



April 2009

City of Orland, California

Working for a better Community

Let Us Not Repeat June 2008

As we approach the fire season, the Fire and Public Works Departments would like to remind citizens of Orland that year-round maintenance of their property is very important. Fire is an acknowledged and constant danger, and reducing the fuel load around you and along your property boundaries lessens that danger. Year-round maintenance of your landscaping, vegetation, and combustible accumulations makes a significant contribution to your fire safety and the safety of others. Providing a "defensible space" gives firefighters a chance to succeed.

Imagine Orland has a fire that started through heavy brush or woods and is moving toward wood-roofed, wood-sided structures. (*We don't need a repeat of last year (June 2008)*) The fire is pushed by strong winds and burning embers are starting new small fires well in advance of the main fire front. Because property owners have allowed vegetation in the area to surround the back of their structures, coming within 10 feet in many places, there is insufficient space within which to defend the structure safely and the firefighter has little chance to succeed.

In addition to providing the fire department a realistic chance to save structures, defensible space provides other positive benefits. If a fire department's resources become stretched thin by an interface fire (with many critical fire problems and not enough fire units), then the structure with defensible space has a chance to survive on its own. The property's defensible space also protects uninhabited areas from fires that begin in structures. A fire can generally be contained within the clearance between the structure and vegetation. Defensible space is a primary solution to the interface fire problem.

The three primary benefits of defensible space include:

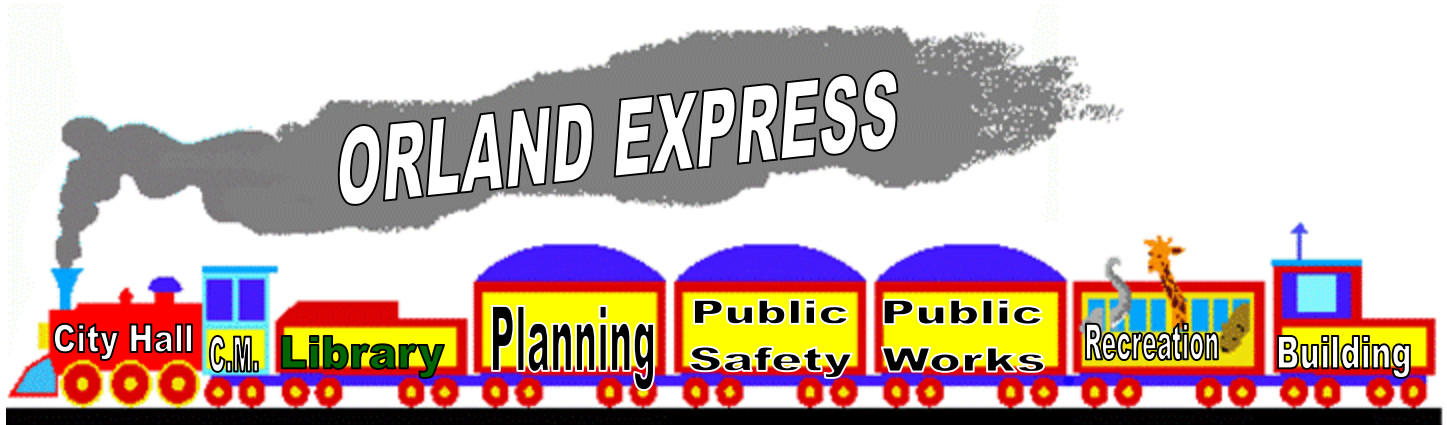
- Opportunity for the fire department to succeed;
- Opportunity for structures to survive a common boundary fire on its own; and
- Opportunity to stop fire spreading from structures to vegetation.

The preferred method of abatement is either by mowing or disking. Burning is not allowed within the City limits. If you have any questions regarding weed abatement please call the Public Works Office at 530 865-1610. (Refer to OMC Chapters 14.05.110.H&J (definitions) and 14.06 (abatement procedures))

Any building or structure or any portion thereof, including any dwelling unit, guest room, or suite of rooms, or the premises on which the same is located, in which there exists any of the conditions listed in OMC14.05.110 to an extent that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or the occupants thereof shall be deemed and is hereby declared to be a substandard building and a public nuisance. As we enter a time in Orland where we have hot dry summers, we should look around at our property(ies) and determine if weeds and rubbish are accumulating. By allowing weeds and rubbish to build up you are creating an eyesore as well as a hazardous situation in your community. Property owners should be aware that illegal dumping is a misdemeanor and a violation of the California Vehicle Code.

