

The Nosy Neighbor

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Sept. 1, 2017

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Police Dispatching Fee Voted Down

Though the topic was removed from the Henry County board's February agenda, the idea of charging entities for dispatching services resurfaced in June.

Henry County's Public Safety Committee held a meeting June 5th, where affected community leaders attended, including village president Jim Cooper and trustee Mel Drucker.

The Public Safety Committee seemed determined to bring the issue for a vote before the county board, though Drucker said the group met for nearly two hours and still couldn't adequately explain who would or wouldn't be charged a fee and why.

Certain fire and ambulance services would be charged and others wouldn't, seemingly based on affordability. The same held true with municipalities.

Committee members proposed a per event fee of \$6.11, even after municipal

officials said they would help campaign for a 1/2 cent increase in sales tax instead.

Prior attempts to increase the county sales tax failed. Municipal officials were confident they could make a difference in the vote outcome by explaining the benefits of increasing the tax versus paying a per event fee for each use of the dispatch center.

Nonetheless, the proposal moved forward to the county board.

Cooper, spokesman for all Henry County municipalities, urged the county board to defeat the proposal to indiscriminately charge government agencies a dispatch fee. The proposal was ultimately defeated by the slimmest of margins.

Orion's village board thanked Cooper for serving as spokesman and spending hours attending mayoral and Public Safety Board meetings. The group also thanked those Henry County board members

who voted against instituting the fee.

Monthly Utility Bill Takes a Dive

On July 3rd the village board voted to delete two sewer fees from monthly bills.

Due to donations from the Wyman R. Coulter Trust, revenue earned by processing leachate from an outside company, and the refinancing of debt, the village board was able to pay off two sewer loans sooner than scheduled.

A few years ago, trustee Robert 'Deano' O'Leary, now deceased, and Sewer Supt. Chris Lundburg formulated a plan to process leachate from Millenium Waste and apply the revenue toward paying off sewer loans.

Charges on monthly bills were dropped by \$2/1,000 gallons of consumption and a flat monthly fee of \$4.98.

The average household's monthly savings is about \$12.

Landscape Waste Schedule

Open dates for the fall season of the landscape waste site are:

Saturdays from 8-10 a.m. on Sept. 16th & 30th, Oct. 14th & 28th, and Nov. 4th & 18th, and Mondays from 1-3 p.m. on Sept. 18th, Oct. 2nd & 16th, and Nov. 6th & 20th.

The site is open to village residents only. Users of the site might be asked to produce a form of identification.

The site is manned by village employees on Mondays and elected officials on Saturdays.

Most landscape waste is allowed, with the exception of grass and mulch.

The site is located in the 800 block of 4th Street, across from the wastewater treatment plant.



2017

45th. Orion Fall Festival

Schedule of Events in the Orion Area Community
 (All events held in Orion Central Park unless noted otherwise)
 (*) Events sponsored by the Orion Fall Festival

In case of inclement weather, grandstand events will be held at the Orion United Methodist Church Activity Center.

Friday, September 1, 2017

- 4:30 pm Pie Baking Contest registration at Park Band Shell*
- 5:00 pm Carnival Rides begin*
- Food Tent opens at Park Shelter*
- Arts and Crafts Tents open*
- Ice Cream Social begins near Park Shelter (Sponsored by Orion Area Churches Association)
- 5:30 pm Pie Judging begins at Park Band Shell*
- 6:30 pm Pie Auction begins at Park Band Shell* (Auction courtesy Stenzel Auction Services)
- 8:00 pm Street Dance (Sponsored by Belly-Up)
- Featured Band: Moonshine Run
- Street Dance (Sponsored by Side Tracked Saloon)
- Featured Band: Funktastic Five 8 pm-Midnight (Outside)
- Featured Band: DJ Jazzy Jeff 10 pm-2 am (Inside)
- 9:30 pm-11:30 pm High School "Overtime" Party at Orion United Methodist Activity Center* (DJ Courtesy Don Rahn)
- 10:00 pm Carnival Rides close

