

The Nosy Neighbor

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New Ordinance Opens Door to Encroachments

The village board recently paved the way to allow residents to use streets, alleys, and rights of way in ways not previously permitted.

The action followed a request by residents who had been told to remove permanently installed basketball hoops from the village right of way. Installation by the homeowners violated parts of the village code that made it unlawful to place obstructions or encroachments in that area.

Basketball hoops were placed by property owners in the right of way and facing the street, across from each other, so their children could use the street as a basketball court.

The residents indicated it was safer for their children to play basketball in the street than crossing the highway to reach village parks. The residents live in the Prairie Knoll subdivision.

After discussing the issue at two village board meetings, the board voted to have Ames

Eagle Scout hopeful, Zachary Kline, updated the village board on April 2nd of his progress to rehab 24 benches used in Central Park.

Mayor Jim Cooper and trustee Roger Peterson have been active in helping Mr. Kline secure lumber, get it delivered,

Law Office draft an ordinance allowing obstructions and encroachments on village property but only when authorized by resolution. The ordinance received unanimous approval of those present at the May 21st meeting. Trustee Steve Newman was absent.

Those wishing to place basketball hoops or other obstructions or encroachments on public property can make such a request before the board. Resolutions, if approved, will not necessarily be permanent. Each request will be considered on its own merit.

Vandals in Central Park

Since the flag pole light in the center of Central Park was broken by unknown vandals, it was decided to alter one of the security cameras in the band shell, slightly.

The altered camera will pick up not only activity in the band shell but also pan out to the park's flag pole. It is

Rehab of Central Park Benches

and purchase hardware for the upgrade. Contractor Bart Sampson will assist in processing the lumber.

A Modern Woodmen grant is available to buy paint and stain.

The Orion Fall Festival Committee fronted money for the

hoped this will deter further vandalism.

However, flags put around the perimeter of the park and along the sidewalks were recently tampered with.

First grade students place the flags annually, just prior to the Memorial Day holiday. The flags had only been in place one day before some were removed and thrown about.

A passerby noticed the activity taking place and contacted authorities. Security cameras recorded footage of the deed. The offenders were juveniles.

The public should be aware security cameras exist in Central Park and are likely to catch offenders in the act. Previously, offenders have been caught lighting a fire in the bathroom and smashing bulbs from the Christmas tree in the band shell.

Live camera footage can be seen at all times on computers at the village hall.

project, which will be reimbursed by the sale of \$50 sponsorships per bench. Plaques will be affixed to each sponsored bench.

To purchase a sponsorship contact staff at village hall by phone or email: 309-526-8139 or vclerk@orionil.org.

New Crows Nest Complements New Field



Orion's ball diamond no longer lives in the past. Updates have been made to the ballpark through the generosity of others.

Work on a new crows nest at the large baseball diamond in Love Park began in early spring. Workers were thwarted for a time due to inclement weather but persevered and managed to complete most of the structure in time for a dedication ceremony May 16th. The crows nest complements the grass infield at the ball diamond. The infield was made possible by a grant from the Wyman R. Coulter Trust.

Village trustee Ryan Hancock approached the village board about donating funds raised by his Orion High School class after the death of classmate Joe Smolenski. Mr. Smolenski died in an accident in Wisconsin. His classmates preferred to donate the money toward something related to baseball, since Mr. Smolenski played the sport in high school, and settled on a crows nest. In addition to the class donation, Mr. Smolenski's grandfather added enough money to pay for the project materials.

Contractor Dan Papish, West Concrete, electrician's apprentices, and others volunteered their time to build the crows nest.

The structure was first used for Orion's regional baseball tournament. Perhaps it was a good luck charm. Orion won the tournament by beating Rockridge 10-0.

If Baseball's Not Your Thing, Then . . .

Summer is the perfect time to find yourself a book, lounge in a hammock, and go on a reading adventure.



Join the crowd sure to gather at Western District Library for a listen to Doug Vroman's thoughts on the trials, tribulations, and good times hiking the Appalachian Trail. Vroman is a former City of Rock Island fire chief who chose to hike the trail after his retirement. His presentation is at 6:30 p.m., June 13th.

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is among the longest continuously marked trails—2,200 miles, and it begins in Georgia and ends in Maine. After the program you can search the bookshelves for Grandma Gatewood's Walk—The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail. You'll truly be inspired.

In the spirit of a hike on the Appalachian Trail, the library is offering a summer children's program with the theme of "Reading Takes You Everywhere". It includes Rob's World of Magic, June 6th at 10 a.m., The Wonderful World of Dogs, June 13th at 10 a.m., Titanic Adventure, June 20th at 10 a.m., Kids Kamp, June 27th at 10 a.m., and Monday night programs that run from June 11-July 16th. Friday Fun-zone is Friday mornings at 10 a.m. and runs from June 8th to the 22nd.

Clean Up Week is Here

Leave those boxes open or they won't get picked up!



The annual tradition of cleaning out the clutter continues. Orion will hold Clean Up Week from June 11th-14th. A village crew will scan curbs across town each day to look for items to pick up. If an item is not picked up, chances are it could be on the ineligibility list or a crew needs to return with larger equipment to lift or otherwise accommodate the piece.

Ineligible waste includes tires, appliances, water heaters, hazardous waste, railroad ties, corrosive reactive materials such as swimming pool cleaning materials and other chemicals, electronics, building materials from remodeling projects, batteries, and landscape waste. Items in closed bags or boxes will not be collected. Paint cans with 1" or less of dried paint will be picked up.

Items placed at the curb early in the day stand the best chance of being collected the same day. Items must be placed at the curb no later than 8 a.m. on the last day of pick up, Thursday, June 14th.





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How Businesses Serve Your Community

Earlier this year the village board and Main Street Orion agreed to team up to celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial. Inside this edition of The Nosy Neighbor you can find a complete schedule of events for the August 4th & 5th celebration. In addition to being funded by the Village and MSO, other financial supporters include Coulter Insurance, Orion Mart (Shell Oil), and Parkside Treasure House.

Over the course of my involvement with MSO I have asked business owners for a lot of sponsorship money and am always surprised by their generosity. Thousands of dollars have been donated. These dollars helped bring years of professional music talent to the community, show movies in the park, hire the Orion Community Band, and now will support Illinois Bicentennial activities.

In addition to sponsoring events a good number of business owners pay membership dues to MSO. In fact, they join MSO at numbers much greater than the general public. When 48 business members pay dues out of, say, about 70 located in Orion, I'd say that's impressive. Especially when compared with 31 single or family memberships out of a possible 700 or so households in the village.

When you think about filling up your gas tank or picking up flowers for a special event or wonder whether that anonymous voice at Geico will serve you as well in your time of need as a local insurance agent, consider doing business in Orion.

Not only will you build an important relationship and be treated well, buying in Orion will add to the local economy. Did you know the past fiscal year brought just a smidge over \$154,000 in sales tax to the village of Orion? Sales tax dollars help improve streets, build sidewalks, beautify our parks, and provide police services to keep our community safe.

Next time you see that a business owner has sponsored an event, express your thanks. And if you have an opportunity, show your gratitude by doing business with them.

-Lori A. Sampson