

Village of Orion
1202 4th Street
P.O. Box 69
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The Nosy Neighbor

The 2020 Census is Easy!

The census asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress
- Guide how more than \$675 million in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads, and hospitals.

Population Count (Number of People Living or Staying)

The Census Bureau asks this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for districts like congressional districts, state legislative districts and school districts.

The Census Bureau's goal is to count people once and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Names of those in the household are requested to ensure everyone is counted.

Your Census Responses are Safe and Secure

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected. Every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Be a census taker. Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs.

(All information provided for reproduction by U.S. Census Bureau)

CENSUS 101

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



United States
Census

In addition to population count, the 2020 Census will ask respondents if they are an owner or renter, their name, sex, age, and date of birth.

Respondents will also be asked if they are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, their race, whether a person lives or stays somewhere else, relationships within the household, and citizenship.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

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Main Street Orion Insert

Read more about
A Great Hometown
at
www.orionil.org

Email
velerk@orionil.org

LOOKING FOR PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS

Meetings of the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are held as needed, on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

The Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals has been operating with fewer than the required seven members for some time. As with village board positions, few seem interested in serving or perhaps are unaware of the vacancies. Vacancy appointments are made by the mayor with the advice and consent of the village board.

The PCZBA only meets when a party has requested a zoning change, annexation, special use permit, set back variance, or similar request. Typically, this has been two or three times per year. Members are paid \$25 per meeting.

For those who might consider dipping their toe in the realm of village politics, the PCZBA is a natural starting point. Interested parties can contact staff at the village hall by phoning 309-526-8139 or emailing at vclerk@orionil.org. Two positions are available.

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LANDSCAPE WASTE DATES SET FOR SPRING

Village officials volunteer to work the landscape waste site so residents can have access without incurring any extra cost to the village.

Village employees man the site on Mondays, during their regular work week.



If you weren't able to clean your garden last fall, now is the time. Take advantage of the available dates before time runs out. The site will be closed in the summer and reopen in the fall.

Residents will be pleased to know the landscape waste site will again be open this spring. Bags cannot be left at the site but instead must be emptied and removed. Grass and mulch are not accepted.

The landscape waste site is open only to those living within the village limits of Orion. Those using the site should bring a form of identification. Volunteers or village employees will be manning the site and may ask for an I.D.

Open dates are as follows:

Saturdays from 8-10 a.m.

April 4th	April 18th
May 2nd	May 16th
May 30th	

Mondays from 1-3 p.m.

April 6th	April 20th
May 4th	May 18th

LARKINS (cont'd from pg. 4)

While one might think wrangling with the IEPA would exhaust the average person, Larkins had also been working to convince the village board it should develop a new TIF district. He lamented the defeat of Orion's first district after hearing from the Quad City Development Group that business developers were looking for TIF incentives.

Village attorney John Ames worked on assessed valuations for properties in a proposed TIF district. He established the number of parcels and gathered supporting documentation. This began the process of another attempt at forming a TIF district.

A new bathroom was constructed in Central Park, in the likeness of one built in Love Park. The project didn't come without its own struggles. Red Oak Builders submitted a bid of \$48,234 and the village had only budgeted \$30,000.

After review of the plans a lower price was negotiated. Village employees took on the required dirt work, painting and staining, and it was agreed to reduce interior footings of non-load bearing walls. The restrooms were completed by Labor Day weekend at a cost of \$33,692, not including new water and sewer laterals installed by Dan Myers Plumbing & Heating.

At a meeting of the village board, President Larkins presented village clerk Lori Sampson an Illinois Woman of Achievement Award from Lt. Gov. Corrine Wood. The award was given in celebration of Women's History Month for recognition of women and their contribution to government.

Led by trustee Mel Drucker, a Water Facilities Study was compiled, revealing the need for acidization of Well #1 to increase flow and demolition of an old wooden ground storage tank at Well #2. It was to be replaced by a larger steel tank. After applying for an Illinois First grant the village was notified it would be awarded \$250,000 toward replacement of the wooden tank.

Main Street Orion officials attended a village board meeting to announce a visit by Lt. Gov. Corrine Wood and invite the board to a May 1st ceremony marking the official designation of the Main Street Orion program. The village board had agreed to fund the organization in the amount of \$10,000, and President Larkins said he considered the funding of MSO a down payment on the future of the community.

A search began to find someone to fill the shoes of water superintendent Ron Saunders whose retirement was scheduled for May 12, 2000.

To be continued in a future edition of *The Nosy Neighbor*.

-Lori Sampson

- ⇒ Sewer rehab progress is finally made
- ⇒ Talks begin regarding development of a new TIF district
- ⇒ A new Central Park restroom is built
- ⇒ Water system improvements considered
- ⇒ Water Supt. Ron Saunders retires
- ⇒ Main Street Orion receives its official designation

LARKINS PRESSES IEPA TO APPROVE SEWER PLANS

(A series continued from the June 2019 edition of The Nosy Neighbor)

Village president Bill Larkins in 1997 began the effort to upgrade the sewer plant and install sanitary relief mains. After more than two years of engineering changes, flow monitoring, easement acquisitions and endless meetings, finally, in March of the year 2000, the sewer plant design was approved by the Illinois EPA.

Larkins and the board moved forward with phase I of the plan, installation of sanitary relief main. The relief main was designed to carry more flow during periods of heavy rain in order to avoid sewer system backups.

Bids came in well below the projected estimate of \$1,250,000. Laverdiere Construction submitted the low bid of \$748,088, which was accepted by the board. Though the project was set to begin, Larkins was still involved in the process of acquiring a loan from the IEPA to pay for it. His efforts would prove successful.

To get this project going the village board tussled with property owners who refused to grant easement rights. Court dates were set for two holdouts who later settled with the village.

Shortly after gaining IEPA approval for the sewer project, Laurie Ator was appointed to fill the vacancy created by trustee Matt Drucker's resignation.

cont'd on pg. 3 (Larkins)

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