

JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE 9

# PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF ORANGE, TEXAS



## Covered in this month's issue:

- *WHO WE ARE;  
WHAT WE DO*
- *FLOOD  
MITIGATION*
- *BEAUTIFICATION  
& PROJECT  
UPDATES*
- *ONE QUESTION  
SURVEY*

## Welcome!

As we step into the new year, we are thrilled to kickstart this journey of growth, progress, and community empowerment. This newsletter serves as a guide illuminating the path we're paving together toward a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community.

In these pages, you will find a wealth of insights, updates, and initiatives dedicated to shaping the future of our community. Join us monthly as we embark on this transformative journey building a tomorrow that we all can be proud of.



# Our Divisions

## Planning Administration

The planning administration focuses on orchestrating and executing initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being, inclusivity, and sustainability of the community. Through meticulous planning, strategic partnerships, and active engagement, our administration strives to create a roadmap for growth and improvement. We prioritize our effort to build a vibrant and resilient community.

**Kelvin Knauf** - Director of Planning and Community Development

**Divon Williams** - Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development

**Wendy Lloyd** - Administrative Assistant

**Amanda Strong** - Planning Clerk

## Plans and Inspections Administration

The plans and inspections division is dedicated to facilitating structured, sustainable growth within the community. This division oversees the implementation of development plans while ensuring compliance through thorough inspections. The focus lies in fostering a safe, accessible, and aesthetically pleasing environment for residents and businesses.

**Marvin Benoit** - Building Official/Floodplain Administrator

**Randy Holman** - Building Inspector

## Code Enforcement Administration

The code enforcement division diligently upholds the standards outlined in the City codes and regulations. The primary goal is to ensure that properties and activities within our community adhere to established guidelines, promoting safety, and property values. Through proactive monitoring, education, and fair enforcement, we aim to foster a community where everyone respects and contributes to maintaining the integrity and quality of life.

**Sergeant John-Dee Taylor** - Code Compliance Supervisor

**Amanda Dupree** - Code Compliance Officer

**Teddy Hilyar** - Code Compliance Officer

## Grants Administration

The grants division serves as a catalyst for positive change by managing and allocating grants that fuel community projects and initiatives. The focus is on identifying needs, fostering partnerships, and distributing resources effectively. By empowering local organizations, businesses, and individuals we aim to uplift the overall quality of life within our community.

**Rita Monson** - Grants Planner

# Flood Mitigation

Flood mitigation is vital for protecting lives, preserving property, maintaining environmental balance, ensuring economic stability, fostering community resilience, and promoting long-term sustainability in the face of unpredictable weather patterns and climate change effects.

The Building Official is responsible for administering the floodplain program in accordance with federal laws. Feel free to review information on our department website at <https://orangetexas.gov/358/Floodplain> or contact Floodplain Administrator Marvin Benoit at 409-988-7399 for more information.



## Words to Know

**Flood Watch:** A message that flooding is possible and to listen to local radio or TV news and weather for more information.

**Flood Warning:** A message that flooding will occur soon, if it hasn't already, and to move to higher ground or evacuate immediately.

**Flash Flood:** A flood that can happen within minutes or hours of heavy rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or city drains overflowing.

**Levee/Dam:** A manmade structure to contain or prevent water from moving past a certain point.

## Preparing for a Flood

### Preparing for a Flood

Make a plan for your household, including your pets, so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding. Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.

### In Case of Emergency

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

### Know Your Risks for Floods

The City of Orange Office of Emergency Management encourages citizens and business owners to be proactive and register with STAN to receive timely and efficient information in the event of an emergency situation. Visit [thestan.com/register](http://thestan.com/register) or call 1-844-578-7826 to register.

### Purchase Flood Insurance

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Visit <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance> for more information.

