

December 2020
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Village News



Village of Osceola (715) 294-3498 info@myosceola.com www.vil.osceola.wi.us

2020 TAX COLLECTION INFORMATION



WAYS TO PAY YOUR TAXES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are strongly encouraging you to pay your taxes by one of the following methods rather than coming in person to Village Hall. You may receive a receipt by enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also check online at <https://www.co.polk.wi.us/>, click on property tax search on the left-hand side to see if your payment was received and applied. Please allow time for the payment to show up online.

U.S. MAIL

- For income tax purposes, any end-of-month tax payments received after 12/31 but “postmarked” by December 31, 2020 will be receipted “December 31, 2020”.

24 HOUR DROP OFF

- A drop box is located on the east side of Village Hall – at 310 Chieftain Street. The drop box is checked daily and tax payments found in the drop slot will be receipted daily using that day’s date or if on a weekend or holiday the following business day.

ON-LINE

- You may pay your taxes on-line with your debit card, credit card or e-check thru www.paymentservicenetwork.com They charge a convenience fee.

Receipts for tax payments and dog licenses will be mailed out only to those individuals that furnish a self-addressed stamped envelope.

LOTTERY CREDIT If this tax bill is for your primary residence and you have resided there since January 1, 2020(or before) and there is NOT a lottery credit deduction on your tax bill, please call the Village Office at (715)294-3498 to get the required form to receive this credit. The lottery credit for this year is \$146.21. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO APPLY FOR THE LOTTERY CREDIT.

DOG LICENSING Dog licenses are required in the Village of Osceola. Dog licenses must be obtained prior to April 1, 2021. Per state statues and Village ordinances dog licenses will not be issued without complete rabies information. Please call your veterinarian for a copy of your rabies vaccination certificate if you do not have one. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we prefer you apply for and receive your dog license by mail.

Bethania Mineral Springs, By Deb Rose

Osceola is home to many interesting businesses, from a firetruck manufacturer, a paddle maker, and a hemp processing company. A unique long-gone business to our town was the Bethania Mineral Springs Bottling Works. Set along the bluffs overlooking the river and railroad tracks the property that became known as Bethania was home to artisan springs that produced some of the cleanest water in the area. In 1893 Ole Larson began bottling and selling what his advertising from the time bragged "was the purest water known to man". What made Bethania water stand out was that it did not have to be treated in any way unlike most others at the time. Doctors and customers touted the benefits and taste of Bethania's water in the early 1900s. Many believed that the minerals in the water prevented problems with your stomach and kidneys. Because of the quality of the mineral water and the conditions in which it was bottled, Bethania began bottling fruit juices. Due to the pristine nature of the springs and also having a bottling process already in place, it became a logical step to next bottle fruit juices. These carbonated fruit juices were considered to be some of the best in the area. At one time, Bethania was shipping water and juice all over the country. The Bethania grounds not only consisted of the bottling company and residence it also had trout in the spring fed ponds and a park that allowed locals to wander the grounds taking in the beauty of the area and, of course, a chance to sample the wares.

The business was passed by Mr. Larson onto the next generation and eventually bought by Dale Johnson. Johnson continued bottling for several years until work shortages and sugar rationing post wars caused him to close the doors. In 1959, local resident, Charlie Jensen, bought the Bethania property to live on and raise his family. His daughter, Nancy Beck, described a wonderful, interesting childhood there, she said it was like living in a magic kingdom. The residence and the sandstone bottling building, the last structure of this story, are visible from the train when riding the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway to Marine-on-St. Croix. The most recent owner, Wally Piszczek, recently passed away and the property is currently on the market. I hope that whoever becomes the new owners will recognize and share the unique history of this quaint property.



POLICE REMINDERS

ALL-NIGHT PARKING -Village Code prohibits the parking of unoccupied vehicles on any Village street, or in a Village parking lot, between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 15 through April 15. Winter parking restrictions are in effect and enforced during that time, even if there is no snow. Vehicle owners are subject to towing, storage charges and a parking ticket.



PEDESTRIAN REMINDER - With the additional hours of darkness and the unpredictable Wisconsin weather, it can be especially difficult for drivers to see pedestrians this time of year. Please be extra aware of pedestrians along the roadway, at intersections and in crosswalks. Allow extra stopping distance and always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks. This not only makes sense, it's also the law.

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL - The Village Code requires the owner, occupant or person in charge of every building, structure or unoccupied lot in the Village to clean the snow from the entire width of the sidewalk in front of the building or lot of snow or ice within 24 hours after the cessation of a snowfall. If any ice cannot be removed, the owner or occupant is required to sprinkle the ice with ashes, salt, sawdust or sand.

SNOW REMOVAL - No person shall clear their property of accumulated snow, ice or other debris onto any Village street or other Village property. Snow shall not be piled at or near intersections so as to obstruct the view of pedestrians or operators of motor vehicles. The failure to clear sidewalks and/or depositing ice or snow upon any sidewalk, alley or street of the Village is a public nuisance. The Village Administrator or designee may cause any snow or ice deposited to be removed and cause the cost of said removal to be charged to the owner of the property from which said snow or ice has been removed. If not paid within 30 days, the cost of the removal shall be added to the tax roll as a special tax or recovered in an action against the owner or occupant.

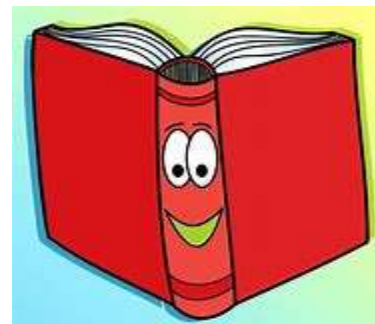
MAILBOXES - Please note that clearing snow from around mailboxes is the homeowners' responsibility.

FIRE HYDRANTS - If you have a fire hydrant near your property, the Osceola Fire Department and the Water Department would appreciate any assistance in removing snow from around it, if you are able. The Village does schedule to clear snow from around fire hydrants; however, the time to clear the hydrants depends on the year and the amount of snow.

LIBRARY REMINDER

Though the library is not open for in-person services, we are still here for you! Pick up materials on hold and any available children's take-home kits from the drive-up window. Call us at 715-294-2310 or follow us on Facebook for updates about our services.

www.osceolapubliclibrary.org



VILLAGE REMINDERS



2021 ELECTION DATES

Spring Primary (if needed) – February 16, 2021
Spring Election – April 6, 2021

COVID-19 – For updates and current information regarding our County, please visit the Polk County Health Department web page at www.polkcountyhealthdept.org/home/covid-19-information/. For another site to get accurate information regarding the virus, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

PET LITTERING – Just a reminder to please clean up after your pets. As per the Village Code, Chapter 168, § 168-19B “No person having a dog under his or her control shall knowingly permit such dog to litter upon the property of another, unless such person shall cause such litter to be removed promptly from such property.” The first offence is a fine of \$124.00 and second being \$187.00.



STREET LIGHTS – If you notice a street light that is out or not functioning properly please notify the Village Office at 715-294-3498 or email us at info@myosceola.com. Please provide us with the nearest address to the affected street light, which will allow us to locate the street light and see that it is repaired.

MEETING/COMMITTEES – Visit www.vil.osceola.wi.us under Government tab to find information regarding Board Meetings and Board Committees & Commissions.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Village Staff



On behalf of the Village of Osceola, we wish all the residents of the Village a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