Saturday, September 2, 2017

- 7:30 am Charger 10 mile and 5k Runs at Rock Island Conservation Club, 2421 Big Island Road, Milan, IL (Cornbelt Running Club)
- 8:00 am-9:00 am Orion Lions Club Bike/Hike4Sight (Sponsored by Orion Lions Club)
- 9:00 am Rummage Sale at Orion St. Paul Lutheran Church (Sponsored by the Church)
- Food Tent opens at Park Shelter*
- Arts and Crafts Tents open*
- 10:00 am "Candy in the Hay"*-Candy Hunt for Kids near Park Band Shell
- Kid's Monkey Bridge (Sponsored by Orion Boy Scout Troop 123)
- 10:30 am Kid's Tractor Pull* begins at Kirk, Huggins and Esterdahl, 1301-4th St.
- Noon Carnival Rides open*
- 6 vs. 6 Sand Volleyball Tournament (Sponsored by Side Tracked Saloon)
- 1:00 pm Parade* begins at 13th. St. and 11th. Ave.
- Parade Theme: Lions Club-A Century of Service
- Grand Marshal: Jim DeBaillie
- 2:00 pm Bags Tournament (Sponsored by Belly Up)
- 3:00 pm "Miss Main Street Orion" Pageant at Park Band Shell (Sponsored by Main Street Orion)
- Strawberry Shortcake Dessert served near Park Band Shell (Sponsored by Main Street Orion)
- 5:00 pm "Enjoy a Root Beer Float" served near the Park Band Shell (Sponsored by Main Street Orion)
- Pork Chop Dinner* served at Food Tent near Park Shelter
- 5:01 pm "Minute to Win It"* at Park Band Shell for Kids Ages 8-15, Registration at 4:31 pm
- 7:00 pm "Deal or No Deal" at the Park Band Shell (Sponsored by Orion Mart, Harry Singh)
- 8:00 pm Street Dance (Sponsored by Side Tracked Saloon)
- Featured Band: Cheese Pizza 8 pm-Midnight (Outside)
- Featured Band: DJ Jazzy Jeff 10 pm-2 am (Inside)
- 8:00 pm Street Dance (Sponsored by Belly-Up)
- Featured Band: Lynn Allen
- 8:30 pm-11:00 pm Middle School Party at Orion United Methodist Activity Center* (DJ is courtesy Don Rahn)
- 10:00 pm Carnival Rides close

Sunday, September 3, 2017

- 7:00 am-10:30 am Pancake, Sausage, Biscuit and Gravy Breakfast served at Food Tent near Park Shelter (Sponsored by Orion Lions Club)
- 8:00 am Nondenominational Church Service held at Park Band Shell (Sponsored by Orion Area Ministers Association)
- Special Guests: Gospel recording artists The Chosen Ones
- Rain Location: Orion United Methodist Activity Center
- 10:00 am-6:00 pm Kid's Monkey Bridge (Sponsored by Orion Boy Scout Troop 123)
- Noon-4:00 pm Car Show on Main Street*
- Noon Food Tent opens at Park Shelter*
- Arts and Crafts Tents open*
- Carnival Rides open*
- Cub Scout Soap Box Derby Race (Sponsored by Orion Cub Scout Pack 123)

Memories (cont'd from pg. 4)

Sandy had been diagnosed with lymphoma and was arriving for her first treatment. Her leg was affected and had swelled to the point it was difficult to walk. Otherwise, she looked good and maintained her sunny disposition, always cheerful and full of laughter. She was a joy to have in the room.



Jan with wife Sandy in 2010

After introductions all around, Jan left to attend to his daily routine while Sandy stayed for her treatment. The lymphoma treatment was a two-day process, lasting several hours the first day and another couple hours the next. This took place once every four weeks for six treatments.

Mom and Sandy shared the same room in May and then again in June. By June, Sandy was up and motoring around without the wheelchair. Her leg had improved drastically after her first treatment. We talked, ate white cheddar Cheez-Its, and watched cooking shows on television.

Sandy remained actively involved in real estate, a business at which she excelled. She said Jan's daily routine, after retiring from Deere & Co., included walking the dog (their son's, I believe), doing odds and ends at the real estate office, and coffee with a

men's group. He maintained his well-groomed look and was ever the gentleman.

After Sandy's June treatment, she developed other health issues and one day, quite suddenly, lost the use of her legs. If memory serves me, she was admitted to the University of Iowa Hospitals and later transferred to a hospital in the Quad City metro area. Jan kept me and others posted on her status via email. His messages were upbeat and hopeful, expectant that she would get back on track, planning for a transport van to bring her to her next treatment appointment. But Mom and I never saw her again.

Sandy contracted sepsis while in the hospital. Due to the chemotherapy, she had no immune system to fight it. She died July 18, 2014 at the age of 72.