# Property Floodplain Information

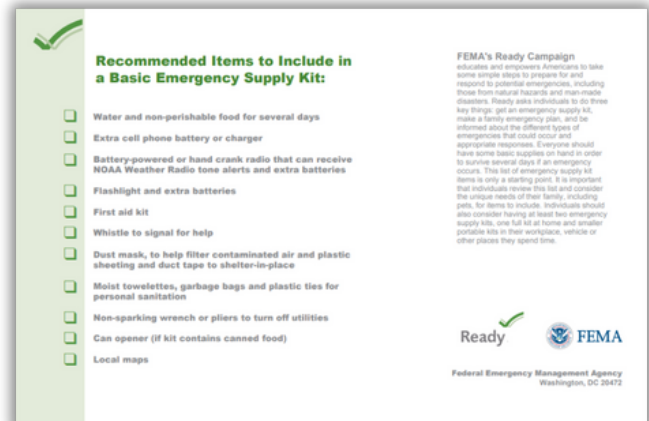
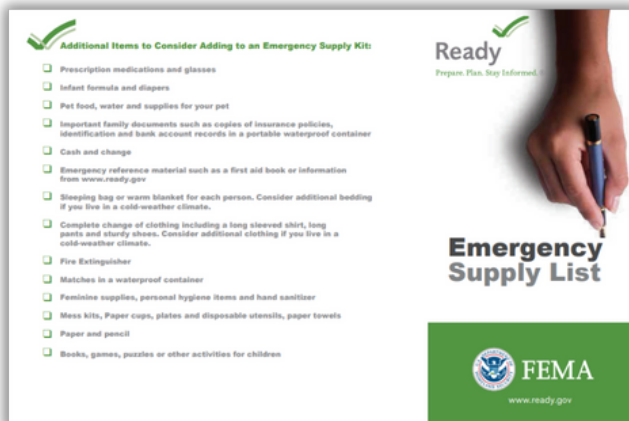
The City of Orange has implemented Forerunner, a public flood website that is available for all community members to access the flood risk data for individual properties. This site makes it easy for homeowners, contractors, insurance agents, realtors, and more to learn about the flood-related risk for a property as well as the potential building and insurance compliance requirements associated with it.



[www.https://orangetx.withforerunner.com/properties](https://orangetx.withforerunner.com/properties)

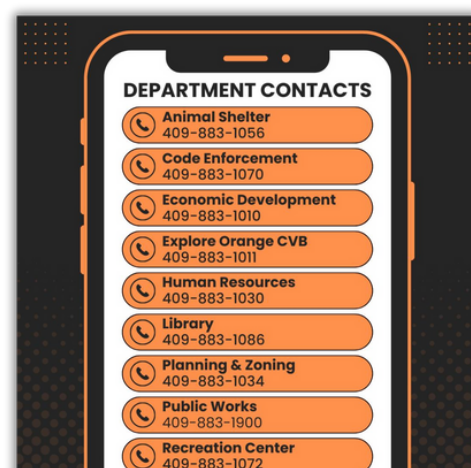
## Emergency Supply List

An emergency supply list serves as a proactive measure to prepare for unforeseen events, ensuring readiness, safety, and a better chance of managing emergencies effectively. For a complete and downloadable Emergency Supply List visit: <https://www.ready.gov>.



A collection of the Emergency Supply List in several languages: <https://www.ready.gov/collection/emergency-supply-list>

## Important Phone Numbers



For the complete City Directory, visit the website here: <https://orangetexas.gov/directory.aspx>



# Projects & More

The Orange Texas Rotary Club recently participated in the City of Orange Adopt-a-Spot program. The group assisted with removal of dead trees, landscaping, and cleaning the sign. As residents, and visitors travel throughout the city observe the remarkable enhancement of the “Welcome to Orange, Texas” sign located near Lion’s Den Park.



This is just the beginning! This vibrant space is designed to provide a fun -filled environment for families, children and everyone in our community to gather, play and make lasting memories. Stay tuned for more exciting amenities and enhancements coming to the Cove Recreation Area.

## Features at a Glance:

- Playscape
- Kiosk

## Features to Come:

- Walking Trail
- Children’s Village
- Benches
- Pavilion

## Community Engagement Surveys

Surveys enable us to identify areas for improvement, allocate resources effectively, and prioritize initiatives that resonate with the community. Your feedback matters. It is the cornerstone of our efforts to create a city that reflects the collective vision and values of the City of Orange and its residents. Visit the link <https://forms.office.com/r/qbeHSiWDKw> or scan the QR code to complete the one (1) question survey.



### **ADDRESS:**

303 N 8TH STREET  
ORANGE, TX 77630

### **PHONE:**

409-883-1070

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

MONDAYS - THURSDAYS 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
FRIDAYS 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM