

June 2020
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Village News



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

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA – VOTING OPTIONS



August and November Elections

Did you know you have options to cast your ballot for the Partisan Primary Election on August 11, 2020, and General Election November 3, 2020?

For the traditional voter who enjoys the excitement of Election Day, polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Osceola Village Hall/Discovery Center, upstairs in Room 205, across the hall from the Library. **Please note voting is no longer at the Osceola High School.** Our election workers will be happy to assist you along with keeping the election facility as clean and safe as possible. We are receiving guidance from the CDC through the Wisconsin Elections Commission and extra efforts will be taken to continually wipe down voting booths and election equipment throughout the day. For voter's convenience, hand sanitizer, single-use pens, and gloves will also be available.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Wisconsin Elections Commission is encouraging absentee voting and is working hard with the US Postal Service to insure a secure process. You can request an absentee ballot online at www.myvote.wi.gov and a ballot will be mailed to you. Voters may also request a mailed ballot in writing from the Village Clerk but be sure to include a copy of your photo ID with your request. This works great for travelers; those who have a suppressed immune system, or voters who just can't make it to Village Hall during working hours. Please be sure to allow mailing time so the ballot is returned on or before Election Day.

Voters can also vote in person via absentee ballot (early vote) at Village Hall prior to election day. Please keep a watch out for public notices listing of dates available.

If you have questions, or need assistance with any of your voting options, please contact:

Frances Duncanson, MMC-WCPC
Village Clerk
(715) 294-3498
villageclerk@vil.osceola.wi.us

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

STORM DAMAGE – In the event of a storm, a Storm Event will be declared and posted on the Village Website. Residents will have 7 days to place brush by the curb. Brush must be stacked neatly parallel to the curb or road surface and be less than 3" in diameter and 6' in length. If a storm event is not declared, it is up to the homeowner to dispose of the debris. Otherwise, the Village only collects brush and leaf bags on designated dates in the spring and fall.

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

THE 2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE DRINKING WATER REPORT (CCR) for the Village of Osceola is now available for review at the Village Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on the Village's website at www.myosceola.com found under Departments/Utilities/Consumer Confidence Report. The CCR Report will not be individually mailed; however, a copy will be mailed or faxed upon request.

FROM OSCEOLA VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

We need your input!



In anticipation of 2021 and beyond, Village leadership would like to gather input on what you think are the great things this community offers. Information gathered will help us understand what is valuable, what needs a little more and what is not viewed as high on the list. This information will help gauge current trends in the community and help provide guidance on priorities moving forward.

Please help us by answering 5 simple survey questions by going to the link listed below. Do not worry, all submissions are anonymous. We will put a final report on our website for public review.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G973JGW>

Thanks!

COMMUNITY LINKS

Osceola Public Library – www.osceolapubliclibrary.org

Osceola Braves Baseball – www.osceolabraves.com

Rivers, Rails & Trails – To find current updates on closures & openings please visit www.vil.osceola.wi.us under Events.

Farmers Market – The Farmers Market will be held at 306 River Street (Methodist Church parking lot) every Friday from 2 pm – 6 pm during June through October. Enjoy locally produced goods from our area farmers. For more information please visit www.facebook.com/OsceolaFarmersMarket.

COVID-19 – For updates and current information regarding our County, please visit the Polk County Health Department's 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.

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



Welcome Back to the Library!



HOURS

The library will be open
Monday-Wednesday 10am-5pm
Thursday 12pm-7pm
Friday 10am-5pm

We encourage only those ages 55+ and/or who are immunocompromised visit from 10am-11am Monday-Wednesday, & Friday

The library will be closing early to ensure proper quaranting of materials and to provide additional cleaning.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Though masks are not required, we do strongly encourage everyone to wear a facial covering during their visits.

Disposable masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning wipes are available for patrons throughout the library.



Please also keep a 6 foot distance between yourself and others during your visit.



RETURNS

To ensure that we are able to quarantine all returned materials please return your items to the drop box in the vestibule at the west entrance or at the drive up drop box. Returned materials will not be accepted at the front desk.

HOLDS PICK-UP



All holds must be picked up from the pick-up window on the east side of the Discovery Center.

If you are still uncomfortable with visiting the library we will continue curbside pick up. Call us at 715-294-2310 to organize the pick up!



Meeting spaces are not yet available for reservation.

OSCEOLA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Minnesota Volunteers return to Osceola



The Minnesota Chapter of the 99s, The International Organization of Women Pilots, returned to the Osceola Airport to repaint the identification and elevation markings on the main ramp.

The 99s designed and painted the Airport Identifier some years ago in a generous spirit of cooperation to promote aviation in the region.

Thank you 99s for another great job.

Mount Hope Cemetery – A Brief History, By Deb Rose

Nestled on a hill overlooking Oakey Park and the ballfield is one of our town's greatest keepers of history - Mount Hope Cemetery. The Mount Hope Cemetery Association formed in June of 1863. Later that same year they purchased five acres of land on what, at that time was the eastern edge of the town. This beautiful piece of property, which is divided into four quadrants, is filled with enchanting old trees and history.

The first burial was that of Jennie Kent on Dec 6, 1863. The 18-year-old daughter of Robert Kent skated into an air hole on the St. Croix River and drowned. Her final resting place can be found in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery.

Many names from throughout the history of Osceola can be found in Mount Hope. A stroll through the grounds will lead you to names such as the Kent family, who were instrumental in the creation of our town. Both Doctors Simenstad, who besides doctors, were influential politicians in town, and names like Geiger and Oakey, that can be found on buildings, parks and streets throughout Osceola.

Intriguing tombstones can also be found throughout the grounds. The mausoleum for Dr. L.O. and Agnes Simenstad is particularly striking. Other interesting tombstones are the hollow metal tombstone of the Knapp family, the obelisks of Carmine Garlick and the Geiger family, and the horse on the headstone of former Village President Charlie Jensen.

One of the most interesting markers is that of Frits Salek. "Little Fritz" as he was called held several odd jobs from barber to banker to watch repairman. Nearly broke when he passed away in 1923, he was buried in the Potter's field area in the northwest section of the cemetery near the ballfield. His friends used a sharp carpenter's tool to carve his name in a large boulder that is still used as the marker of his grave.

Now in existence over 155 years, I encourage you to take a walk through Mount Hope and enjoy this peaceful resting place and an invaluable piece of history for Osceola.



WARNING SIRENS



The Village will initiate a test of our outdoor tornado warning sirens on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. through October.