



May 2009

City of Orland, California

Working for a better Community

SWINE FLU NEWS FOR CITY OF ORLAND

By Scott Gruendl, Director, Glenn County Health Services Agency

For the first time in nearly a century, our communities are involved in a pandemic as a result of the swine flu outbreak. The outbreak has provided the opportunity for the Glenn County Health Services Agency to put into effect our several years of practice for this very type of unique disaster and emergency. Cooperation of the community has led to success with protecting our citizens. This includes taking personal responsibility by remaining home and isolating yourself from others when exhibiting influenza like symptoms.

Glenn County Health Director Scott Gruendl reports that the County opened a Departmental Operations Center at the Public Health Department on Tuesday, April 28th, at 10:45AM in response to the swine flu situation. The Glenn County Health Services Agency has implemented a number of measures to limit any spread of swine flu (H1N1) within our borders. For example, the County has worked closely with all local health providers concerning how to determine a potential swine flu case and the appropriate actions to be taken. Testing for swine flu has specific criteria due to the number of specimens that must be analyzed and not all persons that believe they should be tested will be. The County is also working very closely with the schools to assure that their pandemic response plans are ready for implementation should it become necessary.

The County Health Officer, Dr. Corona states, "Our community's response to this public health threat is a shared responsibility for all community members. If we all take the proper precautions, we will limit the number of persons that become ill." The Health Officer recommends that 1) Stay home if you have a fever of 100 degrees or greater, are coughing and have a sore throat, and have either been in contact with a confirmed swine flu case or have traveled to Mexico in the last week, and notify your health care provider, wear a mask if presenting yourself at the doctor's office and avoid contact with others; 2) Avoid contact with people who are sick; 3) Sneeze or cough into your elbow; 4) Wash your hands frequently; and 5) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Now is the time to make arrangements in case you are unable to go to work or if your child's school is closed. Consider options for working from home or alternative child care, make sure you have plenty of food at home, and be ready to disinfect surfaces if someone in your home becomes ill. Employers need to encourage their employees to stay home if they are ill in order to protect non-ill employees and keep businesses operating. Employers should speak with employees to assure that they report any illness.

Non-essential travel to Mexico is to be avoided until further notice.

You can learn more about how to protect yourself and your family by going to one of these web sites: www.cdc.gov; www.cdph.ca.gov; or www.norcalBT.com. There is also a Swine Flu Hotline at 888-865-0564 that includes live operators Monday through Friday from 7AM to 6PM and Saturday through Sunday from 8AM to 4PM. The Public Health Department of the Glenn County Health Services Agency can be reached at 934-6588.

Orland Centennial Celebration

Visit the Orland Centennial Celebration website at www.orlandcentennial.org for information. Additionally, if you desire to participate and/or volunteer it sure would be appreciated. Great things happen to those who volunteer. Contact any member of the committee to see what you can do to make this the greatest event the City of Orland has ever seen.



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Planning Tomorrow's Future Draft Housing Element Update Needs Assessment

The City of Orland is currently updating its Housing Element, which is one of the seven mandatory Elements required for the General Plan. The Draft Needs Assessment portion of the Housing Element Update has been submitted to the City by the consultant, Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC), and is currently under review by City Staff.

The Housing Needs Assessment provides a demographic profile of the City of Orland by analyzing the following types of information: population and housing characteristics, special housing needs among certain population groups, housing conditions, and other important information to support the goals, policies, and programs that meet the needs of current and future residents. The data presented in the Housing Needs Assessment will not only guide the development of housing goals and policies, but will also be integrated into the body of the Housing Element to present the current status of housing and housing related issues in Orland. The data used for this Assessment is gathered from 2000 US Census and the State Department of Finance information.

The final Needs Assessment will be organized into three main sections. The first section will focus on demographic information such as population trends, ethnicity, age, household composition, income, employment, housing characteristics, general housing needs by income, and housing needs for special segments of the population. This first section will outline the characteristics of the existing community, and identify those characteristics that may have significant impacts on housing needs in the City.

The second section identifies possible governmental and non-governmental constraints to housing development in Orland. The City has planning, zoning, and building standards that guide and affect residential development patterns and influence housing availability and affordability. There are also environmental and housing market conditions that affect the location, availability, affordability, and type of housing that is constructed in Orland. The "non-governmental" influences include such factors as: the availability and cost of financing, land and materials for building homes; natural conditions that affect the cost of preparing and developing land for housing; and the business decisions of individuals and organizations in home building, finance, real estate, and rental housing that impact housing cost and availability.

The third section identifies the City's resources and opportunities for affordable housing, which includes an inventory of adequate sites for affordable housing units, funding resources and a description of the City's current housing programs that work to provide affordable housing to the residents of Orland.

The first public workshop regarding the Draft Housing Element Update has been scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Carnegie Center, located at 912 Third Street, Orland, CA 95963. The City encourages and appreciates attendance by residents and stakeholders for review and discussion during the preparation of the Housing Element Update. The Draft Needs Assessment is available for review and comment at City Hall: 815 Fourth Street, Orland, CA 95963, or by calling City Hall at 530.865.1608.

From Your Friends At The Library

In cooperation with the Literacy Program, Jody Meza, Children's/YA Librarian, presented a 9 week program for literacy students and their pre-school children. 10 families participated in the Families for Literacy Program. Storytimes & crafts were presented & books were given to the children. 270 books were distributed, giving each family their own library of children's books.

Marilyn Cochran, City Librarian since 1984, is retiring on May 1st. Children's/Young Adult Librarian Jody Meza will be the new City Librarian. The library is fortunate to have the benefit of her experience and expertise.

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program is "Be Creative @ Your Library." Look for further details in next month's Orland Express. (con't on next page)



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Public Works (Working for you)

The Department of Health Services recommends the City flush their dead end lines quarterly. To accomplish this, this month you will see members of the Public Works Department releasing water from fire hydrants, averaging five minutes per line. With regular maintenance, water in these lines is kept from being stagnant.

Due to budget constraints, the Public Works Department can only run the street sweeper one day a week. Depending on the amount of debris that is present, that one day could cover the entire City. However, if there has been a great deal of wind, one day may not be enough. If you find your street with more litter than usual, please contact the Public Works Department at 865-1610 so they are aware of the situation and can send out the sweeper as soon as possible.

The Spring green waste pick-up was completed the last week of April. Please do not put any lawn clippings or brush in the street or alleys. Any property owner that does so will be given a yellow tag asking that they immediately remove the green waste off the street. Watch your water bill for the next brush pick-up tentatively scheduled for Fall 09.

Since citizens did such a great job pruning and removing green waste from their property, this will reduce the fuel load around their homes and help protect it from any fire danger. For the other landowners who are not taking care of their property, the Public Works and Building Department have been sending out notices asking them to remove any dry weeds. If the weeds are not abated by June 1, the Public Works Department will have the work done by a contractor, and then bill the property owner.

After all that pruning and cleaning of your yards, did you find some planting areas you might want to add or change? Using plants that are drought tolerant means you will have only modest water needs and will be irrigating just once a week. But maybe you want to plant the yellow 'Stella de Oro' daylilies. They may require more water initially, but with soil preparation and mulch, they will soon adapt to once-a-week irrigation. Also, group plants with similar water needs. From an irrigation standpoint, this approach makes perfect sense. If plants that need to be watered at the same frequency and for the same length of time are all in one place, you can dedicate a separate line or valve to them, delivering exactly the amount of water the plants need and no more. Contact your local nursery or review gardening books to determine the right plants for our climate. The Orland Library has gardening books to check out for more information. Go to the City's web site and click on City of Orland Library at the Quick links section on the right. You can browse the library's catalog to see if there are any books on a subject you need to research.

Library (con't)

New Young Adult Non-Fiction added to the collection in April:

"The Forbidden Schoolhouse: the True & Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall & Her Students" Suzanne Jurman

"Neanderthals: a Prehistoric Puzzle" Yvette LaPierre

"Career Building Through Digital Photography" Rick Doble

"The Teen Guide to Global Action" Barbara A. Lewis

"Hidden Evidence: 40 True Crimes & How Forensic Science Helped Solve Them: David Owen

"Kickboxing Handbook" John Ritschel

"Invisible Enemies: Stores of Infectious Disease" Jeanette Farrell

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

City offices and Library will be closed on Monday May 25, 2009 in observance of Memorial Day. City Council and City Staff wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend.



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Message from the Police Chief VACATION TIME IS BURGLAR TIME

With summertime approaching we will all be taking a much needed vacation with our families. Unfortunately the burglars know this all too well. In the next few ORLAND EXPRESS articles we will explore ways to minimize your potential of becoming a victim.

No home is ever completely burglar proof. A home is burglarized every 13 seconds in the United States. As a homeowner, you need all the help you can get. The purpose of this article is to offer some simple, affordable tips to make your home more secure.

In most cases, an intruder will spend no more than 60 seconds trying to gain access to your home. That time is reduced substantially if you live on a well traveled or busy street.

The most effective way to reduce your potential of becoming a victim is to minimize your home's vulnerabilities. There are a number of steps you can take to minimize your risks and make your home more secure, or at least appear to be more secure.

Most burglars do not plan their break ins. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Burglars pick what appears to be a simple target. If they see a greater risk than they anticipated, they move on to a more desirable target. Therefore, the more effort you take to keep your home from seeming to be a simple target, the safer you will be.

Some simple steps can be taken to minimize your risk of returning from vacation to discover you have been victimized.

Tip #1 Put your mail and newspaper on hold. Nothing tells a burglar "Nobody is home" more than seeing a week's worth of accumulated newspapers or mail.

