

Welcome to the Mayor's Update March, 2013

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.

AdvancePierre Foods Facility

As you are well aware, AdvancePierre Foods ended all production at the end of December. The facility, owned by AdvancePierre Foods, continues to be marketed to other food processing firms throughout the country. City representatives continue to cooperate with interested entities.

Hopefully, news regarding the sale of the facility to another entity may materialize in the next month or so.

Housing Progress - Puddle Jumper #5

At the February 18th City Council meeting, the Council approved the plat provisions 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, available July 1, 2013, that address the affordable housing requirements with homes of 1450 sq. ft. or less to be constructed.
2. For the purpose of building larger homes, a private developer has purchased a 12-acre plot along the trail. Infrastructure for this portion of the development is to 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 mid-March, 2013. If the application is approved, construction would begin later this Summer, 2013.

Bids for infrastructure installation for the City portion of the addition will be received by March 1st and approved by the City Council on March 18th. Actual installation is scheduled for the spring, 2013.

On March 5, a meeting is scheduled at the City Hall @ 11:00 am for home builders, subcontractors, realtors, and home furnishing retailers to further explain the development opportunities in the PJ #5 Addition.

Dunlop Wildlife Area

Plans to further develop the Dunlop Wildlife Area continues. A public viewing evening, that provided an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the preliminary plans for the area, including the Alton Highway 10 Park, was held on Feb. 19 with approximately 35 people in attendance. This information will be incorporated into the plans by the Neppel Architecture firm as they further refine the plans for the area. Hopefully, these revised plans will be available within the month.

City Highway Signage

The City is in the final planning stages for installing new city signs to the east and west of the community on Highway 10. Plans call for the signs to be constructed this summer.

Police Department Changes

Police Chief Dann DeVries announced his retirement effective June 1st, 2013. As a result, the City Council approved the appointment of Jim Pottebaum, presently serving in the role of Investigator on the Department, as the new Chief of Police for the Orange City Police Dept. Police Officer Duane Hulstein has been appointed to the role of Investigator replacing Jim Pottebaum, and these changes will occur mid-April to facilitate a smooth transition.

The City will be advertising for a new officer to replace Duane Hulstein.

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