

September 2020
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Village News



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

NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE OSCEOLA MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

WATER RATES

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| 5/8 inch meter: | \$ 24.00 | 3 inch meter: | \$273.00 |
| 3/4 inch meter: | \$ 24.00 | 4 inch meter: | \$330.00 |
| 1 inch meter: | \$ 60.00 | 6 inch meter: | \$411.00 |
| 1 ¼ inch meter: | \$ 78.00 | 8 inch meter: | \$510.00 |
| 1 ½ inch meter: | \$ 99.00 | 10 inch meter: | \$699.00 |
| 2 inch meter: | \$162.00 | 12 inch meter: | \$906.00 |

Plus Volume Charges:

100 cubic feet = 748 gallons

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| First | 4,000 cubic feet used each quarter: | \$3.62 per 100 cubic feet |
| Next | 26,000 cubic feet used each quarter: | \$2.72 per 100 cubic feet |
| Over | 30,000 cubic feet used each quarter: | \$1.64 per 100 cubic feet |

SEWER RATES

\$35.00 Fixed Charge
\$9.00 per 100 cubic feet

OSCEOLA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB NEWS, By Cheryl Hustad



After four months of absence due to Covid-19 and the closure of the Discovery Center, the Osceola Senior Citizens Club is back in action – for the time being.

The club decided to hold a social event under more cautious conditions – face masks and 6-ft. social distancing. On July 8th, the group gathered for its annual summer picnic at the Oakey Park picnic shelter. For safety reasons club funds were used to purchase baked chicken, potato salad, and cookies. Because Oakey Park provided a great way to get outside and enjoy the summer weather, they met again on August 5th and September 2nd for their usual meetings.

The 3-13 and 500 card groups have not been meeting on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Senior Center in the Discovery Center. Any decision to resume in the Fall will depend on the current virus conditions and group restrictions. Face masks and social distancing are required by users of the Discovery Center.

Roger Mussell has resumed his Tai Chi and Qigong classes at the Senior Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-10 AM. These on-line Zoom stretching and breathing exercises are doing well. Both classes are walker and wheel-chair compatible. Anyone wanting to join the Zoom sessions can contact Roger at rmussell@att.net or (312) 524-3934. An email address is needed for the Zoom link.

The next meeting of the Osceola Senior Citizens Club will be Wednesday, October 7th at the Oakey Park picnic shelter, weather permitting. If not, the meeting will move to the Senior Center in the Discovery Center. For a ride or more information, please contact (715) 294-4566. Anyone over the age of 55 is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Osceola Board is looking for interested residents to participate in various open committee positions:

Library Board of Trustees (2 positions)

Wilberg Memorial Public Library is seeking active individuals that are powerful advocates for libraries to serve as library board trustees. Library board trustees serve on a volunteer basis and are tasked with the duty of helping to direct the funds and policies of the library. The library board of trustees has a role in determining the mission of the library, setting the policy that governs the library, hiring and evaluating a library director, overseeing the general management of the library, and helping to serve the community that they love. Residency may not be required. Library Board terms are structured for up to a three-year term. Contact information for interested individuals: Shelby Friendshuh, Library Director sfriendshuh@osceolapubliclibrary.org, 715-294-2310.

Planning Commission (1 position)

Osceola Planning Commission is made up of seven members and is designed to support all planning and land use related opportunities within the community. Directed through State law, the Planning Commission focuses on development, land use, comprehensive planning, community development and municipal planning. Recent focus has been on new growth, existing land uses and planning studies. Planning Commission terms are structured for up to a three-year term.

Airport Commission (1 position)

Osceola Airport is seeking a new Airport Commission member for a soon to be vacated position. A member of this Commission is charged with supporting policy creation and oversight for L. O. Simenstad Municipal Airport including annual budgeting, maintenance program review, airport policy and general flight related land use. You do not need to have prior flight experience or own a hanger to be a member. Airport Commission terms are structured for up to a six-year term.

Room Tax Committee (2 positions)

Osceola Room Tax Committee is charged with supporting a “heads in beds” funding policy tied to local tourism and the Village’s room tax. The five-person Committee accepts, reviews, and provides funding for qualified projects including signage, advertising, mapping and other proposals that help promote lodging in the Village. Room Tax Committee terms are structured for up to three-year terms.

For more information on available committees or would like to be a part of one, please contact the Village President; JeromyBuberl@myosceola.com or staff at OfficeAssistant@vil.osceola.wi.us, 715-294-3498.

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS



HYDRANT FLUSHING - The Osceola Water Department will be flushing mains beginning in September and 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.

BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush needs to be out by **October 12th**. If it is not out by October 12th, 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 October 16th.

LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning October 19th and running through November 16th**. 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.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL – The Village Code requires the owner, occupant, or person in charge of every building, structure to include an unoccupied lot in the Village to clean the snow and ice from the entire width of the sidewalk in front of the building 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, 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.

RIGHT-OF-WAY TREE TRIMMING – Public Works will be conducting right-of-way trimming or removal of trees and shrubs through the fall and into early winter. Public and private trees or shrubs impeding roads and sidewalks preventing pedestrians, vehicles, line of sight and equipment from safe travel will be trimmed appropriately. Work conducted conforms to Village Code Chapter 124.

