The Nosy Neighbor

Census 2020 Update

I said to myself I would not lead with a story about COVID-19. We’re all tired of reading about it. But it’s a shadow that hangs over everything, even the census, and it’s inescapable.

The Census Bureau is adjusting its schedule to accommodate for the coronavirus pandemic. Many received Census 2020 notices and responded online at 2020census.gov. For those who did not respond, a paper questionnaire should have been received by April 30th.

A postcard reminder was mailed between April 27th and May 9th. It was one in a series of reminders the Census Bureau mailed to non-responders since mid-March.

At the end of April, Orion’s self response rate was 62.3% as compared to Henry County’s rate of 65.5%. The rate for the state of Illinois was 58.7%.

Due to the pandemic, the self response date has been pushed back to October 31st. A census taker will still visit every address that does not respond on its own.

The most important and safe thing you can do is respond online, by phone, or by mail. It has never been easier to respond to the census.

Your response impacts funding for Orion for critical services for the next 10 years.

For more information about the census, visit 2020census.gov.
COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic resulted in the cancellation of Main Street Orion’s Daddy-Daughter Dance, normally held in April, as well as its annual Garage Sale Day, held the 2nd Saturday in June.

The village’s annual Clean-Up Week has also been cancelled. Village board members decided it was not the time for public works employees to be unnecessarily exposed to others trash.

The Main Street Orion quarterly insert to this newsletter is absent due to the uncertainty of its calendar of events. MSO’s Cruise In car show/movie and annual Eat in the Street event may still be held. Events await the results of Governor Pritzker’s phase-in plan.

Orion High School graduates missed their graduation ceremony but had a pretty cool vehicular parade around town. Townsfolk were smattered around the community waving and cheering in support. Congrats to the grads!

General resources and a list of executive orders regarding COVID-19 can be found at coronavirus.illinois.gov.

MAIN STREET ORION DIRECTOR RESIGNS

She’s a ball of energy, theatrical, kind, and joyful. Candice Schultz, you will be missed!

Due to the transfer of her husband to the Methodist Church in Aledo, Schultz will be resigning from the director’s position with Main Street Orion on June 15th.

Schultz was the creator of contests and the delightful Zinnia Capital of the World quest. Zinnias suddenly popped up all over town, beaming with beautiful, bright-colored petals.

Main Street Orion’s office window was never empty. Decorated by Schultz’s talented hands, it overflowed with posters, lights, mannequins, flowers, photographs—anything to advertise the next MSO event, its sponsors, and business participants.

Seeing that Main Street could use a bit of a facelift, Schultz found contractors who installed ornamental lighting in Geneseo and asked their expert advice on doing the same in Orion. Soon after, the village board agreed to pay for part of the project and donations from others rounded out the balance. Our main street was transformed.

The village is fortunate to have been the recipient of Schultz’s talents and we wish her the best in her next adventure.
REBUILD ILLINOIS LENDS FINANCIAL BOOST

Engineering efforts continue for improvements to 7th Street, from 15th Avenue south to the village limits. The cost is expected to be around $100,000.

Originally planned to be paid with general fund monies, the engineering cost may now be eligible for funding through Governor J. B. Pritzker’s recently announced REBUILD Illinois plan. The grants will be awarded to municipalities twice each year over a period of three years.

Funds are intended for transportation projects of a capital nature, which must be completed by July 2025. The program will be overseen by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Orion received its first check May 18th, in the amount of $20,441. A total of $122,647 is expected over the life of the program.

VOTE (cont’d from pg. 4)

A march on Washington, DC, held March 3, 1913, the day before the presidential inauguration of Woodrow Wilson, was one of the most consequential parades by woman suffragists. More than 5,000 participated. The mostly male audience verbally and physically assaulted women marchers. Police response was tepid. The violence and lack of police protection resulted in a Congressional investigation and increased sympathy for the woman suffrage movement.

Political will shifted when President Wilson changed his opinion to support an amendment to the constitution. On May 21, 1919, an amendment was passed by the House of Representatives, followed by the Senate two weeks later. Needing agreement from three-fourths of the states, ratification was certified on August 26, 1920 when Tennessee became the 36th state to fall in line.

The 19th amendment states “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” In 1920, women were able to vote for the first time in a presidential election.

When I became employed with the Village of Orion it was engrained in me to register to vote as soon as I was eligible. Therein began my commitment to never miss an opportunity to vote. That was until the coronavirus pandemic struck during the primary election of March 2020, making it the only election I have missed since turning 18.

Though polling places were open, this new, mysterious, and deadly coronavirus shook my confidence that I would be sufficiently able to protect my health in such a setting, and it was too late to get my ballot by mail. My 42-year streak was broken. I will begin a new streak, and all the while keeping in mind the effort made by so many women before me who made it possible to walk into a voting booth, put pen to paper, and make a difference.

-Lori Sampson

Famous Quotes from Famous Ladies

“It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the union . . . Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.”

- Susan B. Anthony

“I know nothing of man’s rights, or woman’s rights; human rights are all that I recognize.”

-Sarah Moore Grimke

I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.”

-Alice Paul
Celebrating 100 Years of Women’s Right to Vote

It is hard to believe anyone was ever denied the right to vote in the United States. Newly freed black male slaves and immigrant men were given the right to vote by passage of the 15th amendment to the Constitution in 1869, but that amendment left out white and black women. The amendment read: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

It would take 51 more years before women gained the right to vote. Some women organized parades, marched in demonstrations, lectured, and lobbied to achieve their goal. Others held silent vigils and staged hunger strikes. Women participating in such activities were sometimes physically abused and jailed.

Susan B. Anthony, who led the National Suffrage Association with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, attempted to vote in 1872 and was arrested for “knowingly, wrongfully and unlawfully voting for a representative to the Congress of the United States.” She was found guilty and fined but vowed never to pay. Anthony would not live to see women get the right to vote, dying in 1906 at the age of 86.

In 1875, the issue was put before the United States Supreme Court, but it ruled that citizenship did not confer the right to vote and that the issue of female enfranchisement should be decided within the states. The great state of Wyoming had already done so in 1869, being the first to grant women the right to vote within its border. Nine western states adopted woman suffrage legislation by 1912. However, women could still not vote in a national election.

VOTE cont’d on pg. 3