Spring Green Waste Clean-up April 13-19

Time for the Spring Green Waste Pick-up! You can start putting out your piles of green waste April 13 but no later than April 19. The Public Works crew will begin pick-up April 20 until they have covered the whole town. Remember, no green waste is to be set out before April 13 or after April 19! Read your latest water bill for more specific information. You may also call Public Works (530) 865-1610.



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Best Of The West Expo

The City of Orland will again be participating in this year's Best of the West Expo which takes place Saturday April 4, 2009 at the Glenn County Fairgrounds. The City will set up a booth featuring items of interest from all departments of the City. A slide show will highlight recent developments of activities that have taken place throughout the City this past year.

Please stop by our "Orland Arch" to ask questions or just say "hi" to our Mayor Bruce Roundy, Vice Mayor Paul Barr and Councilmember's Reggie Olney, Jim Paschall and Wade Elliott. New City Manager Paul Poczobut will also be there to meet the citizens of our community.

Recreation Department Report

The Grand Opening of the new Recreation Center was a big success. There was an estimated 200 people who attended the Grand Opening. The winner of the Chico Outlaw tickets was Ray Gollnick. A special thanks goes out to the community, Recreation Commission, Orland Volunteer Fire Department, City Staff and the Orland Public Works Department for all the help and support during the building of the Recreation Center and the Grand Opening.

The Adult Flag Football league ended and Team Domingo went undefeated and won the Championship. This is the third year we had the program and this is the first team to go undefeated and win the playoffs. Congratulations Team Domingo.

The Adult Basketball league is still running with Team Testerman still in first place. The league plays Monday and Wednesday Nights. There are ten teams in this league with some good competition.

T-Ball started last week (March 21st) and there are six teams of thirteen children that play each Saturday morning. Games start at 9:00 am and 10:00 am. All games are played at Spence Park next to the Orland High School. The league will run until May 16th with a bye April 11th.

Open Gym Volleyball and the Cardio Kickboxing Aerobic Class started in the Recreation Center this week. The Aerobic Class runs Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$25 per month. Open Gym Volleyball is every Sunday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and the cost is only \$1 per person per day.

The Recreation Department would also like to let the community know that all participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult during all recreation programs unless cleared by the Recreation Director.

Some things to look forward to in the Recreation Department would be Adult Volleyball, Adult Coed Softball, Men's Fast Pitch Softball, Men's Slow Pitch Softball and all the Summer Camps.

For any information regarding any recreation activities or if you have any ideas for new programs, please feel free to call or email the Recreation Department. You can find all schedules, forms, or information about the Recreation Department on the City website. www.cityoforland.com



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Public Works (Working for you)

The Public Works crew spent most of February and part of March working on the State Route 32 entrance into the City. Thanks to funding from CalTrans, trees have been purchased and planted; stamped concrete has been installed. In designing the State Route 32 entrance, thought went into aesthetics and ease of maintenance. The one grassy area of the project will be added to the 53± acres of parks and landscaping islands the Public Works Parks Department is in charge of. Traffic counts have determined approximately 24,000 daily vehicles pass through this area; that is a lot of people to impress with clean streets and immaculate greenways.

In the March issue we mentioned the need to conserve water due to a minimal rainy season. While we touched on what to do inside your home, outdoor water conservation is just as important. Some things to consider:

- Never cut more than one-third of the height of your grass. (Taller grass cools the soil, encourages deep roots, and reduces stress.) If you mow your grass too short, root growth slows down, making the grass more susceptible to heat and drought.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the earth and encourage growth.
- Keep weeds under control by weeding early in the year and consistently throughout the growing season. Weeds steal nutrients and water from your grass and other plants.
- Make sure your soil is healthy by checking that it has the proper balance of plant nutrients and pH. Contact your cooperative extension (865-1107) or nurseries in your area for soil testing services.
- Avoid heavy pruning. Pruning stimulates growth, so plants require more water. Trees and shrubs should be pruned in the dormant (winter) season before the weather gets hot and dry.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainfall and runoff from downspouts. Use the rainwater to water container plants and gardens. Make sure your rain barrel has a good, well-fitted screen so it will not harbor mosquito larvae.
- Morning is the best time to water, because watering in the evening can invite fungus to grow on your plants at night.
- Use trickle or drip irrigation systems for watering trees, shrubs, hilly areas, or widely spaced plants.
- Fix irrigation system leaks quickly and check for mud puddles or water in the gutters. Inspect your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly for leaks. If you have an older irrigation system, over 50% and even more than 75% of the water can be lost to leaks.
- Plant hardy varieties of grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers that require minimum water. Native plants are best suited to our climate. Verbena, geraniums, dianthus and succulents are examples of plants used in water-conserving landscapes. When combined with aesthetic elements, such as gravel walkways or mulching, an attractive yet water efficient landscape can be produced.
- Clean sidewalk, driveway, and patio with a broom rather than by hosing off.

