

MAYOR'S UPDATE

January, 2013

Welcome to the Mayor's Update

The Mayor's Update is an attempt, on a monthly basis, to better inform Orange City's citizens and others on the progress and activities occurring within the community. City Council decisions, retail and commercial development progress, business activities and other actions affecting the community are included in a brief and, hopefully, informative manner.

Happy New Year

It is a privilege, on behalf of the City Council, to wish the citizens of Orange City a Happy New Year and to thank each of you for making Orange City a special community.

Housing Progress - Puddle Jumper #5

As mentioned in an earlier Mayor's Update, plans continue to progress for the next Puddle Jumper housing addition - Puddle Jumper Addition #5. The new addition will be located adjacent to the Puddle Jumper Trail, directly south of the Orange City Area Health System. The property consists of approximately 44.5 acres and is included in a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District for the purposes of encouraging affordable housing opportunities. The housing addition will be accessed by extending 14th Street SE from the west and Lincoln Place SE from the north. Lincoln Place SE will cross the Puddle Jumper Trail. Appropriate signage and designs for crossing the trail will provide the safety measures necessary for trail users.

Present planning includes the following housing considerations:

1. Offering lots for purchase that meet the affordable housing requirements of approximately 1250 sq. ft. homes. Lot prices have been set at \$15,000.
2. A private developer has purchased a 12-acre plot along the trail for the purpose of constructing larger homes. Infrastructure will be installed by August 1, 2013.
3. Partnering with a developer to construct lower income rental units (Federal Tax Credit Housing) - 3 and 4 bedroom homes. A total of 14 single-family dwellings are being considered that includes 3 duplexes. The application for the Federal Tax Credit funding was submitted in December, and the City should receive the status of the application in March, 2013. If the application is approved, construction would begin this summer, 2013.

Infrastructure installation for PJ#5 is scheduled for the spring, 2013.

Ball Fields

Installation of a t-ball complex, just east of the swimming pool, is underway. Two t-ball fields will be installed including backstop and baseline fencing. In addition, a practice infield and backstop will also be part of the complex.

Infield grading is complete, the fence posts are installed for each of the t-ball diamonds, drainage tiling has occurred and an equipment building is being constructed.

Upgrades to the ball fields at Vets Park are also a part of this project. Yellow capping has been installed on the fences, white rock has been applied under the bleachers, a batting cage will be installed, and improvements to the bleachers are planned.

Funding for the project includes City funding, funds from the Community Betterment Committee, support from two grants, and a community fund raising effort.

Completion of the project will likely be the spring and summer of 2013.

AdvancePierre Foods Facility

AdvancePierre Foods ended all production the end of December. The facility, owned by AdvancePierre Foods, is being marketed to other food processing firms throughout the country. City representatives are aggressively working with interested entities, and, hopefully, some positive news will be received in the next couple of months.

Obviously, many employees have been impacted by this closing, and the community and the entire region surrounding Orange City are affected as well.

Bomgaars Relocation

Construction on the Orange City Bomgaars store is scheduled to begin in the spring, 2013. The location of the new site will be at the corner of Albany Place SE and 14th Street SE across from Chase Lumber Company.

Considerable site work, at the new location, was completed this fall in preparation for an early construction timeline in the spring. Construction, hopefully, will be completed in early fall, 2013.

Significant efforts are also in progress to encourage a new retail business or businesses to occupy the present Bomgaars building on Central Avenue. These efforts are crucial to the efforts of supporting a vibrant downtown business community.

Once again, thank you, citizens of Orange City, for making our community a special place to live, work, worship, and play.

Les Douma
Mayor, Orange City