

MAYOR'S UPDATE

November, 2012

Welcome to the Mayor's Update

The Mayor's Update will be 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 will be included in a brief and, hopefully, informative manner.

Welcome to the first Mayor's Update!

Performing Arts Center

Unity Christian High School representatives provided a tour of the new 750-seat Performing Arts Center to several business leaders on November 8, 2012. Construction is ahead of schedule and should be completed when the school year begins next fall, 2013. This facility, a partnership between the City and Unity Christian High School, will provide a most suitable venue for the Tulip Festival production and other special City events. The first Tulip Festival Night Show scheduled for the Performing Arts Center will be May, 2014.

The City of Orange City pledged \$750,000 to assist in funding the project.

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. Construction, hopefully, will be completed in early fall, 2013.

Significant efforts are also underway to encourage new retail businesses to occupy the present Bomgaars building on Central Avenue. These efforts are necessary and urgent in order to support a vibrant downtown business community.

Prairie Ridge Care Center

Construction is well underway. The 81,000 sq. ft. structure includes 4 cottages, 83 beds, and is located immediately west of the Landsmeer Retirement Campus. This project, identified as *Fulfilling the Promise*, will continue OCAHS's efforts of providing quality health care for all ages. A September, 2013, completion date has been set.

The City of Orange City pledged \$700,000 to support funding the facility, and, in addition, the City is providing approximately \$100,000 of infrastructure services.

Learning Commons on Northwestern's Campus

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place this spring, April 16, for the new Learning Commons. Construction is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2013. The facility, as most of you are aware, is located just west of Christ Chapel. The 58,000 sq. ft. building is a \$14 million dollar facility that will be the home to the library, the academic support center, the writing center, the multimedia center and computer help desk. A coffee shop is also included on the main level.

The City of Orange City is pleased to partner with Northwestern College in providing infrastructure needs and the additional support as necessary.

Quatro Composites Expansion

Groundbreaking ceremonies to celebrate the expansion of Quatro Composites were held on October 29th. The ceremony not only recognized facility expansion but the promise of 99 new jobs as well. The City looks forward to supporting the efforts of Quatro Composites and appreciates their presence in the Industrie Centrum and Orange City.

AdvancePierre Foods Facility

AdvancePierre Foods is scheduled to end all production the last week of December. The facility, owned by AdvancePierre Foods, will close and the building is being marketed to other food processing firms throughout the country. City representatives are aggressively working with interested entities. Obviously, many employees have been impacted by this closing, and the community and the entire region surrounding Orange City will be negatively affected as well.

Puddle Jumper #5

City officials and the City Council continue to develop plans for the next Puddle Jumper housing addition. 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.
2. Encouraging a private developer to purchase a 10 acre plot along the trail for the purpose of constructing larger homes.
3. Partnering with a developer to construct lower income rental units - 3 and 4 bedroom homes. A total of 14 single-family dwellings are being considered and would include 3 duplexes.

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

Garbage Containers

At the City Council meeting on November 5, 2012, the City Council approved the 2nd reading of an ordinance requiring the use of 60 gallon totes for residential garbage collection. Residential customers will be provided with a tote (or totes) from the City's contracted garbage hauler.

The 3rd and final reading of the Container Ordinance is scheduled for the regular City Council meeting on the 19th.

City Highway Signage

The City is in the preliminary planning stages for designing new City signs to the east and west of the community on Highway 10. Designs are being developed including construction costs and other community considerations.

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.

Upgrades to the ball fields at Vets Park are also included in this project. 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 early spring, 2013.

Daycare Facilities

Enrollment at the Orange City Daycare is filled to capacity at the present time. The Daycare Board is requesting the City Council to consider an expansion to the facilities. Later in November, this item will be part of the citywide planning session that annually occurs involving City representatives and Council members.

Trail System

Collaborative planning between the communities of Orange City and Alton are focusing on improving and expanding existing trail areas. Improvements to the Dunlop Wildlife Area, connecting the area with the Highway 10 Park at the Alton Pond, and expanding trails around the Dunlop Wildlife Area are being considered. In the near future a comprehensive plan will be developed in cooperation with the County Supervisors and the County Conservation Board.

Career Academies

The MOC-Floyd Valley CSD recently purchased the Family Dollar building on Highway 10. The School District's future plans for the building include relocating the Superintendent's Office from its present location and partnering with NCC to utilize the remaining portion of the building for career academy offerings. High school students from MOC-Floyd Valley and Unity Christian will enroll in the academies.

The opportunities for the students involved will be special allowing students to expand their high school programs. Hopefully, the educational offerings will be available in the fall, 2013.

Thank you, citizens of Orange City, for making our community a special place to live, worship, and play.

Les Douma

Mayor, Orange City