(Above tips were collected from the following web sites: <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu>; <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>; <http://www.csa.com/discoveryguides/>)

City Council Meetings

This month City Council's regularly scheduled meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday April 6th and 7:00 p.m. on April 20th at the Carnegie Center, located at 912 Third Street in Orland. On Thursday afternoon, prior to the Council meeting, you may pick up a City Council agenda or review it online at our City website. The agenda packet is also available for public review inside City Hall.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

There is currently one vacancy on the Arts Commission and one vacancy on the Public Works Commission. This is an excellent opportunity for concerned citizens to have input in their government. For applications please stop by City Hall or visit the city website at: www.cityoforland.com.



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Friends OfThe Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Orland Library will hold their Spring Book Sale April 20th to 25th at St. Dominic's Parish Hall, 830 A Street. Open hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon.

The Orland Free Library was recently awarded a grant called "Picturing America" from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. The library received full color, high quality posters depicting great works of American art & photography. Some of the posters are currently on display and will be rotated monthly. Visit the library regularly throughout the year and you will see the entire collection of wonderful art work and view vital elements of our cultural heritage.

The library is open 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday and Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 to 8:00p.m. The library catalog is available online at www.orlandfreelibrary.net

ORLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCAMS and FRAUDS

In the next few issues of the ORLAND EXPRESS we will identify several of the more common frauds and scams that are currently targeting our citizens and how to avoid being victimized.

By far the most common scam is the "Nigerian" or "419" scam. This scam was originally perpetrated through the mail by the scammers who purchased mailing lists from catalog and magazine distributors. Currently the most common method of attack is through e-mail.

When you submit your e-mail address to some websites, you will start receiving scam e-mails. In the "Nigerian" scam the scammer will portray themselves as a family member of a person who has passed away, or who is being held incommunicado in some far away country. They will tell you that their relative left millions of dollars in a secure location and they need someone to help them transfer this money from that far away location to a safe country.

The scammers will promise to give you a percentage of the money, which can run into millions of dollars, if you will help them get their money out of the more dangerous country. The scams started in Nigeria and for that reason are called "Nigerian Scams." The same scam has been used with virtually every country from America to Zimbabwe.

The scammer will keep in touch with you to develop your trust and even send you fake documents in your name proving the money is in your name and all you have to do is open an account, deposit the money in it, pay them their share and keep the balance for yourself. You may say that you would never fall for such an obvious scam. You would also be quite surprised to know that thousands of people have fallen for it.

Make no mistake, con artists are very intelligent. It is their business to be convincing and they are very good at what they do. DO NOT open a dialogue with these people.

Nigerian scammers use e-mail, fax machines, and regular mail through mass mailings to perpetrate their crimes. The best way to avoid being taken in is to immediately shred the document if you receive it in the mail or via a fax, or delete it immediately if it comes to you in your e-mail.

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ORLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

We would like to take the time in this Newsletter to thank the citizens of Orland and surrounding area for their support. The fundraising drive was a great success. It is with the financial support of this community that helps us survive. This year's winners in the Ticket Drive was the North (Red) Team. Team Captain Atilla Bereczky rode a throne on the back of a Model A truck through downtown, while Green Team Captain Roy Jones had to lead a decorated goat. The 97th Annual Fireman's Ball itself was also a great success. The crowd was large, and enjoyed a wonderful evening.

One group that never receives enough recognition are the "Old Timers" as we affectionately call them. These are the retired firefighters that always turn out to help and support the Department. When there are large incidents, they suddenly just start showing up asking how they can help. When we have large events, they are there helping to cook. After years of active dedication to the Department and community, they keep coming back and giving more. They are a key part of our Department, and never receive the recognition they deserve.