ELECTION INFORMATION, By Fran Duncanson



The Village of Osceola is offering this fundamental election information to answer questions we are frequently asked. Please keep in mind this is basic information that does not cover every situation or circumstance. Please contact the Village Clerk at 715-294-3498 if you have any additional questions.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You can register to vote online at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>, by mail, or in person at Village Hall M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You must provide proof of residency including items such as a unexpired Wisconsin Driver's License or State issued ID, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or stub, credit card statement, DNR licenses, concealed carry license, residential lease or facility intake document, or real estate tax bill. These documents must contain your current address. You cannot use an insurance or other general bill or invoice. You can register to vote in person on Election Day, but please be advised to *make sure you allow an hour or more as we are expecting a record setting number of voters.*

WHAT CAN I USE FOR A PHOTO ID?

You will be required to provide an unexpired photo ID to vote in person or absentee, unless you are indefinitely confined. Acceptable photo ID is a Wisconsin Driver's License or State ID Card or receipt for the same, a US Passport, Veterans Affairs ID card, Tribal ID card, US Uniformed Services card, or a Certificate of Naturalization. A WI University or WI Tech College ID is permitted only with enrollment verification. Your photo ID need not have your current address on it, providing it is not expired.

WHEN CAN I EARLY VOTE?

You may vote in person absentee (early vote) at Village Hall beginning **Tuesday October 20th at 9:00 a.m. and ending Friday October 30th at 4:00 p.m.** You will be required to show a photo ID to vote. There is no voting on the Monday (day before) the election.

WHERE AND HOW DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

Voting on Election Day, November 3rd, 2020 will be at the Village Hall Discovery Center upstairs **for Village of Osceola residents only**. Voting is no longer at the Osceola High School. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you are in line to vote at 8:00 p.m., you will be permitted to vote. We will have COVID-19 precautions in place and strongly urge you respect them. *Again, we are expecting a record number of voters and long lines, so please allow an hour to vote.*

HOW DO I GET AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You may vote absentee by mail by requesting a ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> or, in writing by filling out a form and submitting it to the Village Clerk. You can do this by mail or e-mailing to villageclerk@vil.osceola.wi.us. You must include a copy of your photo ID unless we have it on file, or you are indefinitely confined. You may return your ballot by mail, dropping it off at Village Hall, or leaving it in the drop box on the east side of the building. You can track the status of your ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>. All absent ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd, 2020 to be counted. **Please make sure on the back of the envelope you sign, date, and have a witness sign and fill out their complete address. A common reason ballots are rejected is that the back of the envelope is not properly filled out.**

In conclusion, we are committed to provide you with a positive election experience to the best of our ability as allowed under law. Please be patient, courteous, and respectful of other voters and the election inspectors who demonstrate good citizenship by serving. We are all in this together!

CAPTAIN WALLY, By Deb Rose



There are people in this world who after you spend time with them you walk away a different and better person, one of those people in our town was Wally Piszczek. Each time I had the chance to spend a bit of time with Wally I walked away more informed and with a great story. When I was first elected to the Osceola Village Board one of the people I was most excited to serve with was Wally. I knew him a bit from my youth growing up in Osceola and had gotten to know him more when I moved back home as an adult.

Piszczek was a pilot by vocation but an engineer at heart. He first flew for the U.S. Navy and eventually was a Northwest Airlines pilot for thirty years. In between there he was a NASA capsule engineer on the Gemini Project and Apollo 1, became a lawyer and fought a legal battle against the US government over building a wind-powered ethanol plant in his backyard. Remnants of which can still be seen while driving south of town. He also served as a trustee on the Osceola Village Board for eight years and, as the resolution recognizing his service upon his retirement from the board stated, “served the community with diligence, dedication and concern”.

One of the most fascinating times of his life that I loved to hear about was when he worked with Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the moon. When he was 24 in 1964, Piszczek spent three years working as a launch group engineer for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Armstrong was 34 in 1964 and a new astronaut who began training for flights in the two-person Gemini spacecraft – the same spacecraft Piszczek helped engineer. According to a 2012 article in the Press Publications “In 1965, just hours before the launch of the Gemini 7, the precursor to the Apollo spacecraft, Piszczek recalls being on top of the launch pad struggling to get the food boxes to fit in storage departments. ‘The food is always one of the last things to be packed and the boxes of food would not fit in the storage boxes on the Gemini,’ Piszczek said. Just minutes before launch, Piszczek and another engineer had to use their weight, which included stepping on the lid with their boots to close the lids of the storage boxes on the spaceship.”

Sadly, one of the most brilliant minds and entertaining individuals passed away in mid-September. As his obituary said - Captain Walter was a man of extraordinary personal and professional accomplishments that were only exemplified by how he conducted his life – with hard work, dignity, courage, and humility. He will be sorely missed, thought of fondly and forever admired in every circle he ever entered.

LIBRARY EVENT



The Library will be hosting a virtual event:

- EVENT:** News, Fake News, and Spin: Deciding Who to Trust in an Age of Disinformation
WHEN: Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
HOST: Michael Edmonds, retired director of Programs and Outreach at Wisconsin Historical Society

This event is being brought to you by the Polk County Public Libraries. The Zoom online meeting room will open 30 minutes before the official start time in order to let you connect and resolve any technical issues. The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please visit our Facebook page to register for the event!