

September 2021
Volume 9, Issue 3

Village News



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

A THANK YOU, from Ben Krumenauer, Administrator

For the last two years my family and I have lived, worked, and played in this community. There have been many ups and even a few downs. Through all of it, one thing is clear, Osceola is a gem that is moving in a forward direction. You may have noticed that I like to use the word “community”. Community member instead of residents. Community focused instead of target areas. Etc. I do this because I feel that the strongest way to communicate is to talk to each one of you as a person that lives, works, and plays in the same place as me. Being a Millennial, I naturally revert to Google instead of the beat-up dictionary in the corner. Community can be defined as “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common”. It can also be defined as “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals”. It should also say that community can be defined as Osceola.

It goes without saying that Osceola has had a few tough years. Delayed projects and overruns, a slowdown in growth and the ongoing health crisis to name a few. These difficulties have strained the Village, and yet this community is continuing to thrive and is now moving past them. While the Village Board has made the tough decisions to address many of these headaches, it is you that has encouraged a culture of cooperation and open dialogue. You are respectful in conversations even when opinions are different. You have been supportive during this health crisis and have risen to a higher level of collaboration. You have even been understanding and patient with your local government while we realign our financial obligations. It is for these reasons that I thank you. Osceola has an infinitely bright future including new opportunities, growth in tourism, welcoming neighborhoods, and an abundance of natural and cultural resources. Your Village Board and staff are committed to investing in these opportunities and have developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that we continue to succeed. There will always be challenges and unknowns and even a few difficult years to come, but please rest assured that because of our commitment and your unwavering promotion of community we will succeed. And for that I once again say thank you.

Benjamin Krumenauer, Village Administrator

COMMUNITY COFFEE, by Chief Pedrys

The Osceola Police Department will be starting up “Community Coffee” event weekly at Caribou Coffee again this year. This event has been a great success in the past and we are looking forward to starting again after the year we had last year. We will hold this event the last two Fridays of each month, from October 2021 through March 2022. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the following dates:



October:	22 & 29	January:	21 & 28
November:	19 & 26	February:	18 & 25
December:	24 & 31	March:	18 & 25

I am looking forward to seeing many of you from previous years as well as meeting new community members, business owners and visitors. I invite you to stop in and say hi! I am looking forward to another great year of good conversations, great coffee (or tea, cappuccino or whatever your choice of morning beverage is) and, occasionally, good humor. We hope to see you there!

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
1¼-inch meter:	\$ 78.00	8-inch meter:	\$510.00
1½-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

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERES



BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush chipping for residents within the Village of Osceola will begin **Monday October 25th and will continue through the week, ending on Friday October 29th**. If it is not curbside during that week, 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. No shrubs, trees, or stumps with attached roots will be picked up nor chipped.

LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning Monday October 25th and running through November 8th**. 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 RECEPTACLES - With winter approaching this is a reminder to adhere to Waste Management Policy in the placement of your trash receptacle. Public Works deems these an obstruction in streets, sidewalks, and lots while conducting snow removal and street sweeping efforts. During pick-up days it is appropriate for your receptacle to be in your driveway or on the boulevard.

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 – Village Code requires that 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.

NEW OPENING OF THE NATURAL DEBRIS SITE OCTOBER 18TH, 2021 The Village of Osceola Public Works Department is excited to announce the opening of a light brush and leaf bag only drop-off site located at the Public Works Facility 107 Depot Road. This site is available for Village of Osceola residents only and may be asked to provide name and address while utilizing the site.

The entrance and exit of the site are signed appropriately on the gate located on the east side of the building. Currently the planned hours of operation are weekdays 7:30a.m. to 3:00p.m. The site will be closed for observed holidays and at times regular maintenance. Hours will be strictly enforced. Please look for any updates related to the site on the Village of Osceola webpage as hours may change seasonally.

Rules:

- 1) **No garbage**
- 2) **No brush over 6 inches diameter or 6 feet in length**
- 3) **Leaf bags will only be in paper biodegradable bags with no mixed materials**
- 4) **No stumps or roots**
- 5) **No cutting of wood or chainsaws**
- 6) **No equipment or implements**

The Public Works Department looks forward to a Natural Debris Site for residents to utilize and to help create an organic system with rich benefits including free compost soils and woodchips. Please help in maintaining this site by following the simple rules listed. By doing so we can look forward to a site with permanence.