Weed Abatement

Spring is here and the weeds are getting tall. When they dry out in the summer it poses a significant fire hazard. The City is contacting landowners to clean up lots. Weed abatement problems are handled by the City Code Enforcement. If a landowner does not work with the City to clear the fire hazard, the City will have the work done by a contractor, and then charge the landowner.

- Mow your lot early. If you wait until the grass has dried out, you run the risk of starting a fire while mowing.
- Be a good neighbor. Mow down your weeds. This protects you and your neighbor. If there is a fire, low grass spreads much slower and is easier to control than tall dry grass.
- If you are not able to do the work yourself, contact one of the local landscaping services. The City also has the name of contractors who can do the work.
- Protect yourself. Create a buffer around your property. During the fires last summer behind Stony Creek Drive, homes that had mowed the grass down behind their houses were much easier to protect, and freed up resources to attack the fire. Since that time, some have also installed sprinklers on their back fences. This is a great help when there is a fire.

If you have questions or a problem, contact City Hall

Fire Hazards from Stony Creek

As we saw last summer, the large build up of bamboo and vegetation in the creek bed poses a major hazard. Unfortunately, land owners have not been allowed to clear out the bamboo. Glenn County Resource Conservation District (www.glenncountyracd.org) has been working hard to develop a plan to eradicate the bamboo, but has been stymied by budget cuts. Until State Agencies allow clearing to happen, this problem is going to continue to threaten homes on the North East side of Orland. The most important thing you can do is make your home defensible. As mentioned above, protect yourself, create a buffer around your property. For more information on making your home fire safe, visit Cal Fire's web site (http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_100feet.php). Note that while it says it is the law, that only applies to Cal Fire areas. It does however have good guidelines for protecting your home.



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Orland Economic Development Commission Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan

The Orland Economic Development Commission (EDC) is currently preparing an Economic Development Strategic Plan to create the foundation for which to build effective and comprehensive economic development strategies for economic development in the City of Orland. Specific actions and programs will be created to enable the City to achieve a successful economic well being for the City.

The Plan is presently in Draft form and the EDC intends to review and discuss the Draft Plan at each of its regularly scheduled meetings on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Carnegie Center. The EDC encourages the Public's participation during this process and welcomes all comments toward the Draft Plan.

The final Plan will be the result of lengthy study and planning process, which will include the involvement of many city and regional stakeholders, and will include an extensive economic overview and analysis of the City. To begin with, the EDC intends to review and identify existing economic programs, resources, and conditions available to and within the City. The Commission throughout this process will meet with key economic development and business leaders as well as other community stakeholders.

The final Plan will include an examination of Orland's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Analysis), an economic assessment, community design analysis, a review of what economic development entities and programs will be needed to be accessed and the facilitation of a study of retail patterns for the region and the City that will include a comparison of the City's status with three other comparable cities to be selected by the City Council and the EDC.

The Draft Plan includes Guidelines that will be minimized to the top five or so priorities for the City and those will be expanded upon and analyzed in order to build the foundation that will create an effective economic development strategy for the City of Orland.

The Guidelines under the Draft Plan currently consist of the following Performance Measures to be rated in matter of importance:

- 1) Business Retention and Expansion Program;
- 2) Downtown Revitalization;
- 3) Real Estate Packaging and Development Process;
- 4) Neighborhood and Infill Nonresidential Development;
- 5) Industrial Development;
- 6) Entrepreneurship and Technology;
- 7) Workforce Development;
- 8) Cluster Development;
- 9) Economic Development Funding;
- 10) Annexation;
- 11) Retail Development;
- 12) Riverfront Development (Stony Creek);
- 13) Organizational Development

The Draft Plan is available for review and comment at City Hall: 815 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963, or by calling City Hall at 530.865.1600. The City of Orland encourages and appreciates Public participation, review, discussion and attendance at the EDC meetings during the creation and preparation of this very important Plan that will guide the City of Orland toward a thriving economic future.

Orland Express - The Orland Express is published monthly by Paul H. Poczobut Jr., 815 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963.

ORLAND TOWN OFFICIALS

Mayor: Bruce Roundy

Vice Mayor: Paul Barr

Council Members:

Reggie Olney, Wade S. Elliott

James E. Paschall

City Clerk: Angela Crook

City Treasurer: Pamela Otterson

City Manager: Paul H. Poczobut Jr.