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City of Orting

# NEWSLETTER

Issue #9

January 2026



## A Message From Our New Mayor, Scott Drennan

Hello City of Orting citizens, friends, and neighbors. It is an honor to announce the start of my work as City of Orting Mayor following your support in November. I am starting this role serving you grounded in our heritage with 22 years as a city council member. I look forward to applying my experience to a bright future for our city. I start my role with the intention to not simply fill the shoes of the past but rather bring my own shoes to this position.

In my first 100 days I will be working to gain your trust and support unifying our community from the **“Core Out”**, working with your City Council to improve our small-town character, Police, Streets, Parks, and Water infrastructure. I will be working to **“Assess, Retool and Transform”** our governance to better serve you with this **“Core Out”** approach.

We are fortunate to have talented staff to assist me in achieving this and in serving you. Working at my side will be former City Administrator Mark Bethune serving as Interim City Administrator along with Kim Agfalvi, our current Assistant City Administrator. Mark is joining us to help council and staff through the transition as we recruit a new City Administrator. Mark’s **“Can Do”** approach that helped build our reputation as the **“Small City that Can”** will be our inspiration as we work for you, the Citizens of Orting.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- January 14<sup>th</sup> - Regular Council Meeting
- January 19<sup>th</sup> - City Offices Closed
- January 21<sup>st</sup> - Study Session
- January 28<sup>th</sup> - Regular Council Meeting
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Planning Commission
- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Regular Council Meeting
- February 16<sup>th</sup> - City Offices Closed
- February 18<sup>th</sup> - Study Session

*Our Mission: Making Orting a better place to live, work, play and do business, while preserving our strong sense of community.*



### Local Organizations Help Provide Essential Assistance during Floods

The City of Orting Public Works Department would like to extend a big, heartfelt thank you to the volunteers from Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue and Pierce County 4X4 Search and Rescue for their outstanding assistance and support.



Both organizations responded to our facility with an all-hands-on approach and helped fill approximately 400 sandbags in a short period of time. Their timely support was critical in allowing our staff to complete a protective barrier along the low-lying sections of the Puyallup River and Carbon River levees.

### Another Successful Season of Giving to Those in Need

The City of Orting would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in our Giving Tree this past holiday season. Because of your kindness and generosity, we were able to support 7 families, helping make the season brighter and more joyful for them.

We would also like to give a special thank you to the Fire Department, who graciously volunteered their time to help wrap the presents. Their support added an extra layer of care and community spirit to this effort.

Every donation, gift, and thoughtful contribution made a real difference. The Giving Tree was a wonderful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with compassion and a shared goal of helping others.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

### ***Kansas St SW Construction Starting Soon!***

Attention all travelers! The city will meet with the Contractor this month to learn their plans for demo of Kansas St SW and how they will phase the work. As we learn more, the project web site will be updated with more in-depth schedule and construction information. Please visit the city's project web site for regular updates. <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/project-updates/kansas-street-reconstruction>

### ***Bridge for Kids Update***

Construction of the bridge is progressing well and continues to move forward. The contractor is completing work on the east ramp and has begun constructing the east stairs. No lane closures are anticipated in the near future. If any traffic impacts arise, updates will be posted on the project webpage as information becomes available.

<https://www.cityoforting.org/government/project-updates/emergency-evacuation-bridge>

### ***Safe Streets for All – Safety Action Plan***

The consultant, Keller Associates, Inc., is reviewing the survey results, analyzing crash data, and developing a Countermeasures Toolkit to help the city address the safety risks identified through the survey.

Thank you to the 305 community members who participated—your time and feedback are greatly appreciated and will help guide future safety improvements.

The Advisory Committee will reconvene in February to review progress and discuss potential countermeasures for consideration. <https://www.cityoforting.org/government/project-updates/safe-streets-for-all-safety-action-plan>

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Daffodil Festival & Parade  
April 4, 2026**



## HELP US HELP YOU: UPDATE YOUR ORTING ALERTS PROFILE

### A message from Police Chief, Devon Gabreluk

Keeping our community safe is always a partnership, and I want to share an important opportunity for residents to better prepare for emergencies.

The City's Orting Alerts emergency alert system now allows residents to update their personal alert profiles to include optional information about medical conditions, access or functional needs, or other considerations they would like emergency managers to be aware of to better prepare for an evacuation or emergency situation.

This information might include things such as mobility considerations, sensory needs, medical equipment reliance, or other circumstances that could affect how you receive assistance or respond during an emergency. Providing this information is completely voluntary, but it can be extremely helpful for emergency managers and first responders as they plan evacuations, shelters, and other emergency services.

Your information is used solely for emergency planning and response purposes, with the goal of ensuring everyone in our community can receive timely, appropriate, and compassionate assistance when it matters most.

I encourage all residents who use Orting Alerts to take a few moments to review and update their profile. Small steps taken today can make a meaningful difference during a critical moment tomorrow.

To review and update your Orting Alerts profile, visit: <https://ortingwa.genasys.com/portal/en>

Thank you for helping us continue to build a prepared, informed, and resilient Orting.

### Stay Active This Winter with Orting Recreation!

As the temperatures drop, Orting Recreation is heating up with exciting winter programs for all ages! Our indoor fitness opportunities are perfect for staying active during the chilly months. Join us for strength and yoga classes or get moving with our dance fitness class. Plus, our popular line dancing class is back for its winter session on Tuesday evenings. Don't forget, all fitness and line dancing classes offer a convenient drop-in option for just \$9 per class!

For our younger community members, we're offering a variety of winter youth programs. Little ones can enjoy our playgroup class, music classes for ages 2-5, and our dance program for ages 3 and up.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for spring registration! **Spring dance registration opens on February 2nd, and spring soccer registration kicks off on February 16th.** Don't miss out on these opportunities to stay active and engaged with Orting Recreation!



Click [HERE](#) to sign up today!

### Helpful Links & Information



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