

april 2013

what's

vibrant

orange city, iowa

what a show

Being just ten months old, the Prairie Winds Event Center (PWEC) is perusing new ventures as it continues to host larger and a growing variety of events. Last month, the PWEC hosted a private trade show for STAPLES Promotional Products (SPP) located in Overland Park, KS. SPP had invited close to 100 suppliers and vendors to display their products for SPP buyers and designers. Some vendors traveled as far away as Los Angeles, CA to attend the trade show. Approximately 200+ people visited the two-day event.



According to Doc Van Leeuwen, PWEC General Manager, "A combined effort was made to provide the necessary accommodations, catered meals, and the shipping of vendor displays and materials. We were extremely pleased with the positive comments we received during the event and how impressed our guests were with the facility and our community. I want to personally thank all of the team that helped make this event a success. It was a pleasure to work with STAPLES Promotional Products and their staff."

The PWEC is already looking forward to next year's event. For more information or to make event reservations, please contact Doc at 707-5900 or Events@orangecityiowa.com. *

park & rec news

The spring soccer season begins April 15th for boys and girls 5-14 yrs. of age. Registration is now open and available on-line @ www.orangecityiowa.com/parks-recreation. Practice and game schedules can be found there as well. The summer rec brochure will be distributed mid-April to area schools and available at City Hall at 125 Central Ave. SE. The new T-Ball fields located at the Pool Park will be finished shortly. A removable outfield fence will be installed along with other related equipment. The MOC/FV Industrial Arts Dept. is also constructing an equipment storage shed that will be finished shortly. The ball diamonds located at Vets Park will receive a new batting cage. Plus, the spectator bleachers will be replaced with new ones that are more convenient and provide greater safety features. *



still storing that old TV & computer

The Cities of OC & Alton are again co-sponsoring a **free** recycling program that will accept TV's, computer monitors, CPU's, keyboards and other electronic equipment, and smaller batteries. Sorry, car batteries are not allowed. Go to www.recycletronics.com and click on consumer recycling for a complete list. Items can be dropped off at the Alton City Hall @ 905 3rd Ave. on Friday, April 26th, from 4-7 pm and Sat, April 27th, from 9 -12 noon. *



a vibrant place to live

Community development is often compared to a number of slices in a pie. Those slices have been labeled to represent residents, education, healthcare, employment, retail businesses, quality of life, and individual wellness/safety. You can't necessarily say that one is more important than the other. However, over the long term, all slices of that pie much stay in portion to each other if the pie (the community) is to experience long term growth.



One of those slices that has received a lot of attention lately is the "residents" slice. Population growth is critical to supporting school enrollments, retail sales in local businesses, and providing a workforce for our expanding industries. This past year, STAPLES Promotional Products, Quatro Composites, CIVCO, the Pizza Ranch Support Center, and many others have experienced growth opportunities within their respective markets. This past January, Sioux County's unemployment rate totaled 5.6% compared to the state's 5.0% and the national rate of 7.9%. In order to meet those workforce needs, the City has launched several initiatives. This past September, the City introduced a 1st time home owners program that provides a maximum \$1,000 stipend. To date, 12 individuals and/or families have utilized the program. One OC Realtor commented, "It's a great program. My buyers really appreciate it. People have choices and this program is definitely impactful and very worthwhile as we work to relocate people to Orange City". For OC to continue as a vibrant community, population growth as a result of welcoming new people as home owners and retaining our high school and our college graduates, will remain vitally important. Stay tuned! *

it's time to shine

OC's Annual Spring Clean-Up, sponsored by the City of OC and OC Sanitation, will be held April 22-27. **OC residents must purchase a \$10 lawn flag** (one for each household) from the City Office (125 Central Ave. SE) or OC Sanitation (710 Ohio St. SW). Sanitation crews will only remove those items that have a special lawn flag displayed nearby. All disposed items must be placed at your usual pickup site on your regular garbage pickup day. Allowable items: garage and home items, furniture/wood stuffs and mattresses/carpets. Non-allowable items: all appliances/white goods, building-remodeling materials, wood chips, auto parts (tires, batteries, etc.), concrete, steel/iron, yard waste, tree branches, oil, yard chemicals, or wet paints. Special pickup arrangements may be available for these items with OC Sanitations (737-2645). With the Tulip Festival just around the corner, we want OC to shine "spic & span" for our visiting guests. *



will you join with us

Last year we launched a campaign to revitalize the OC21 Foundation. Since its inception in 1988, the foundation has invested nearly \$400,000 in a variety of projects to enhance the quality of life in Orange City. Last year's campaign resulted in over \$20,000 of additional funds for the foundation. With this increased support, we have been able to assist with the following projects; \$7,500 to the Prairie Winds Event Center, \$5,000 to the new recreation ball fields at the pool park, \$6,000 to the OC Betterment Fund.

We would ask that you consider joining the nearly 200 households that are supporting the Foundation through the monthly utility check-off or with an annual donation. Your investment in Orange City will continue to provide new opportunities for all of us to enjoy. Enclosed is a pledge card you may use to respond.

Thanks again for your support of the OC21 Foundation. *

winter parking ends

The end of winter also means the end of the seasonal "No Parking" ordinance as of April 1st. Residents and visitors will once again be allowed to park vehicles overnight where permitted on public streets. We thank OC residents for their cooperation this past winter that enabled City Street Dept. personnel to complete their tasks of clearing streets and snow removal in a timely manner. We hope to have met your expectations and would appreciate any comments/suggestions to improve our service. *



have HHM in your house

OC and Alton residents will have an opportunity to safely discard those household hazardous materials (HHM). On Wednesday, May 1st, the Cities of OC and Alton and the NW IA Area Landfill will co-

-sponsor a HHM Recycling event from 4 – 7 pm in the downtown Windmill Park next to the Dutch band shell. Accepted items are degreaser, waxes/polishes, solvents, lacquers/thinners, caustic cleaners, stain removers, pesticides/herbicides, and oil based paints. Only latex paints will be assessed a \$1/gal. fee. Go to www.nwialandfill.com/hhm for a complete list of acceptable/unacceptable items. *

when the sirens blow

When you hear the warning sirens, do you know what it means? As part of the weather alert system, the OC Fire Dept. dispatches storm observers when severe weather threatens our immediate area. When funnel clouds, suspicious cloud rotations, or high velocity wind speeds are detected, the Sioux County Sheriff Dept. is instructed to activate the OC sirens. A 3-minute long warning is sounded. This means OC residents should seek immediate shelter and turn to public TV and radio stations for current information. Please note that the sirens are not re-activated to give an "ALL CLEAR" notice. Remember, a little precaution can be priceless! *



want to be published

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a book about Orange City should be priceless. With a little help from generous townspeople, the book surely will be. Northwestern College's Dr. Doug Anderson is looking for old and newer photographs that might be used in an Orange City pictorial history to be published by Arcadia Publishing. Photographs of 1930s-1990s vintage showing Orange City street scenes, landmarks, or other attractions are especially needed.

The importance of family collections cannot be overemphasized. Vintage photographs become increasingly fragile and by scanning and reproducing them in a book, they become available for all to see. Anyone having photographs to be considered for this publication may contact Doug Anderson at firth@nwciova.edu or 707-7054. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated! *

