

December 2021
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Village News



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

2021 TAX COLLECTION INFORMATION



WAYS TO PAY YOUR TAXES

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic we strongly encourage 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, 2021 will be receipted "December 31, 2021".

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, 2021(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 claim this credit. **The lottery credit for this year is \$207.69.** 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, 2022. 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.

POLICE REMINDER

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.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Village of Osceola Public Works Department has had a very successful 2021. The department went beyond regular and daily maintenance responsibilities to include excellent internal projects to parks, streets, and infrastructure to make the Village of Osceola a better place to live.

Some noteworthy highlights include a new steel roof on the Schillberg Park pavilion, a newly installed fence at Gristmill Park and composite decking to the Cascade Falls overlook. Storm sewer repairs, crack filling and spray patching our streets were all part of our maintenance and preventative maintenance plan to maintain our infrastructure.

We look forward to 2022 and would like to thank all Village of Osceola residents and visitors for the continued support in our efforts in maintaining the Village of Osceola.

Here are a few reminders to all residents and business owners now that we have officially moved into the winter season.

Mailboxes should be of sturdy materials and installed appropriately in accordance with USPS standards. Mailboxes and the posts they mount on degrade with time in the elements of Northwest Wisconsin. They suffer wind, rain, snow and the wintry blast of snow and ice from the plows maintaining the streets. If you have questions if your mailbox is installed and maintained appropriately, please visit <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>. If you believe your mailbox has been damaged by snow removal efforts by the Public Works Department, please contact the Public Works Department or email info@myosceola.com.

Village of Osceola Ordinance 186-6

The owner, occupant, or person in charge of each and every building, structure, or unoccupied lot in the Village fronting or abutting any street shall clean, or cause to be cleaned, the sidewalk in front of or adjoining each such building, structure or lot of snow or ice to the width of such sidewalk within 24 hours after the cessation of a snowfall. If ice has so formed that it cannot be removed, the owner or occupant shall keep the same sprinkled with ashes, salt, sawdust or sand.

No person or persons owning or leasing any private or commercial property shall clear their property, including parking areas, lots and driveways, but except sidewalks, 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 deposit of snow or ice upon any sidewalk, alley or street of the Village contrary to the provisions of this section shall be and is declared to be a nuisance and, in addition to the penalty provided for violation of this section, the Village Administrator or designee may cause any snow or 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.

SEWER MAINTANENCE AND REPAIR

What Is A Building Sewer? A building sewer is the pipe that connects a building's plumbing system to the main sanitary sewer. Building sewers are also called "service laterals", "house laterals", or "sewer laterals." The main sanitary sewer is usually located in the street and collects wastewater, called sewage, from building sewers and conveys it to the wastewater treatment plant.

Why Do Building Sewers Need Maintenance? Blockages in your building sewer can cause backups of sewage from your building's toilets, showers, and floor drains. These types of blockages are sometimes referred to as basement backups. A backup of sewage can lead to disease, destruction of valuables, damage to your property, and electrical malfunctions. Rubbish and other objects often combine with hair, grease and other debris to cause clogging of the sewer system. Even something as small as a cotton tip swab with other attached debris can clog sewer building sewers. Cracked building sewers allow groundwater to enter the sewer system, which can also cause a basement backup.

SEWER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

What Are Sewer Cleanouts? Building sewers often have cleanouts which provide a point of access for cleaning and repair. One cleanout is located immediately inside the building or just outside the building wall. There may be additional cleanouts between the building wall to the main sewer. The cleanout is usually a small pipe about 4 inches in diameter within a frost sleeve. There should be a cap on the cleanout.

What Problems Should I Look For? 1) Waste water backups inside the building. 2) Slow draining sinks and toilets. 3) Water leaking from cleanouts, outside drains or main sewer manhole covers. 3) Unusual odors or sewage smells in or around your home or business. If you suspect you have a blockage or problem in your building sewer, call a professionally licensed plumber for an inspection. Even if you aren't experiencing drain or sewer problems, periodic inspections and cleaning by a professionally licensed plumber are a good idea. Building sewers are usually neglected by homeowners until problems arise. Simple maintenance and timely repairs can avoid sewage backups and damage to your property and personal belongings.

How Can I Prevent Problems? Dos: 1) Place paper towels, feminine products, disposable diapers, dental floss, plastics and other personal hygiene products in a wastebasket. 2) Use sink and shower drain strainers. 3) Collect grease and fats in a heat-resistant container, cool and dispose of it in your garbage with solid waste. 4) Choose the most appropriate method of disposal for food scraps: composting; in the garbage for solid waste disposal; or down the sink by grinding with a garbage disposal unit.

