

March 2022
Volume 10, Issue 1

Village News



Village of Osceola (715) 294-3498 info@myosceola.com www.myosceola.com

ELECTION NEWS by Fran Duncanson, Village Clerk

There will be an election held on Tuesday, April 5th in the Village of Osceola at Village Hall. Contests on the ballot are Court of Appeals Judge District 3, County Supervisor District 9, Village Trustee, School Board, and the School District Referendum. You must be registered to vote and show a photo ID.



CHANGE TO ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN PROCEDURES

Due to a recent Waukesha County Court decision, there are changes on how to return an absentee ballot that are in effect for the upcoming April 5th, 2022, Spring Election.

A voter may return an absentee ballot by mail, or by handing it across the counter to Clerk staff at Village Hall. Only the voter can mail or return the ballot. What this means is a spouse, other relative, friend, or neighbor may not mail or drop off the ballot for you.

You may no longer return a ballot by using the drop box slot on the east side of the Village Hall building.

If you return a ballot other than as outlined above, your ballot may not be counted.

If you have any questions about elections, please contact the Village Clerk Fran Duncanson at 715-294-3498 or villageclerk@vil.osceola.wi.us

WARNING SIRENS



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

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES REMINDERS



BRUSH PICK-UP – Brush needs to be out by Monday, May 2nd. If it is not out by May 2nd, IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. All brush must be less than 3” in diameter and 6’ in length and stacked **neatly and parallel** to the curb. Public Works will be chipping curbside through Friday, May 6th.

LEAF PICK-UP – Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning Monday, May 2nd and running through May 13th**. Leaves **MUST** be in **biodegradable paper bags** and placed along the curb. We **WILL NOT** pick up plastic bags, bags with grass or mixed materials, or bags weighing more than 40 lbs.

TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS - With Spring and summer on the horizon the Village of Osceola Public Works wants to remind residents that trash containers are to be kept on the boulevard or in the resident’s driveway on and after pick-up day. The same policy applies during the winter months. Information for proper placement of your container can be found on Waste Management’s website <https://www.wm.com/> Snow removal and street sweeping operations dictate the streets, alleys, parking lots and curb lines remain open so that staff operating equipment can properly perform maintenance actions.



HYDRANT FLUSHING - The Osceola Water Department will be flushing mains as weather permits continuing until complete. Signs will be placed daily to remind residents that flushing will occur in their neighborhood. Flushing may cause changes in water pressure and temporary discoloration of the water. If you experience discoloration, the best option is to run an outside faucet until the water clears up.

2022 REVALUATIONS



The Village contracts with Appraisal Services & Data Processing Systems, Inc. (ASDPS) in order to manage the Village’s annual assessment process. Primary responsibilities include defining and documenting the taxable value of appropriate properties within jurisdiction. From time to time, the assessed value of a property diverges from the fair market value. When this divergence is greater than ten percent in either direction, a community is required to complete a revaluation. Previous revaluations were completed in 2010 and 2016.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a Revaluation?**
We all pay property taxes. Property taxes need to be equitably levied. That means that cities need to regularly check the values of property. This process is called “revaluation”.
- **Why does the Village do this?**
The Wisconsin Department of Revenue compares our current assessments to current sales (expressed as a ratio) in order to monitor if we are in compliance. If the municipal-wide ratio falls out of compliance (less than 90% or over 110% of fair market value), a Revaluation is necessary.
- **How are Real Estate Assessments Made?**
Assessments are made in accordance with Chapter 70, of the Wisconsin Statutes, General Property Taxes which requires all property subject to assessment to be valued by the assessor in the manner specified in the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual from an actual view or from the best information that the assessor can practically obtain, at the full value which could be ordinary obtained at a private sale.

The Wisconsin Constitution, Article VIII, Section I, provides for uniformity of assessment. With the above legal directives in mind, the assessor is charged with the task of determining the fair market value of your property. Property values are made by state-certified assessors, and every effort is made to achieve the greatest possible degree of uniformity.

- **What does the Assessor do?**

The Village Assessor (contracted through ASDPS) has three major duties: Discover, list and estimate the value of all taxable property within the jurisdiction of the Osceola.

