

# The Nosy Neighbor

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**Merry Christmas**

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## Love Park Baseball Diamond Improvements

An attempt to get a grass infield installed at a Love Park baseball diamond took a curious turn when school board members denounced the idea.

The president and village board were approached by the Orion High School baseball coach about improving the diamond, which has been home to OHS baseball for decades.

The current condition of the infield makes drainage difficult after wet weather periods, causing postponement or cancellation of home games. The baseball coach requested a grass infield, which would require soil amendment, proper drainage, irrigation equipment, and seeding. Costs were projected at \$61,500.

Village president Jim Cooper, long a proponent of upgrades and improvements to the baseball fields, met with members of the Wyman R.

Coulter Trust to test the waters for funding the project. The Trust board was favorable toward the idea, as long as it had adequate earned income year-by-year.

After a meeting between Cooper, Trust members, the school superintendent, the baseball coach, village staff, and others, it was decided the school board would be approached about paying for the improvements to the diamond, later to be reimbursed by the Coulter Trust over a four-year period.

A formal Coulter Trust application was to be jointly submitted by village and school officials but that changed quickly once the school board gave the project the cold shoulder.

Cooper asked the board to not punish baseball over the negativity of some on the school board. Village board members Bob Mitton and Mel

Drucker suggested leasing the diamond to the school to provide for future maintenance.

In the end, the village submitted an application to Coulter Trust in the amount of \$60,000, to be received in \$15,000 increments over the course of four years. Village board members, however, worried that submission of the application could reduce the chance of receiving other funding over the course of those four years.

Bush Turf, Inc. was given the go-ahead to do the project this year. However, the approval was later reconsidered, due to the school board's reaction and concerns about weather.

The board recently voted to continue with the infield improvements, only if Bush Turf signed a contract to guarantee its work. Mel Drucker was the lone dissenter.

## Kick Loneliness to the Curb & Join In

The Orion Senior Citizens group is looking for more souls to feed at its weekly meal site.

Seniors gather at the Orion United Methodist Church each Tuesday at noon. Lunch is provided for the small sum of \$2.75, if eaten at the church, and \$3.00 for home delivery.

Menus are available on a

monthly basis at the meal site, but lunch isn't the only draw—after hungry bellies have been satisfied, seniors can sit down for weekly card games and social time

Twenty to 25 meals are delivered to the church each week, but one week in September only three seniors showed up to take part.

If you're a senior looking for something to fill up your calendar, consider dropping in for a meal and friendly conversation. Banish loneliness by joining in. Any age senior is welcome.

Questions? Call Iris Swanson at 309-476-8421.

## Abide by Snow Routes or Risk Towing

*There is no more wiggle room for vehicles parked on snow routes when 2 or more inches of snow have accumulated or are reasonably expected to accumulate.*

*Vehicles will be towed.*

Each year, in the December edition of the Nosy Neighbor, residents are provided information about the snow route and warned to abide by its regulations when 2 or more inches of snow have accumulated or are reasonably expected to accumulate. And each year there are those who continue to leave vehicles parked on the snow route, in violation of the regulations. It is clear warnings have proved insufficient, so violators will now be towed.

All snow routes are marked with signs, but a map of the route can be viewed on the village website, [www.orionil.org](http://www.orionil.org). The map is listed under Downloads, General, Snow Route. Those without computer access can obtain a map at Village Hall.

Snow routes will be plowed first, followed by secondary streets. Alleyways will be cleaned after all streets have been plowed and opened to traffic. Lastly, employees will return to push snow back to the curb, when necessary.

To allow for more efficient plowing, those not living on a snow route should also remove vehicles from the street where possible. This practice will prevent drivers from having to dig vehicles out from the plowed snow and allow for a clean street surface.

## Walkers & Runners, We Have a Deal for You!



*Walking in the street? Don't forget your flashing armband.*

Last year, the village board, led by trustee Steve Newman, purchased reflective slap bracelets for those walking or running on village streets at dusk or after dark. This was due to concerns about the safety of these individuals, especially after Newman, while driving to work one morning, narrowly missed a runner wearing dark clothes and no reflective gear.

