

CITY OF ORONOCO

Fall 2024 NEWLETTER

**How can we help you today?
Make City Hall your first call! 507-367-4405**

For questions, comments, or compliments (the code violation complaint form on the website can be used for any complaints), City Hall staff – Administrative Assistant Mary Queensland, Deputy Clerk Ranae While, and City Administrator Jason Baker– are happy to assist you!

Oronoco Lions Update

Oronoco Lions Club has been busy this summer. The “Fly Your Flag” program is becoming a very successful. The Lions put out flags in your yard to celebrate 7 national holidays during the year. We want to thank everyone that supported this project this year and we look forward to serving more customers next year. This may turn into a something bigger than even the snow men in River Park. Who knows?



We also enjoyed serving our friends and neighbors at the Annual Community BBQ. This year the event was moved to the Community Center and we were thrilled with the great turnout. We really enjoyed serving the community and the food was delicious. Special thanks go to Jeff Fasbender and Hoochie Q BBQ for cooking up the delicious pork and beans. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy this event! It was our pleaser to Serve you and we’re looking forward to doing this again next year.



Oronoco Gold Rush was another busy and successful fund raiser for our Club. This year we were fortunate to have Tessa Stites provide music in our tent on Saturday. She did a wonderful job! Thanks to everyone that stopped by for refreshments, shade and fun!



We have also been busy with many other projects and activities such as National Night Out, ditch clean up on Power Dam Road, tree planting in Oronoco Park, and others. Watch for other community activities this fall and winter such as the Toy Drive, Visit with Santa, hockey rink, and more. As always, the Oronoco Lions are proud to Serve the Oronoco Community. Note: If you would like to get involved with the Fly Your Flag, text or call Steve Sherry (507) 421-2730 and we'll get you signed up for next year.

Oronoco Area History Center

oronocoareahistory.org

Upcoming event September 14 - Oronoco History Bus Tour. Oronoco was founded in 1855. Have you ever wondered what things looked like here in the past, or what businesses and buildings have come and gone during that time? On Saturday, September 14, we will have a bus tour of the town to answer some of those questions. As we drive from place to place, we will explain and show photos of what was there in the past and how things have changed. Tickets are \$10, with age 10 and under

free. Contact Mary Fuller at 507-269-1075 or mmfuller@bevcomm.net to reserve your spot. Seating is limited.



During the month of December, Tilly's will hold a food drive for the food shelf. Nonperishable food or personal items can be dropped off at Tilly's beginning December 1, 2024. Thank you, Tilly's, for your support. The Oronoco Food Shelf is open from 5pm-6:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Oronoco Presbyterian Church located at 20 3rd St SW, Oronoco. Donations can be dropped off from 4:30-5pm those same days or any time in the bins located at Casey's and City Hall. Thank you for your support.

Summer/Fall 2024
Oronoco Economic Development Authority (EDA)
Rebecca Charles, Executive Director

This summer, the Oronoco Economic Development Authority (EDA) has accomplished a great deal and is looking forward, working to finalize their work plan and goals for 2025. This work plan will include goals outlined in the Community Engagement Results Report as well as other identified projects and future needs.

Earlier this summer, the EDA hosted a training opportunity on the topic of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Abatement as tools for funding future development. Training was made available for the city staff, City Council, EDA and Planning & Zoning committees. The meeting had been organized to take place at the city hall with an option to attend virtually. The virtual feed was recorded for those unable to attend at the scheduled time and was shared with all committee members. This information can also be shared with future leaders for training purposes. Other educational opportunities will be provided to city leadership as needs are identified.

Staff has updated the EDA page on the city website at www.oronoco.com. The site now has all meeting minutes uploaded and up to date. A statement of purpose was placed on the landing page as well as a list of the current board members. The establishing resolution for the establishment of the EDA was placed on the EDA Tab along with a copy of the approved EDA by-laws.

The Oronoco EDA's largest achievement of the summer was the release of the long-awaited **Community Engagement Results Report**. The community engagement process included a community wide survey and public in person engagement event to provide input on elements that will determine the future of Oronoco. Research and report were funded thanks to a \$5,000 Rural Feasibility Study Grant awarded by Compeer Financial. The final report was approved at the July 23rd EDA meeting and posted on the EDA Tab of the City Website and the city's Facebook page. A press release was provided to local media.

This fall the EDA will be exploring a potential community branding process. If you would be interested in participating in this process, please message EDA Director Rebecca Charles at Rebecca.Charles@cedausa.com with the subject **Resident Engagement** and let us know what

topics or projects that you may be interested in participating with in future projects (i.e. branding, trails, small businesses, housing, public input, etc.). We will provide you with information on how to get involved when opportunities become available on future projects. Please keep an eye on the EDA website and social media for updates as information becomes available.

Young at Heart Exercise Group

It's important to stay active. As we age our abilities can decline making it more difficult to complete those everyday tasks. Join the Young at Heart Exercise Group that meets in Oronoco. We try to work on all areas of the body, helping to maintain flexibility and strength. Participants are encouraged to follow along, but work at their own pace and always remember to listen to your body. Start out gradually if it has been a while since you exercised. Group exercise helps us support and encourage each other and the socialization of being in a group is also good for your health. Don't feel intimidated if you haven't exercised in a while. The group is very welcoming. Come and check it out and you will make new friends. The group meets at the Oronoco Community Center Wednesday mornings at 9 am, followed by Yoga at 10 am. Both are designed for seniors.



