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Village News



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

NEW FACES AT VILLAGE HALL



As many of you already know there are two new faces at Village Hall! For those that don't, the Village Staff are happy to introduce them:

Tanya Batchelor, started at the Village in November 2022 as the Village Treasurer. To welcome or contact Tanya email treasurer@vil.osceola.wi.us.

Devin Swanberg joined our office as the new Village Administrator back at the end of November 2022. To welcome or contact Devin email administrator@vil.osceola.wi.us.

Stop in and say hello!

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK



Thankfully, spring arrived on March 20th! Spring brings us welcomed warmer weather and anticipation of the beautiful summer weather to come. Spring is also the official start of Wisconsin's severe weather season. Wisconsin's Severe Weather Awareness Week this year will be held April 17th-21st, 2023. That week, residents and business owners will have the chance to test their emergency plans as two statewide mock tornado

drills will be held. When Wisconsin Emergency Management verifies the exact day and times of the coordinated statewide siren testing, we will post that information on our Facebook page and the Village Website. These drills are part of the annual spring severe weather campaign to encourage people in Osceola and all over Wisconsin to get ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

Starting in May, Osceola will also be testing the Village warning sirens the 1st Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. during storm season. This is done to make sure the sirens are working properly.

Please join our Osceola Police Department Facebook page. We provide information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any crimes that have taken place.

facebook.com/osceola.officers

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS

The Village of Osceola Public Works Department looks forward to welcoming Spring. Winter has yet to give up and we are diligently doing our very best around the clock to ensure streets, lots, downtown and sidewalks are clear for vehicle and pedestrian movement. We have a lot of work to be completed in 2023 and the transition from winter to spring presents heightened maintenance actions. Our focus begins with opening and unthawing our storm systems. Streets and driveways will present a lot of water and ice refreezing causing slippery roads and sidewalks. We have installed 4 ton of asphalt since February and potholes will be of top priority on a near daily to weekly basis. Spring cleaning will begin to our 13 parks, the street sweeper will be out removing debris from streets and we can begin the process of cleaning up and repairing the Village of Osceola after receiving over 70 inches of snow.

The Public Works Department is continuing to offer some exceptional programs for residents this Spring.

BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush needs to be out starting **May 8th**. If it is not out by May 8th, 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 12th 11am**.



LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning May 1st and running through May 19th**. 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. The Village of Osceola Public Works Department continues to offer the drop-off site at 103 Depot Road. This site is open during regular Public Works hours from 7am-3pm to drop off leaf bags and small brush. This site is for residents only and contactors will not be authorized to use the site.

RIGHT-OF-WAY TREE TRIMMING - Public Works will be conducting right-of-way trimming or removal of trees and shrubs through the spring and summer. Public and private trees or shrubs impeding roads and sidewalks preventing pedestrians, vehicles, line of sight and equipment from safe travel. Private trees impeding roadways or vision hanging lower than 13 feet and trees and bushes impeding or hanging over sidewalk must be a minimum of 10 feet or are in violation of Village Code. **Owner or resident** will be responsible for keeping property in compliance or be billed appropriately for the work performed by the Public Works Department or designated contactor. Work conducted and enforcement conforms to Village Code Chapter 124.

SNOW, LEAVES AND OTHER DEBRIS REMOVAL - No person shall clear their property of accumulated snow, ice, leaves, lawn clippings 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 snow, ice or leaves upon any sidewalk, alley, or street of the Village is a public nuisance. The Village Administrator, or designee, may cause any snow, ice or leaves deposited to be removed and cause the cost of said removal to be charged to the owner of the property from which said snow, ice or leaves 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.

UTILITY REMINDERS



HYDRANT FLUSING - The Osceola Water Department will be flushing mains as weather permits and continuing until complete. Check our Village website for maps of the flushing area. Additionally, 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.

OUTDOOR USE METERS - If using water to water gardens, irrigate lawns, or fill swimming pools, consider the installation of an outdoor use meter. This is an additional meter that is plumbed to the exterior faucets of the home for use that doesn't contribute to the sewer system. These meters are not charged sewer fees and are a good option for continued outdoor use. More information can be found on our website under the Utilities tab.

ADJUSTMENT TO SEWER UTILITY RATES

Please note that the sanitary sewer utility rates will be changing second quarter (April) 2023 and will be reflected on the second quarter bill received in July. The changes to the rate are necessary to ensure sustainability of the Sanitary Sewer Utility.

Current rate: Flow Charge \$9.00 Per 100 Cubic Feet (748 Gallons)
Sanitary Fixed Fee:

Meter Size	Quarterly Fee
All Meter Sizes	\$35

New Rate: Flow Charge: \$10.75 Per 100 Cubic Feet (748 Gallons)
Sanitary Fixed Fee:

Meter Size	Quarterly Fee
5/8" or 3/4"	\$40
1"	\$56
1 1/4"	\$64
1 1/2"	\$72
2"	\$116
3"	\$440
4"	\$560



No rate changes were made during this current billing cycle.

BROOKSIDE CAMPGROUND By Deb Rose

As the snow starts to melt and the thoughts of spring and summer appear, I am reminded of my times camping as a kid. On the weekends my mom would pack up our needed belongings into our Forester camper and then, when dad would get off work, off we'd go. Our travels would involve a weekend camping at The Red Barn Campground by Shell Lake, The Brigadoon Campground in Cumberland or various other campgrounds in small towns around western Wisconsin. We would spend the weekend eating sandwiches and pies made in the campfire, swimming in the lake, and getting eaten by mosquitoes. Sometimes the ragtag group of us, wearing our cutoffs and knock off football jersey t-shirts, would head into the small town to the Ben Franklin Store to get treats. I would see that same looking group wandering in Tim's SuperValu or the Coast-to-Coast store in Osceola and am reminded that we, too, had our own little campground.

In 1962 John Schillberg realized that the large, wooded areas and meadowlands of his farm were not working well for pasturing his cows. He had 200 acres of land that was unused and costing him taxes. A prolific writer about his own history, John described the land as "a rolling wooded area with a pretty trout stream." After a couple of people asked him if they could camp overnight on his land he realized that creating a campground would be a great use for the land and would bring in an income for him. He remodeled the summer kitchen into a two-room cabin, drilled a well, installed a hand pump, bought some old wooden toilets to place around the land, and Brookside Campground was born. Soon after that the health inspector stopped in letting them know they were in violation of health codes. Out went the wooden toilets and in came concrete block pit toilets!

Over the years a camp store and showers were added and the campground grew to 120 sites. John re-invested the campground revenues and enhanced the natural beauty of the lands by adding a manmade lake and a covered bridge, made partially out of their old corn crib, to the camp lands. Located just an hour from the Twin Cities and near the St Croix River as well as several state parks through the seventies and eighties, the business thrived. Memorial Day became their biggest camping weekend. Recognized as a great place for picnics and wading in the stream, the local community also embraced the campgrounds often holding family reunions and scout camps in the common areas of the campgrounds.

By 1993 having recently passed his 70th birthday John wanted to move on from running a campground and eventually gifted some of the land to the Village of Osceola for a public park. Schillberg Park now sits on the northern end of the village by the schools and the Art Barn (formerly Schillberg's Barn for their cattle!) and is open year-round for hiking and bike riding. The path through the middle of the former campground is part of the trails system in Osceola helping make us a walker-friendly community.