This year, a new and improved arm band is available at Village Hall. The band is large enough to be placed around a bicep but can also be cinched around a forearm. The battery-powered device can glow solid red or with the push of a button, flash red. According to trustee Mel Drucker, an avid dog walker, the flashing red best captures the attention of drivers.

So be safe, walk toward traffic, and pick up your own personal arm band while supplies last.

## Missing Something?



At any given time during the year, someone's prized possessions might be dropped off at Village Hall. Temporarily lost or forgotten in one of Orion's parks or accidentally dropped in the street, these items are seldom claimed.

Articles of clothing, keys, sunglasses, toys, and bicycles have gone unclaimed.

In September, a bicycle was found near Orion Mart, abandoned, until picked up by a sheriff's deputy. The bicycle remains at Village Hall awaiting its owner.

Items not claimed are typically disposed of or donated to an organization participating in Main Street Orion's garage sale day. This year, several bicycles were added to items offered for sale by the local scout group. All but one sold.

Currently, in addition to the bicycle found in September, our lost and found includes a set of keys found in Central Park during an Orion Community Band concert that was held August 17, 2016.

Anyone missing a set of keys or a bicycle should contact Village Hall staff at 309-526-8139.

## Snowmobiles & Off-Road Recreational Vehicles

Snowmobiles can be operated from any point of origin in the village, in a reasonably direct route to the nearest snowmobile route. A map of the route can be accessed on the village's web site, [www.orionil.org](http://www.orionil.org). Choose the Documents tab, then General, and Snowmobile Route.

The route essentially includes the outer limits of the village and does not allow for random driving on other streets.

For those without computer access, a map can be obtained at Village Hall or you can follow this listing: 10th Ave. from Rt. 150 to 13th St., 12th Ave. from Rt. 150 to 3rd St., 3rd St. from 12th Ave. to 14th Ave., 14th Ave. from 3rd St. to 5th St., 5th St. from 14th Ave. to 15th Ave., 15th Ave. from 5th St. to the village limits, 13th St. north to the village limits and south to 14th Ave. A and from there, southeast to County Route 9B to the village limits.

Also, 1st St. from 10th Ave. south to 13th Ave.

Snowmobile route signs and directional arrows should guide recreational riders along the route.

The route is a privilege allowed by village officials. As long as drivers follow the regulations and keep to the established route, the privilege will continue.

Be safe, drive carefully, and enjoy the snow.



*Snowmobilers can drive through Orion but must follow the posted route.*

## Shop Small and Shop Local

Did you know November 27, 2010 was the first ever Small Business Saturday? By 2015, Small Business Saturday resulted in 95 million people shopping small businesses, according to Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey.

Small businesses are run by neighbors, friends, and family and often provide personal service and unique items not found elsewhere. Small businesses are job creators and the backbone of the country. Many small businesses offer the first job opportunity for young people looking for work experience and are among the first to lend a hand or donate money to area organizations.

So don't forget your local small business and all it does for your community. You can reciprocate by doing something as simple as shopping local. Take advantage of what Orion has to offer. You might be surprised by what you can find, and not just on one designated day per year.

Bond Ost cheese, anyone? It can be found every Christmas at Orion IGA. Discover what's out there.

*Step inside a local business and see what they have to offer:*

*Christmas decorations, wreaths, poinsettias, small gifts, cards, tools, gift certificates, and much more.*

## Western District Library—Upcoming Events

The library has a new website! Same location: [www.westerndistrictlibrary.org](http://www.westerndistrictlibrary.org).

Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 6 p.m. - **Knitters & Crocheters meet**. All are welcome who love to play with yarn.

Saturday, Dec. 10th, 10 a.m. - **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday KidZone "Holiday Fun"**

Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 6:30 p.m. - **Maryan Wherry will present "A History of Orion and Western Township: A Study on Ken Norcross and the Western Trail"**

Thursday, Dec. 15th, 9:30 a.m. - **McGuffey Readers discuss *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci.**

The library is closed Monday, December 26th, as it is the day after Christmas.

*Enjoy the library's holiday schedule!*



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