



# NEWSLETTER

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

Issue #11  
March 2026



## Mayor Drennen’s Monthly “Trailside” Report

*Highlighting the challenges and achievements in our city each month.*

### **The Daffodil Festival: Honoring and Celebrating our Heritage**

This April 4<sup>th</sup> marks the 93<sup>rd</sup> year of the Daffodil Parade, a time to celebrate Orting’s shared heritage with Sumner, Puyallup and Tacoma. The only parade of its kind in the country, the Daffodil Parade visits these four cities every year, connecting us all together with a beloved common flower. The parade maintains the same spirit, sound, and smell today, and if you close your eyes while standing downtown you will be transported to 1934, the year the Daffodil Parade debuted. The Orting, Sumner, and Puyallup valley once drew crowds of cars to tour the valley. Orting was a picturesque destination for tourists, with a yellow carpet of flowers greeting you as you drove towards Mt. Rainier, and where you stopped to enjoy ice cream or a hamburger during your scenic drive. The valley was once filled with Hop Farms that fueled our economies until one day when the market for Hops was no longer viable. The replacement came in the form of a sunny yellow flower, the Daffodil. The parade emerged as the result of increased visitors to the Sumner, Orting, and Puyallup valley, and has since evolved into the parade you see today.

Orting had a Float in the first parade in 1934 but did not participate in the parade again until after World War II in 1948, and the parade did not travel through Orting at the time. Drivers of the floats convinced participants to visit Orting following the parade by offering a meal from the Lions Club. Community member Louey Mazza in turn lobbied to bring the parade to Orting which was an instant hit in the mid-1950s. Today, Orting receives one of the largest turnouts on the parade route, often with more people watching the parade than the total of those who live in town. The Lions club still offers meals from the Barbeque Pit located in the center of town where people come from all over to get a BBQ chicken dinner and spend the day in the park.

This year the Orting float will be returning to represent our rich heritage of award-winning floats, including the year we won the Governors award in 1971. The Orting High School and Middle School Bands will be performing at their biggest event of the year in their hometown. Orting School District Superintendent Ed Hatzenbeler, along with former Principal and current Executive Director of Business Operations Cliff Fries, will be honorary guests at this year’s event where they will help announce parade participants.

Until next month, wishing you the best from the Mayor’s office at the Trailside.

## Trailside Tribute

*Honoring citizens making a difference.*

I want to use this opportunity to recognize citizens’ contributions to making Orting a better place to live and visit. It seems only appropriate for our first month we recognize Madeline Jones and Sam Colorossi, who together helped to bring recognition and pride to our city through their work with the Daffodil Parade.

**Madeline Shouse/Jones** was a former Daffodil Princess in 1960 and mother of two other Daffodil Princesses Shelly and Tracy Jones. She has a lifetime defined by her love for family, friends and our community.

**Sam Colorossi** started his Daffodil Parade connection in 1953 attaching daffodils to floats joined with Madeline and others to create award winning floats spanning from as early as 1959 - 1984. Their partnership placed Orting at the top in Float participation at the peak for the Daffodil parade.

Today you see their contributions all through town where they have volunteered and shared their vision for the city. Sam built the Bell tower for our city’s centennial, standing today as a landmark for our resolve and history. Madeline’s vision can be seen in our “Welcome to Orting” fountain and City North Park. Today with the Historical Society they are both working to capture our city’s history. A friendship developed from youth and a bond to this day making a difference together.

I want to recognize their contributions to our city. Their spirit will carry on April 4<sup>th</sup> in the parade.

# Seeing is No Longer Believing: Understanding the Rise of AI-Generated Video

*by Police Chief Devon Gabreluk, Orting Police Department*

Over the past year, technology has advanced at a pace that few of us could have imagined. One of the most significant developments has been the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence tools capable of generating highly realistic videos. What once required a Hollywood studio can now be done by an individual at home using a computer or even a smartphone.

This new technology brings exciting opportunities for creativity, education, and communication. However, it also presents a serious challenge for the public: it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish real videos from those that have been generated or manipulated by artificial intelligence.

