

what's

vibrant

orange city, iowa



(Left to right: Louis Vander Velde, Shane Schwarz, Ed De Jong)

spotlight series: meet the gas department

Each month, we highlight one of our City departments and their important work for our community. This March, we're featuring the Gas Department—the team that keeps our homes warm, our businesses running, and our community safe!

Led by Ed De Jong, who has worked in the industry for 14 years and served as Gas Department Supervisor for the past 9, this team maintains over 100 miles of gas pipeline throughout Orange City. Their work includes installing new mains and services, conducting leak surveys and inspections, handling locates, and ensuring our gas infrastructure operates safely and efficiently.

A typical day for the team includes daily locates, service calls to homes and businesses, routine maintenance, and assisting other City departments as needed. No two days are the same, but their dedication to safety and reliability never changes.

For Ed, the most rewarding part of the job is helping make Orange City a great place to live. A lifelong resident, he values the strong sense of community and the care people have for their town. He and his wife, Susan, have four children and three grandchildren, and in his free time, he enjoys camping with his family.

Shane Schwarz has worked for the Gas Department for the past 9 years. He enjoys the daily variety and the detailed work of caring for the gas systems. He lives in Orange City with his wife, Lisa, and their children, Luke, Jenna, and Blake. They enjoy living and working alongside their friends and neighbors in our community! When he finds free time, he enjoys spending it outside, hunting, fishing, and attending sporting events.

Louis Vander Velde is the most recent addition to the team. He has worked with the Gas Department for the past 6 months and greatly enjoys the team he serves alongside. He lives in Orange City with his wife, Emily, and their two boys, Wyatt and Jackson. On the weekends they enjoy the businesses in downtown Orange City and time at the park.

Next time you turn on the heat or cook a meal, take a moment to appreciate the Gas Department's hard work behind the scenes!

free e-recycling date set - program requires tag

The Cities of Orange City & Alton are co-sponsoring a free e-recycling program on May 9 & 10, 2025, in Alton, Iowa.

All citizens of Orange City and Alton who would like to utilize the e-recycling program will need to go to the City Office to pick up a free tag. You will need one tag regardless of the number of items. If you do not have a tag, you will be asked to provide identification.

The following items are accepted:

- Computer monitors
- Printers and mouse(s)
- CPU's
- Smaller batteries
- Keyboards
- TV's

Items can be dropped off at Alton City Hall, 905 3rd Avenue, on Friday, May 9, 4:00-7:00 pm and Saturday, May 10, 9:00 am -12:00 pm.



regional art exhibit 2025

The 2025 Regional Art Exhibition showcases various works by regional artists from Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota from April 5 – May 3 at the NWC DeWitt Theatre Arts Building. Cash prizes will be awarded to 'Best in Show' and 'Honorable Mention' at the closing reception on May 3, 2025.

The show and reception is free to the public. Viewing hours are Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 10 pm.

The show runs in conjunction with the NWC Theatre show 'An Enemy of the People'. Tickets for the show can be purchased at the NWC Box office online or call 712-707-7096.

celebrate national library week april 7-12

What brings people to the library? Everything! From books and digital resources to job assistance and creative programs, libraries are vital to thriving communities. National Library Week is a time to celebrate the many ways libraries connect people, inspire imagination, and support lifelong learning.

Stop by each day to see what's happening—there may even be cookies! Whether you're a longtime patron or it's been a while since your last visit, now is the perfect time to rediscover all the library has to offer. Enjoy unique programs, free Wi-Fi, study rooms, tech help, and a diverse collection of books, movies, magazines, puzzles, and games.



summer rec registration opens may 1

As the weather starts to warm up, your Orange City Rec. Department is busy organizing the 2025 summer rec programs, with a goal of having program information available online in early April.

Some programs are limited, so look for the program descriptions to become available in early April at: orangecityiowa.com/activities/rec-programs/ and view the many different options that will be offered.

Online registration opens Thursday, May 1, at 8:00 am. Can't wait to see you all out there this summer! Noah Minnick - Orange City Recreation Department.

summer employment opportunity

The Cities of Orange City and Alton will be looking to hire Lifeguards for the 2025 pool season. Applications are due April 18. (after April 18 will be by discretion only) Applications can be downloaded at:

orangecityiowa.com/city/employment-volunteer-opportunities

Letters will be sent out April 25.

For more information, call 707-4885 (ask for Jaaron) or email parkrecasst@orangecityiowa.com

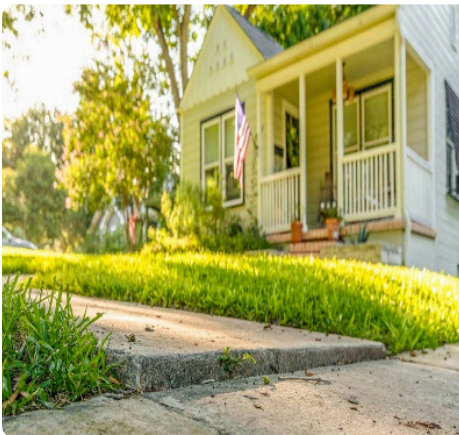


city council identifies sidewalk repair as important goal

The Orange City Council has identified the repair, reconstruction, and new construction of sidewalks in the City as an important goal and will create a more pedestrian-friendly "walkable" community. The Council has allocated \$20,000 for property owners to aid in the repair, replacement, or construction of sidewalks pursuant to the grant program terms.

Reimbursement for a new sidewalk or sidewalk repair in the city right-of-way will be determined by the yearly concrete rate on July 1 of each year. Square foot reimbursements for repairs or new sidewalks will be \$3.75/square foot up to \$1,000 per project and \$3.00/square foot for mud jacking a sidewalk up to \$1,000 per project for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Applications will be available soon. Watch for more information in next month's Vibrant Newsletter.



mobile museum will visit the dutch american heritage museum

The State Historical Society of Iowa's "History on the Move" mobile museum will visit the Dutch American Heritage Museum on April 26, 2025. The public is invited to take free self-guided tours of the new 300-square-foot exhibition called "Civics in Action." The exhibition shares stories from Iowa's past with an eclectic array of artifacts from the State Historical Museum of Iowa's permanent collection. The museum will be open from 10 am to 4 pm for King's Day.



día de los niños, día de los libros

(Day of Children/Day of Books)

Día de Los Niños/Día de Los Libros (Day of Children/Day of Books) is an event libraries across the United States celebrate close to the Mexican holiday El Día del Niño (Day of the Child), which is on April 30. Día celebrates literacy and the cultures of children all around the world. Celebrate with us at the library in a bilingual open house event on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. We will play lotería, do crafts, and learn about different countries of the world. Walk away with a free book!