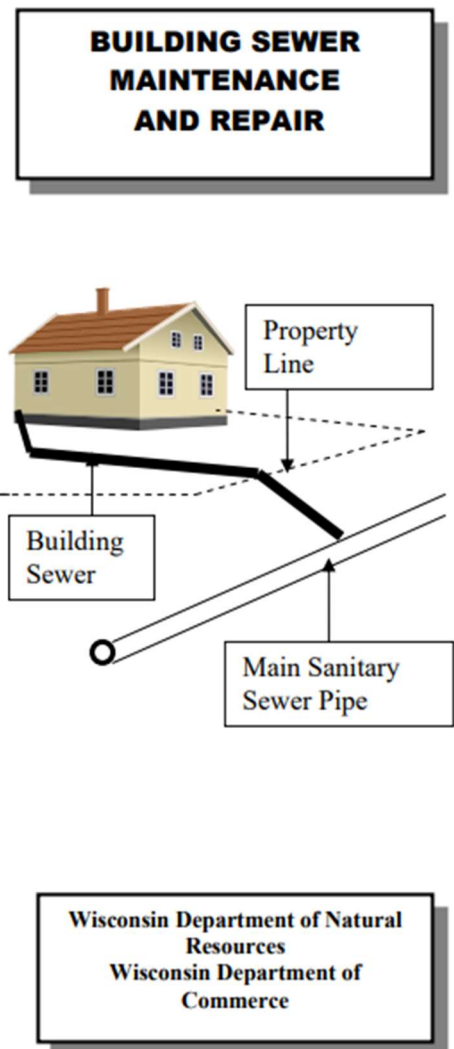
Don'ts: 1) Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage, medications, or chemicals! 2) Don't plant trees or large shrubs near sewer lines where roots can penetrate and create a dense mat of "root balls." 3) Don't pour grease, fats or oils from cooking down the drain. Grease in drains collects and hardens into a plug. 4) Don't connect French drains, roof gutters, sump pumps and other flood control systems to your sanitary sewer. These types of connections are illegal.

Dispose Infectious Wastes Properly! See <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/medinf/>

Why Are Infiltration and Inflow Big Problems? Infiltration and inflow (I/I) are terms referring to groundwater and/or rainwater that enters the sanitary sewer system through cracked pipes, leaky manholes, roof and gutter downspouts, sump pumps, foundation drains, and improperly connected storm drains. Most infiltration comes from groundwater, and most inflow comes from rainwater and/or snowmelt. Extensive studies have shown that as much of 40% of I/I enters the collection system from building sewers. Additional I/I flow in the sanitary sewer collection system results in the need for larger sewers and treatment plants. Higher sewer user fees must be collected to treat the increased volume of wastewater from I/I.

What Can I Do To Prevent And Reduce Infiltration And Inflow? 1) Make sure the cap to any cleanout is secure and has not been damaged. 2) Disconnect outdoor patio, deck, yard or garage drains that may be connected to the building sewer. 3) Reroute sump pump discharges from basement or foundation drains entering building sewer connections to outdoor lawn areas or storm drains. 4) Redirect rain gutters and downspouts connected to the building sewers to rain gardens, lawns, or storm drains.

Who Is Responsible For Maintaining and Repairing The Building Sewer? Property owners are usually responsible for maintaining and repairing building sewers. If your building sewer needs maintenance or repair, always call the Village to verify local requirements. The Village may also want to perform an inspection, prior to repair, to identify if there is a problem in the main sanitary sewer pipe. The installation and maintenance of the building sewer is regulated by the Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division.



VILLAGE / LIBRARY REMINDERS

2022 ELECTION DATES

Spring Primary (if needed) February 15, 2022

Spring Election April 5, 2022

Fall Primary August 9, 2022

Fall General Election November 8, 2022



LIBRARY - Library will have new hours of operation in the new year. The hours will be Monday through Friday, 9 am to 6 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Also, they will no longer be checking out holds through the drive thru window. Call us at 715-294-2310 or follow us on Facebook for updates about our services.

CHRISTMAS TREES – Final day for Christmas Tree pickup will be January 31, 2022.

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.

IT'S A WONDERFUL TOWN, By Deb Rose

One of the great traditions around this time of year are all the holiday movies on television channels like Hallmark and Lifetime. My folks are fans of them so while visiting them I have seen bits and pieces of many of them over the years. Many of them are set in small towns that still harken back to the days of old. Many of them remind me of the Osceola that I grew up in. Those movies and my memories are filled with in-person deliveries or onsite repairs anytime, day or night.

I was reminded of those times of my youth when I recently got a picture of a stack of keys with name tags attached texted to me by my husband, Rick. He works for a local heating company that changed ownership a few years back. After being there about a year he started going through some of their old cabinets and drawers. One drawer was filled with the aforementioned keys. Digging through them he realized that he had stumbled into a part of the history of a small town like Osceola. Those keys belonged to businesses, snow birds and cabin folks. If a business owner or an away from the area home owner had a furnace issue, they could call Carl Rossi at home and all he would have to do is head to the shop grab a key and get the issue fixed.

My Dad, Herm Rose, managed the phone company for many years. Many a time in the evening during dinner or on a Sunday afternoon when we were watching a ballgame, we'd get a knock on the door or a call about someone with a phone not working. More times than not my Dad would head out to make the repair. Sometimes gone for a short period and others, not back for several hours, it was the ways of business back then. Sometimes he'd come home with some baked goods or another treat as a showing of appreciation.

One of the coolest pieces of our history that the Osceola Historical Society has is Dr. L.O.Simenstad's black bag. This amazing bag was filled with his stethoscope, gauze and a sundry of liquids to be used to help with illnesses or births or whatever medical attention was needed. I can only imagine the stories that bag could tell if it could talk!

Next time you are flipping channels and you stop on one of those holiday movies maybe it'll make you think back to the old days of our Hallmark town.