I learned Jan recently sold his two river houses and moved to an assisted living facility. I'm told he likes his new digs and is happy to never again shovel snow, mow, deal with floods, and cook.

On May 12th, out of the blue, I received this email message at work: 'Have wonderful memories of our past. Hope you are healthy and happy. Also hope you stay in touch. Warmest regards, Jan.' Likewise, Jan.

-Lori Sampson

45TH Orion Fall Festive Schedule (cont'd)

1:00 pm-4:00 pm	Strawberry Shortcake Dessert served near Park Band Shell <i>(Sponsored by Main Street Orion)</i>
1:30 pm-4:00 pm	"Orion's Got Talent" Show at Park Band Shell <i>(Sponsored by Main Street Orion)</i>
4:15 pm	Orion Community Band at Park Band Shell <i>(Sponsored by Main Street Orion)</i>
5:00 pm	Festival Raffle Drawing* at Park Band Shell
5:30 pm	"Fall Fiesta" with Walking Tacos and Dessert opens at Orion United Methodist Activity Center <i>(Sponsored by the Orion United Methodist Youth Missions and TLC Pre-School)</i>
6:00 pm	Festival Events, Food Tent and Carnival close in Central Park
6:30 pm	Comedy Sportz featuring "Guys with Ties" (Free Admission) at Orion United Methodist Activity Center <i>(Sponsored by the Church Youth Group)</i>
8:00 pm	Street Dance <i>(Sponsored by Side Tracked Saloon)</i> Featured Band: Dirt Road Rockers 8 pm-Midnight (Outside) Featured Band: DJ Jazzy Jeff 10 pm-2 am (Inside)
Monday, September 4, 2017	
8:00 am	Clean up day in the Village. Volunteers are welcome to meet in Central Park.

Orion Fall Festival

The Orion Fall Festival is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Together with community organizations and volunteers, it sponsors the Orion Fall Festival every Labor Day Weekend.

Funds raised from festival activities are returned to the community which is comprised of the Orion Community Unit School District, which includes the cities of Orion, Osco, Andover and Lynn Center and their surrounding communities. The funds serve community needs such as fire and ambulance equipment, park improvements, playground equipment, and medical needs of individuals without adequate insurance. Since 1972, total disbursements to the community have totaled almost \$775,000. For more information: www.facebook.com/OrionFallFestival

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Memories of Our Past



Though former mayor Jan Ryden, pictured left, submitted his resignation a few short months after the Village's first TIF district was declared dead - by means of the Illinois Supreme Court's refusal to hear the appeal - his action wasn't a direct result of the TIF

battle. Other forces were at play as well but will remain unaddressed, since those issues were the subject of executive sessions of the village board. Executive session minutes pertaining to those issues are closed to the public, and those who attended the meetings are forbidden to discuss its contents.

Jan's resignation letter was on my desk the morning of August 5, 1996. I had no inkling it was coming, and I didn't see Jan for years after - more than a decade is closer to the truth. I think we might have spoken on the phone once or twice, but we didn't reconnect in person until attending a surprise 80th birthday party for former Orion mayor, Barbara De la Paz. It was November 2010.

I recognized Jan and his wife, Sandy, right away. We sat together and reminisced about the good times we had enjoyed. I admired the 911 pin on Jan's lapel, which he said his son Brad gave him. A jeweler friend of Brad's designed it after the horrific 9-11 attack on the United States. Jan re-

moved the pin from his lapel and offered it to me, saying he could get another one. It was a kind and unexpected gesture.

The Rydens had sold their home in Orion years prior and moved to a house in Hampton, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Since Jan and Barb remained fast friends after their political years in Orion, Barb would cat- and house-sit for the Rydens when they were out of town.



Ryden and De la Paz in 2010

I was at the house once, invited by Barb. It was a Thanksgiving weekend day and the Rydens were in Texas visiting their daughter. Their home was lined with picture windows facing the river. It was beautiful, and I could understand why they fell in love with it. Eventually, they purchased the house next door to them as well.

In May 2014, my mom and I traveled to her doctor's office for the second of six chemotherapy treatments, designed to eradicate her lymphoma, and got settled in the treatment room. Shortly after, in came Jan, pushing his wife in a wheelchair. I was shocked to see them. When I got up to greet them, it took them a moment to realize who I was. (cont'd pg. 3)