## AI Video Creation Is Now Available to Anyone

Until recently, producing realistic video effects required specialized training and expensive software. Today, powerful AI video tools are widely available online, many of them free or inexpensive. These tools can generate video clips from simple text descriptions, alter existing footage, change a person's voice, or make it appear as though someone said or did something that never actually happened.

These systems are capable of producing convincing footage of events that never occurred public figures making statements they never made, crimes that never happened, or disasters that never took place. In some cases, the results can be convincing enough to fool viewers at first glance.

As these tools become more accessible, it is increasingly likely that misleading or fabricated videos will appear online, especially during times of public interest or crisis.

## Why This Matters to Our Community

In the past, video evidence carried an assumption of authenticity. If we saw something recorded on camera, we tended to believe it happened exactly as shown. Today, that assumption is no longer always safe.

AI-generated or manipulated videos can spread quickly on social media and messaging platforms. False information can create unnecessary panic, damage reputations, or erode trust in institutions and public safety agencies.

For law enforcement, the challenge is twofold: we must evaluate digital evidence carefully, and we must also help the public understand how easily convincing but false videos can now be created.

## Be Cautious of Extraordinary Videos

One of the most important guidelines is simple: approach extraordinary videos with healthy skepticism.

If a video claims to show a shocking event such as a major crime, a disaster, or a public official behaving in an unusual way pause before assuming it is real. Ask yourself:

- Is the video coming from a trusted news source or official agency?
- Are multiple credible outlets reporting the same event?
- Does the video appear suddenly from an unknown account?

If a video appears dramatic or sensational but cannot be confirmed by reliable sources, it may be manipulated or entirely fabricated.

## Staying Informed in a Changing Digital World

Artificial intelligence will continue to shape how information is created and shared. While these technologies offer many benefits, they also require all of us to become more thoughtful consumers of digital content. As your police department, our commitment is to help our community stay informed and safe not only in the physical world, but also in the rapidly evolving digital environment.

The most important tool we have is awareness. By remaining cautious, verifying information, and avoiding the spread of unconfirmed content, we can all play a role in protecting the integrity of information within our community.

In today's world, a video may look real but it is always worth taking a second look.

## Signs a Video May Be AI-Generated

While AI videos are improving rapidly, there are still clues that can indicate something is not authentic. When watching a questionable video, consider looking for the following signs:

- **Unnatural facial movements** - AI-generated faces sometimes have subtle distortions around the eyes, mouth, or jaw. Expressions may appear stiff or slightly delayed.
- **Strange lighting or shadows** - Lighting may not match the environment, or shadows may fall in inconsistent directions.
- **Audio that doesn't quite match the speaker** - Lip movements may not perfectly align with the spoken words, or the voice may sound slightly artificial.
- **Odd background details** - Look carefully at objects, signs, or text in the background. AI systems sometimes distort small details like lettering, fingers, or reflections.
- **Unusual motion or physics** - Movements may appear slightly unnatural, particularly when people interact with objects or when the camera moves.



### Upcoming Important Dates & Events

- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Study Session 5:00pm & Regular Council Meeting 6:00pm
- April 4<sup>th</sup> - [Daffodil Festival & Parade](#)
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - Planning Commission
- April 8<sup>th</sup> - Study Session 5:00pm & Regular Council Meeting 6:00pm
- April 15<sup>th</sup> - Committee of Whole Meeting 2:00pm
- April 29<sup>th</sup> - Study Session 5:00pm & Regular Meeting 6:00pm

### Helpful Links & Information



[View Budgets & Financial Statements](#)



[Follow us on social media](#)



[View Council Agendas](#)



[View our YouTube channel](#)



[View City Calendar](#)

### Capital Projects: Bridge for Kids Update

Greetings from the Orting valley where the daffodils are getting ready to bloom & things are springing up everywhere. We are here at the Bridge for Kids construction site and as you can see the contractors have made great progress.

The east ramp & stairs are nearing completion. There is increased traffic on Old Pioneer Way while they are back working on the west ramp and stairs, so please be sure to use the temporary Foothills Trail detour and stay out of the road for your safety.



