

The Nosy Neighbor

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**Merry
Christmas
To All!**

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A Great Hometown

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Main Street Orion
Christmas Insert

CTI Offers Additional Communications Choice

Orion property owners now have more choices when deciding who will be their communications provider.

Recently, Cambridge Telcom was given permission to use village rights-of-way to install high-speed fiber optics, and crews have been busy since October installing the underground fiber optic cable.

Matt Storm, General Manager of Geneseo Communications and Cambridge Telcom, said in a press release, "This investment will allow us to deliver the speeds customers want including those that are beyond the traditional services available today."

The fiber-build is part of CTI's strategy to expand fiber into neighboring communities, providing the very latest in emergency, education, and tele-health services as well as a superior residential broadband platform that will equip residential homes not only for today but for the future.

For potential customers

Police officers and village officials have been supplying walkers and runners seen in the street after dark with lighted arm bands.

Oftentimes, drivers are unable to see people who don't wear reflective gear. Two village trustees experienced this up

locked in a contract with Mediacom, CTI is extending a credit toward an early termination offer under certain circumstances. Orion residents can register their interest at www.fibermycity.com or by calling 309-944-2103.

Mediacom and Frontier Communications provide phone and internet services to the community, but Orion residents have been seeking more options, mostly due to poor service from Frontier Communications. Customers of Frontier have long complained about internet outages lasting a day or more, a lack of upgrades, and slow internet speed.

Teleprompter, the village's first and only cable television provider, gained a franchise agreement with the village in 1980 and later was purchased by Mediacom.

Network Business Systems provides internet service to Orion via equipment placed on one of the village's water towers.

Be Safe

close and personal—one who came close to hitting a runner and another who almost didn't see children playing in the street. Both instances occurred after dark.

While everyone is urged to use sidewalks where provided, those who choose to be in the

Though it might appear CTI is boring fiber optic cable and installing vaults on private property, the company is using street rights-of-way and alleys. Street rights-of-way extend beyond the street surface and into landscaped areas ordinarily maintained by the adjoining property owner.

CTI employees and contractors are required to return the area to its pre-disturbed condition, though most cable is bored underground with little disruption to the surface. Vaults are buried flush with the ground at certain intervals.



street after dark should wear some type of reflective gear.

Keep in mind how hard it is for a motorist to see a pedestrian after dark and how long it takes to stop a vehicle once a pedestrian is seen.

Finance Committee Recommends No Increase to Tax Levy

Auditor says village board members good stewards of village finances.

At its November 15th meeting, Finance Committee members decided to recommend leaving the tax levy request at the same amount as last year, \$193,155. In fact, this will be the fifth year the levy request has remained the same.

An argument was made for an increase in the levy, due in part to various increasing costs but the general fund's cash balance is healthy and has remained stable or recorded slight increases. The village's equalized assessed valuation is estimated to increase slightly. A tax levy hearing will be held December 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the village hall.

Village auditor, Tom Engelmann, cited the village board's conservative spending nature and early pay-down of debt as being good stewards of village finances. He noted the lack of segregation of duties, due to the small number of staff, will always be an issue but proper oversight by the Finance Committee can keep things in check.

Early pay-down of debt has afforded the village an opportunity to eliminate two sewer fees from monthly bills. Sewer rates had been a sticking point for people thinking of moving to the area.

Email Changes for Village Staff

In an effort to create a more standardized system for village staff, email addresses have undergone a change. New email addresses are as follows:



vclerk@orionil.org to reach Village Clerk Lori Sampson
treasurer@orionil.org to reach Village Treasurer Dee Lundburg
water@orionil.org to reach Water Superintendent Arnie Sandberg
streets@orionil.org to reach Street Superintendent Neil Dahl
owwtp@orionil.org to reach Sewer Superintendent Chris Lundburg

Messages for the village president or any trustee can be sent via the village clerk's email address and will be forwarded to the appropriate official.

Those wishing to reach Bart Sampson, Orion's building inspector, can continue to send emails to orionbuildinginspector@gmail.com.

Recycling Reminders

Curbside recycling is offered every other Thursday at a monthly cost of \$3.25

Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Inc. is contracted to provide recycling services to all single-family residential households in Orion. The company will also enter into private contracts with multi-family residential property owners and businesses.

Some time ago village trustees authorized delivery of recycle totes to all single family residences in the village limits. Totes are the property of Eagle Enterprises and to be used only for curbside recycling every other Thursday. If a property is sold, the tote should remain on the property.

Recently, Eagle Enterprises has been asked to deliver totes for new property owners where records show a tote or multiple totes were previously delivered. Totes cost the company \$85 each. Please adhere to their policy and leave totes where they belong.

A 2018 recycling calendar was not available at publication time but can be obtained at www.eerecycling.com or by picking one up at village hall nearer to the end of the year.

Seasonal Reminder for Winter Driving

Motorists are asked to avoid parking along snow routes within the village when 2" of snow or more have accumulated or are reasonably expected to accumulate. Police will be authorized to order the towing of vehicles in violation of the ordinance.



Snow routes are always posted but a description of the routes can be found on the village's website at www.orionil.org. Choose the Downloads tab, then Municipal Code, then Chapter 15.

Also, snowmobiles are subject to a designated route. They 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 website. Choose the Downloads tab, then General, then Snowmobile Route.

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.



Village Seeking Meter Reader

Dennis Lehr, meter reader for the village of Orion, will resign his position in December. He began employment in September 2015 and was featured in *The Nosy Neighbor's* December edition that year. Lehr's service to the village is appreciated and he will be missed.

Anyone wishing to fill the shoes of the meter reader's position can obtain an application at village hall during regular hours. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m., December 15th.

The position requires a great deal of walking in all types of weather. Meters are read once per month on a schedule determined by the village. The current salary is \$300 per month.



Is this the job for you?

Coyote Sighting

Did you see it? In October, when I was on vacation, residents spotted a coyote running around in Orion. In the middle of the day, no less. Dee Lundburg, village treasurer, was first notified by Orion's street superintendent and then heard from an employee at Woo Dog's Pub & Grub, who had seen the animal in front of the restaurant/bar.

Treasurer Lundburg quickly contacted the Orion Vet Clinic for information and was recommended to Henry County Animal Control. Still not the right resource, Lundburg contacted the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and learned sightings of coyotes are quite common this year. The animals are approaching populated areas due to the large amount of rabbits available.

Linda Hines, who lives just outside village limits, showed me a picture taken of a coyote eating apples that had fallen from her tree. Another of her photos showed the coyote standing right at the sliding glass door of her house. It looked quite healthy, and she said it seemed so fascinated with its own reflection in the glass that it didn't notice her standing inside.

In the city of Chicago coyotes are estimated to number at least 2,000. As their numbers grow, the animals have spread into more suburban areas, living longer life spans since they are free from being hunted.

Unless a coyote appears ill or threatening, it should be left alone. Firearms cannot be discharged within village limits.

-Lori Sampson

Looking remarkably like a dog, the coyote stops in the road to consider its next move.



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**May You Have a Merry Christmas
and
Blessed New Year!**

**From
Village of Orion Officials and Staff**

