-profit housing organization that promotes the preservation of affordable housing in Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, Osceola, O'Brien, and Sioux counties. Financial assistance is limited to only households at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income and at least 30% of the funding will be set aside to benefit extremely low-income households.

Financial assistance is granted for basic structural repairs such as roofs, windows, siding, HVAC, weatherization, etc. Applications are available by contacting Kristin Larsen at 712-262-7225 Ext. 139 or [Kristin.larsen@nwipdc.org](mailto:Kristin.larsen@nwipdc.org)

For more information on how to qualify: [orangecityiowa.com/home-repair-grants-and-low-interest-loans-available/](http://orangecityiowa.com/home-repair-grants-and-low-interest-loans-available/)

## keep your sidewalks clear

Orange City 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 10 hours of accumulation. The City inspects uncleared sidewalks on a complaint basis, and if sidewalks remain uncleared upon inspection, the City will clear the snow and ice at the owner's expense.

To report an uncleared sidewalk, please contact City Hall at 707-4885 and provide the address of the property.

## please keep meters clear

When the snow piles high, we know it can be a challenge to keep the driveway, sidewalks, and stairs clear. 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.*

ATTENTION  
**BILLPAYUSERS!**

**bank bill payment**

Are you one of the many customers who use Bank Bill Pay to make your utility payment?

Have you moved since starting to use Bank Bill Pay? Or are you paying more than one utility account with Bank Bill Pay?

With this option becoming more popular amongst our customers, it is extremely important that the correct information is on the check. We ask that if you use Bank Bill Pay, to please verify your account number(s), address, and any other important information before you authorize the payment. This will be very helpful to make sure that the monies we receive will be applied to the correct utility account.

Thank you for updating your information and if you have any questions, please feel free to call the City Office at 707-4885.

As always, we appreciate all your timely payments!

**SEASONAL**

**NO PARKING**

**OCT. 15 - APRIL 1**

**2:00 AM TO 6:00 AM**

Be advised! From Oct. 15 - April 1, the City of Orange City does not permit on-street parking between 2:00 am – 6:00 am. Snow plows will be heading your way before we know it.



**The City Offices will be closed on December 25 and January 1**  
For non-emergencies during that time, the OC Police Department may be contacted at 707-4251  
For OC utility emergencies, please call 707-5000



**finding solutions for growing water demands**

While the memories of the summer of 2020 fade into the past, it is hard to forget the lack of rain and sustained drought over these months. This dry weather proved to be difficult for the City water system to keep up with the increased demand of summer consumption and our growing community. Fortunately, City staff was able to meet our daily demands by maximizing the wellfields, treatment plant, and storage facilities. Many customers assisted by reducing their irrigation usage.

This summer identified areas for improvement in our water system, and City staff and administration have since been working with a consulting engineer to determine solutions to meet the growing water demands of our community. This study has shown that the City’s supply (wells) and storage (water tower) should both be expanded to increase capacity. As we work to finalize the details of how to provide additional supply and storage, we must also consider how to fund these significant improvements. At the last few City council meetings, the council has considered a rate study performed by an outside agency. This study proposes a 20% rate increase for 2021 and a 15% increase for 2022 to provide the necessary funds to meet the capital improvement needs and to keep up with the increasing expenses in our water utility. The rate adjustments also include a summer usage rate that is slightly higher than winter water use. The last rate increase occurred in 2014. As the council considers this rate increase over the coming weeks, we welcome any feedback or questions you might have by calling the City Office at 707-4885.

# RELIABLE ENERGY

ALWAYS IN THE FORECAST

As weather changes, you can count on our crews to be there when you need us. You may think a bit more about where your power comes from this time of year, but we’re working year round to provide:

Power that is affordable and dependable – there when you need us	Community owned and controlled – local people making community a top priority	Not-for-profit structure that answers to customers, and reinvests in the system	Environmentally conscious – and always striving for efficiency

PROVIDING POWER IS OUR SERVICE.  
EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY IS OUR MISSION.