- **Will I be notified if there is a Change in my Assessment? How can I find out about any Assessments?**

The Village's Assessor will mail each reviewed property a notice on the final impact of the revaluation. The assessment rolls documenting property values will be made available within the standard open book process completed each year. Due to the revaluation process additional time and staffing will be allocated. Appeals to property values will be reviewed in compliance with local and State of Wisconsin regulations.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR UPDATES

The Senior Center has made additions to its monthly calendar. The calendar is posted on the Senior Center door and displayed on the building's TV monitors. Senior Center hours are 9 AM-4 PM Monday through Friday, or as posted on the calendar, when the building is open. Saturdays when specific activities are scheduled.



At the Movies. Every third Wednesday, 1-3 PM. DVD movie suggestions are welcome, either brought from home or rented from the Library.

Bingo. Every Friday 1-3 PM. For prizes, consider bringing small candy bars, canned or boxed food, small items to donate, something someone might like to choose as a prize.

Open Room Use. 9 AM-4 PM. On those Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons or Tuesday-Thursday mornings, when no other activity is scheduled, the Senior Center is open for playing board games, playing cards, coloring pictures (relieves stress), working on puzzles, conversations, having coffee (make a pot or bring your own). Just sit and read. Bring knitting, crocheting, needlepoint projects to work on. Start a class to teach others. Relax away from home.

The craft room 209 has stamping blocks and greeting card-making supplies. A contact person for participating in these activities is posted in the Senior Center.

Vizio Smart TV. The Senior Center TV can be used to watch DVDs or listen to music CDs. Wireless HDMI connects to a laptop computer for displaying on the TV screen. WatchFree Vizio includes free broadcast channels with movies, news, etc. Smartcast allows access to streaming networks such as Netflix and Prime Video (personal log-in subscription required). Computer Wi-Fi accesses the internet for searching websites or attending Zoom meetings.

Ongoing activities include Tuesday afternoon 3-13 and Thursday afternoon 500 card games. Tai Chi and Qi Gong on Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings 9-10 AM. Available on Zoom. North Country Spinners and Weavers 2nd Saturday and River Valley Stitchers 3rd Saturday, 10 AM-2 PM. Osceola Writers Group 4th Thursday 5-7 PM. American Legion Post 221 2nd Monday 6:30 PM.

As one senior commented, "Each of us has talents within ourselves that are worthy of sharing with others." Call the Senior Center 715-417-1227 to schedule a class, activity, event, or meeting, etc. Those hours designated "Open Room Use" are available for scheduling. Evenings and Saturdays are also available. Use of the Center is primarily intended for seniors age 62+. The activity may include younger participants.

All age 55+ are welcome to attend Osceola Senior Citizens Club potluck and program meetings at noon on the first Wednesday of each month.

RURAL SKYLINE By Deb Rose



I love driving or flying into a city and watching the skyline emerge and grow as I get closer to it. I scan the skyline searching for the iconic buildings that make each city skyline distinctive. I love finding those buildings that instantly make you know what city you are looking at, buildings like the Empire State Building in New York City or the Sears Tower in Chicago or even the Foshay Tower in Minneapolis. These buildings are iconic because of their unique architecture or height or history. When I think of iconic buildings that make up the “skyline” of Osceola I think of the “old Baptist Church” on the corner of Cascade and Third Avenue that now houses the River Group.

As one of the earliest established religious communities in Polk County, the local Baptists wanted an attractive and modern home for their congregation. They settled on a stone and stucco design that is attributed to renowned Minneapolis architect Harry Wild Jones. Building of the Gothic Revival style church began in 1908 and was completed in time to host the Wisconsin Baptist Convention in 1910. The cobblestones that are such a part of the unique design and ornamentation were the artistic work of local stonemasons Chris Green and Eric Klung. Another feature that adds to the iconic nature of this building is the polygon shaped end of the building. (Thank you, Google, for giving me the word for something that is a round thing with flattened sides!) The odd contour of the walls along with the double roof like give it a very European feel and is a nod back to where some of the towns our ancestors came from.

Downtown Osceola’s profile of buildings has changed over these past 110 years since the church was built, and will continue to evolve in the future. What remains, and hopefully continue to remain, is “the old Baptist Church” With its prominent place on the top of the small hill on the north end of downtown this building is one of those to seek out as our Osceola skyline comes into view.

