

September 2023

On-Site Visitors: 1,631
The Nook Functions: 10

ARE WE PREPARED?

If the state's estimates are correct, between 5,000 and 10,000 people will descend upon our community on April 8, 2024 for the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse. We recognize visitors will watch the eclipse on the side of the road or anywhere they can find a spot, but we want to do what we can to welcome our guests and to mitigate any damage that a sudden influx of people could create. Are we prepared? Where do we even start?

Fortunately, a group of interested citizens, business owners and government officials have been meeting at the direction of our staff to plan for the solar eclipse. Where do 10,000 people park? Where do they use the restroom? What happens if they need gasoline or lunch? Where do they put their trash if they camp out over the weekend? How do we get an ambulance from one point to another if the roads are clogged? How do we treat patients with even minor injuries?

For our local businesses, will they allow folks coming in off the street to use the restroom? Do they have a plan to service their regular customers with an onslaught of visitors? These are just some of the many questions we are asking and we are encouraging the community to ask.

We always welcome the council's support and participation in these meetings, which are announced on our Facebook page.

ARPA FUNDS REQUEST

We have presented a request to the city for ARPA funds for an economic development project, including ways to mitigate economic pressures upon our local businesses. The pandemic's aftershocks continue to reverberate in our community and we appreciate your consideration of our request and proposal. We continue to see soft numbers in tourism and sales, and have heard from many local businesses that continue to struggle to get merchandise, parts and equipment.

PLANNING HAS BEGUN FOR CHRISTMAS

We are working on plans for decorating Main Street for Christmas, presenting our annual Living Windows, and staging our Lighted Christmas Parade! It's never too early to start planning for this event that will take place on Saturday, December 9.

Respectfully submitted,