Tip #2 Put your lights and TV on a timer. Timers come in a variety from a programmable, computerized home to a simple plug in that you plug a lamp and TV into. Have two or three rooms equipped so the lights go on and off at various times. Also leave the light over the stove on all the time, as the kitchen is one room that tends to have lights on the most. A deserted house "feels" empty. People make noise, noise means vibrations. This broken pattern of conversation (as in the dialogue of a television show) is more consistent with someone being home. Set the TV timer to go off just a few minutes before the lights in that particular room.

Tip #3 Answering machines should say "we can't get to the phone right now." Even when you are in town, your phone message should never say that you are not home.

Tip #4 Park your car in the driveway. This is a debated tactic. Some recommend it to make it look like someone is home. While others believe that a car that doesn't move is a tip off. Still others recommend offering your neighbor a place to park. You might want to do a combination.

Tip #5 Padlock all gates. Make your backyard inaccessible. Padlocking your gates when you are at home is inconvenient, but the advantages of doing it while you are on vacation are great. It not only makes getting into the backyard more difficult (not impossible), it seriously hinders a suspect getting out while carrying items like stereos and computers. This difficulty serves as a strong deterrent.

In next month's Orland Express we will provide additional tips to make your home less attractive as a target for burglars. The bottom line is that the first line of defense for your home security has to be you. You have to take a proactive stance. For more information you can stop by the Police Department office and pick up a copy of the brochure "Vacation Home Security."

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ORLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Spring is here, and the weeds are drying out. In the last newsletter we discussed weed abatement in the City. Excellent progress is being made, but it will not hurt to review it again. Lots need to be cleaned and mowed to eliminate fire hazards. Lots that have not been cleaned are currently being addressed by the City. Currently the City Code Enforcement officer is addressing lots that need cleaning. There are some parcels of large acreage that the Fire Department is addressing on an individual basis with Public Works.

The area bordering Stony Creek behind Stony Creek Drive continues to be a concern. The bamboo has grown back thicker than ever. We are working with Public Works to find a combination of mowing and clearing to improve the safety of this area.

Extrication Equipment Grant

Due to the hard work of Wayne Peabody, Willows Fire Chief, we have put into service \$30,000 of new extrication equipment. Wayne applied for, and received a Regional Grant for Glenn County Departments along the Freeway. Here in Orland we were able to purchase the latest in Hurst Cutting Tools. Along with this we received a new Power Pack, additional Air Lifting Bags, and many other items that help keep our rescue capabilities up to date.

In addition to the equipment, there were two days of County wide extrication training. At the beginning of April it was held in Orland. Fifty Volunteers from Orland, Capay, Hamilton City, Artois, Kana-wha, and Ord Bend spent the day at Bambauer's Towing yard to be led by instructors from Hurst and Paratech. Bambauer's was able to supply a bus that was rolled on it's side and able to be used for stabilization training. This was an excellent class in that it gave the Department a chance to become familiar with our new equipment, and also to train side by side with other Departments in the area. It's important to have this multi-department training as we frequently operate together on wrecks.

A special thank you is owed to Bambauer Towing. They give an enormous amount back to the community. We frequently use their yard for extrication training. In addition to supplying cars, they they devote an enormous amount of time getting things set up and helping with the training. For just this one regional class, they spent hours on Saturday setting up, and then most of Sunday helping with the class. It is special people like these that make the Department function.



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Reminder From The City Clerk's Office Statewide Special Election

The State of California will hold a Special Election on Tuesday May 19, 2009. An Official Voter Information Guide is available at City Hall if you did not receive one. For more information about the election you may contact the Glenn County Clerk/Elections office at (530) 934-6414.

City Council Meetings

This month City Council's regularly scheduled meetings will take place on Monday May 4th at 7:30 p.m. and Monday May 20th at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Arts, Library & Public Works Commission Vacancies

The Orland Arts Commission, Library Commission and Public Works Commission have one vacancy on each of their commissions. 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.

Recreation Department Making Your Free Time Enjoyable

The Adult Basketball league is still running with Team Testerman still in the first place spot. This league runs Monday and Wednesday Nights. The league has reached the playoffs and will be done May 4th. The next league will begin the second week of June.

The Adult Softball Leagues will be starting soon. Registration deadlines are coming up fast and teams need to fill out the proper forms and get it turned in to the Recreation Department. All the summer camp information has been sent out to all the local schools. You can also go online to see what activities will work for you.

Open Gym Volleyball and Open Gym Basketball is now available at the Recreation Center. Basketball is Saturdays from 12:00 to 3:00 pm and Volleyball is Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

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.

The Orland City Pool will be open. Due to a very tight budget, the City Pool will be filled with water on June 3rd. Normally the pool is filled with water the third week of May. The first day for public swim will be June 8th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Swim Lessons will run three different times this summer. The sessions will be June 15th through June 26th, July 6th through July 17th, and July 27th through August 7th. All public swim lessons will be \$25 per child. Private Swim Lessons will be \$45. For more information on Swim Lessons, call the Recreation Department at 865-1630.

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 activity 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

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.