***Stay tuned for a ribbon cutting celebration in summer of 2026!***

Click [HERE](#) for Project Updates



# Welcômie BABY

**Executive Assistant Danielle Charchenko gave birth to daughter, Sophie Jennifer, on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to the world Sophie and Congratulations Mom & Dad!!**



**Parks & Recreation Spring Newsletter now available!**

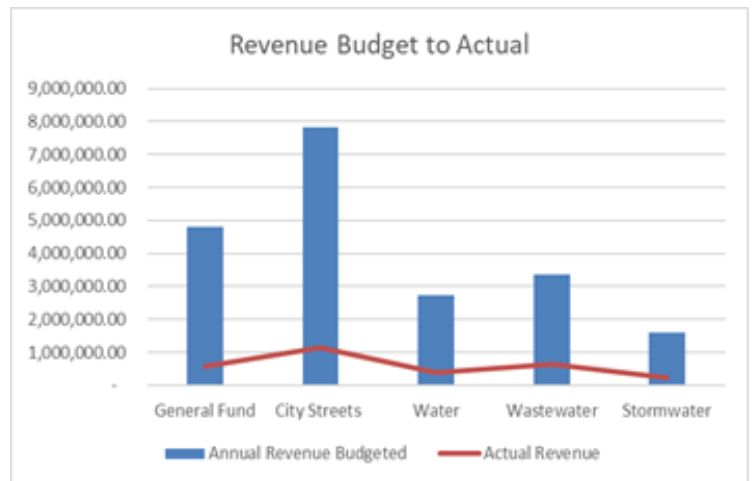
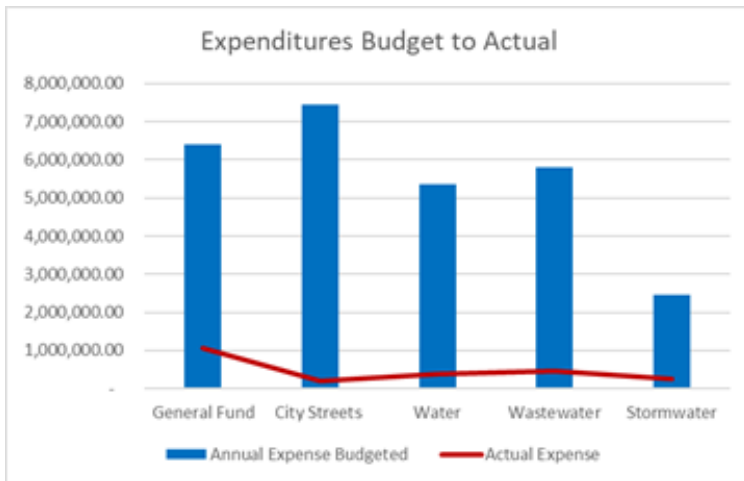


Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code

## Financial Report

### Major Revenues and Expenses include:

- **General Fund:** Budgeted at \$4.8 million; revenues collected through February total \$572 thousand.
- **City Streets Fund:** Budgeted at \$7.8 million; revenues collected through February total \$1.1 million.
- **Parks Fund:** Budgeted at \$17.7 million; revenues collected through February total \$41 thousand.
- **Water Fund:** Budgeted at \$2.7 million; revenues collected through February total \$402 thousand.
- **Wastewater Fund:** Budgeted at \$3.3 million; revenues collected through February total \$626 thousand.
- **Stormwater Fund:** Budgeted at \$1.6 million; revenues collected through February total \$220 thousand.



- **General Fund:** Budgeted at \$6.4 million; expenses through February total \$1million.
- **City Streets Fund:** Budgeted at \$7.4 million; expenses through February total \$190 thousand.
- **Parks Fund:** Budgeted at \$2 million; expenses through February total \$19 thousand.
- **Water Fund:** Budgeted at \$5.3 million; expenses through February total \$387 thousand.
- **Wastewater Fund:** Budgeted at \$5.7 million; expenses through February total \$470 thousand.
- **Stormwater Fund:** Budgeted at \$2.4 million; expenses through February total \$253 thousand.

### Significant Changes for February:

- The City reinvested Wastewater funds totaling \$5 million dollars in the Local Government Investment Funds that were previously held in a Federal Farm Bond.
- The City reinvested a \$500,000 bond that matured on February 6<sup>th</sup> and in a new 2-year Bond.