2022 PROPERTY ASSESSMENT YEAR

The Village of Osceola will be conducting a total property revaluation for the 2022 assessment year. All properties will be updated to reflect the current real estate market. Estimating the market value is a matter of determining the price a typical buyer would pay for the property in its present condition. Updating property values is a process that does not generate additional tax revenue. The objective in updating properties to their current market value is ensuring fairness and equity to all.

Beginning in fall of 2021 we will be conducting a field review to verify information on all improvements (i.e., buildings) and land. If you are not home when the field review is being done, we will leave a notice on your door to let you know we were on your property to conduct our review. If you have any concerns about our field work process or need to provide us with additional information regarding your property, please feel free to call at 715.294.3498 or email at info@myosceola.com.

State Law requires assessments to be based on actual view of the property, or best information available. If we are not able to perform an on-site inspection of the property, we will determine the assessment by using existing records and our judgement concerning conditions and features. Please note the Assessor has certain statutory authority to enter land as described in Sections 943.13 and 943.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Village of Osceola contracts with Waste Management (WM) for refuse and recycling services. Below are pricing rates for their services to Village residents.

Service Level	2021 (Current)	2022	2023
36 Gallon	\$10.05	\$10.45	\$10.87
64 Gallon	\$12.35	\$12.84	\$13.36
96 Gallon	\$14.40	\$14.98	\$15.58
Recycling Bi-Weekly	\$4.00	\$4.16	\$4.33

NOTES:

1. All rates are the fee per month per service level and are billed quarterly.
2. Rates do not include local or State taxes and fees. This contract does not control required taxes or fees as applied by WM.

Please review your WM bill and if you think there is an error, please contact them directly at 1.888.960.0008 to discuss.

THERE'S BEER IN THAT THAR BLUFF, by Deb Rose

Few places in the United States are as identified with beer as Wisconsin. Brewing beer has been a Wisconsin tradition dating back to the 1830s. Over the last couple of centuries our state has been home to some of the biggest and most renowned breweries in the country. Along with cheese and bratwurst we claim it as part of our identity. Shoot, even our baseball team, the Milwaukee Brewers, pays homage to our favorite barley and hop drink! Recent history has been filled with the explosion of craft beers and local breweries. Seems nearly every small town or city neighborhood has a brew pub. Although we don't currently have one in town, back in the day Osceola had its own craft beer brewed by local brewer Veit Geiger.

When he first came to town Geiger worked in a brick yard, later as a farmer and after returning from serving in the Civil War he started a brewery. From 1867 to about 1878 or so he operated Geiger Brewery near the bottom of the bluff just off of what is now Hwy 243. As the sign near the ruins of the old brewery says, that spot was chosen because the "artesian springs assured an abundant source of pure water, and the nearby caves provided a constant 50-degree storage cellar." Geiger built a saloon in Osceola on the northwest corner of what is now 2nd and Cascade, my guess is so he'd have a place to sell his wares! Later when the building housed the Polk County Court house the story goes those old kegs had to be moved from the basement to make room for the jail.

Although we no longer are the home to a brewery you can still see the ruins at the base of the bluff. A stream still runs through the area feeding the Cascade Falls and the springs in that area are still as pure as can be. A good friend who home brews started his 100th batch of beer in the shadow of the old brewery using the clear spring waters. Next time you are taking a hike around the bluff or near the falls add a little extra time to your venture and take a look at this cool little piece of lost Osceola history...and if you happen to use the springs for a batch of beer, I'm good at sampling!

THEN



NOW



OSCEOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The 2021 Summer Learning Program was another success! Results were as follows:

- Ages 0-18 read a total of 517 hours over the course; and
- Ages 18+ collectively read 130 books!

Great work Osceola families!

The Community Conversation Program will be held on October 26th, 2021. Follow our Facebook page or Website, osceolapubliclibrary.org, for more Library information.