Age-Friendly Oronoco Area

Age-Friendly Oronoco Area has developed a Community Resource Guide. It contains a list of non-profit area agencies, Oronoco area resources and some area businesses, all of which may be helpful to fill your needs to live better in our community. Brochures are available at the Community Center. Residents have expressed an interest in having foot care available in Oronoco. A Foot Care Clinic is being organized to start this fall. Watch for information on Citizens of Oronoco Facebook page or contact a committee member to be put on the waiting list. Name that Senior Group. Citizens have expressed an interest in rejuvenating the senior citizens group in Oronoco. There have been many suggestions for different types of activities. We need your help to get this group active again. We are looking for a new name for the group. Send your suggestions to our new email address: agefriendlyoronocoarea@gmail.com. We are also looking for a few people to work with us in planning activities. Please reach out to one of the AFOA Committee members or email us if you could help out. Watch for more information on the Facebook page about an informal gathering to discuss ideas and bring life back to this group. AFOA is moving closer to becoming a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. This will be beneficial in helping us in securing grants for various projects. If you are interested in getting involved with the Age-Friendly Oronoco Area group, have questions or would like more information, send a message to agefriendlyoronocoarea@gmail.com or contact one of the following committee members: Dana Bergner, Joy Bertsinger, Holly Brown, Ryland Eichhorst, Kevin McDermott, Kay Lovett, Rosemary VanHouten

Welcome to Autumn from the Oronoco First Responders!



Halloween Hazards

Autumn brings some fun changes, weather gets cooler, leaves start to change color, and kids go back to school. For the kids I'm sure it's that time of year for one of their favorite holidays, Halloween! Who doesn't like getting dressed up and overloading on candy!. We would like to highlight some of the hazards of trick-or-treating.

1. Choose a costume that is visible or wear reflective tape or carry glow sticks to be more visible.
2. Opt for nontoxic Halloween makeup over masks, which can obscure vision; always test makeup in a small area first to see if any irritation develops
3. A responsible adult should accompany young children while trick-or-treating.
4. Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to avoid any food allergies
5. Use the buddy system. Children 12-years-old and younger should never trick or treat alone.
6. Choose costumes that are labeled as "flame resistant," Polyester and nylon are both flame-resistant materials.
7. Limit trick-or-treating to a neighborhood and homes of people you know.
8. Remind your children to never go into a stranger's home or car.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!

We'd like to thank the following people this quarter for their years of service: Chris I. 16 years; Christina I. 20 years; Aubrie B. 1 year; Danielle J. 3 years; Shawn L. 1 year; Tucker L. 2 years; Mariah L. 1 year; Dustin N. 1 year; Jayne S.W. 2 years; Austin S. 1 year; Dani W. 1 year Please help us welcome our newest members- Gwen B and Caleb T Interested in volunteering? Feel free to attend a meeting or reach out to us to get more information. We meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm at the fire hall. Follow us on Facebook at Oronoco Fire Department. Oronoco First Responders will be hosting a Citizen CPR class Tuesday October 8 th from 6-8pm. Please reach out if you are interested.

Oronoco First Responders

oronocofirstresponders@gmail.com

Mayor Input – Ryland Eichhorst

Has anyone else noticed how quickly summer has come and just about gone? Despite how fast it went, I trust everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some summer fun! The wastewater project is wrapping up with new street paving and restoration of shoulders and yards where connections are being made to homes. It's exciting to see new paved streets throughout downtown, south of the MN Ave bridge, and west of Lake Shady Ave North where lateral sewer collection lines were installed. During the past few months, you may have noticed or heard about numerous commercial businesses and residential developments in Oronoco. Some are completed, and others are opening soon. Still others are in the planning stages. They include the following:

- Glenn's Motorcoach Tours and Charters
- Two Sisters Kitchen and Bar
- Dollar General Market store
- Developer has purchased 43 acres for development in SE Oronoco
- Property by Gas-n-Go is for sale for multi-housing development
- Property owner is looking to develop Cedar Point stores by Two Sisters
- Property owner is working on a retail store, including kitchen and bar downtown by the post office

These and more opportunities for growth will occur in 2025 because of the new sewer system! The council is having budget workshops during September to set the overall preliminary budget by September 30 to send to Olmsted County. The council will work towards lowering the overall budget figures/levy between October 1 and the end of December when the budget is finalized and submitted to the County and State. The city council and I are continuing to work with MNDOT regarding the purchase of the Lake Shady peninsulas. MNDOT will then install the right-of-way fence along Highway 52. Once the fence is installed our Parks and Trails committee and council can begin the development of the Lake Shady lakebed with the master plan that was created in 2010. The plan will help connect the west side of 52 to the east side with biking and walking paths in the lakebed. The plan also calls for a bridge over the North Zumbro River to Oronoco Park. More information and updates will be coming in 2025!

I hope you're all looking forward to cooler fall weather and all the activities that come with it.

City of Oronoco Meetings

City Council:

3rd Tuesday each month @ 6:30 pm

Planning & Zoning:

2nd Thursday of each month @ 6:30 pm

EDA:

4th Monday of July @ 6:30 pm

4th Tuesday beginning August @ 6:30 pm

1st Responders:

1st Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Fire Department:

2nd Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm

4th Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Parks & Trails:

1st Monday of each month @ 7:00 pm

Water & Sewer Committee:

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 pm

City Hall Office Hours & Contacts

Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday 7:00 am – 11:00 am

507-367-4405

Mary Queensland – Administrative Assistant

mqueensland@oronoco.com

Ranae While – Deputy Clerk

rwhile@oronoco.com

Jason Baker – City Administrator

jbaker@oronoco.com

City of Oronoco

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