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VILLAGE NEWS



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

www.myosceola.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT, by Andrew Bach, Police Chief



Hello everyone! With summer winding down and the brilliant autumn colors coming back to Osceola, there are a few updates that I wanted to share with all of you. First off, the Village Board voted to remove my interim title and appoint me as our new Chief of Police. I could not be more honored, and I look forward to providing Osceola with a professional and dedicated police department. Thank you for this opportunity, and if you have any questions or just want to check in feel free to come on by our office.

Following that news, I want to report that our combination efforts with the Saint Croix Falls Police Department did not work out. We were not able to come to an agreement which I felt would be acceptable to the Village residents. As part of this dissolution, our service agreement with SCFPD is set to expire at the end of September, which means that SCFPD officers will no longer be fielding calls in Osceola. I still have much respect and appreciation for the SCFPD, and we will continue to maintain our ongoing mutual aid agreement to back each other up while working. My focus as Chief of Police will now turn to drawing in and hiring quality applicants to bring our police department back to full staff. I know that this can be accomplished and that it will take some time to do correctly. The hiring process for police officers is very thorough and there may be a delay in service for non-emergency complaints during this transition. I encourage anyone that has a need for an officer to continue to call our office or to call 911 if there is an emergency. I look forward to giving you a more positive update soon.



Moving on to more fall-related topics, *Coffee with a Cop* is coming back at Caribou Coffee located inside of Dick's Fresh Market! We will kick off the event on October 18th from 8:30am to 10:00am and it will continue to be held the last two Fridays of every month until spring. We love this event as it's an opportunity to meet up with folks in the area and answer questions or talk about whatever you want. We'll send out reminders and updates on our Facebook page, so be sure to follow us. We hope to see you there!

Lastly, I wanted to talk about seasonal parking restrictions. I know that snow is the last thing on everyone's mind, but I'm reminded of the '91 Halloween blizzard that happened when I was a kid and the chance for an early snowfall. Under Village Code 207-9(B) *no person shall park any unoccupied vehicle on any street in the Village between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between November 15 and April 15, except with prior police approval.* This also applies to vehicles in the municipal parking lots, except for permitted parking spaces. In case you weren't aware, the reason for this ordinance is for snow removal operations. Our plows need the space on the roadway to effectively remove the snow. We usually spend the first couple of weeks in November putting out reminder flyers on vehicles before enforcing the ordinance.

Have a fun and safe fall season!

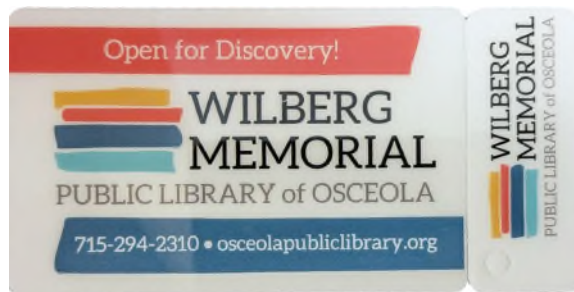
Chief Andrew Bach

LIBRARY NEWS, by Anne Miller, Director

Libraries across the country celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month in September. Are you aware of all the benefits you can receive when you have a library card? Of course, you can come to the library and check out books and DVDs of all different genres, but we also have memory care kits, STREAM Kits for children (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, & Math), Tonies boxes & figures, Storytime backpacks, music CDs, audio books on CD, portable CD players, and magazines available for check-out. Not only can you check out any of these materials from our library, but with your MORE library card you have access to items from the 54 libraries that are part of the MORE library system. You can stop into those libraries to check out items, or you can simply browse the online catalog (www.more.lib.wi.us), order items and have them sent to Osceola, and you will be notified when they are available for pick up at the library. And there is an app for that! Download the MORE app to your phone for access to the library catalog, check your due dates, see if an item you ordered is available to pick up, and have your library card barcode available all the time – no more lost library cards!

With your library card you also have access to thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and magazines through the Libby app. Simply download the app, browse, and download books to read or listen to on your devices as well as online resources! You can learn one of over 100+ languages available in Transparent Languages. Research your family tree on Ancestry Library edition or Family Search. Not sure what is wrong with your vehicle? Look it up online in the Chilton Library. Looking for the next great read? Use NoveList Plus to decide on your next book. If you need a new appliance, find out what Consumer Reports thinks is the best buy.

All of this and more is available to you with a library card! All you need to get a library card is a photo ID with a current address, or a photo ID and an item that shows your current address, like a piece of mail or a rental agreement, and a completed library card application. Please make sure to check our website (www.osceolapubliclibrary.org) or Facebook page to see the library’s calendar and to find out all the things you can do with a library card. In the wise words of Arthur Reed from the children’s television show Arthur, “Having fun isn’t hard when you’ve got a library card!”



VILLAGE INFORMATION & REMINDERS

VILLAGE CALENDAR

- Oct 1 Planning Commission 6:00 pm
- Oct 3 Admin & Finance 4:30 pm
- Oct 8 Village Board 6:00 pm
- Oct 10 Library Board 5:30 pm
- Oct 21 Airport Commission 4:30 pm
- Nov 5 Election Day 7 am to 8 pm
- Nov 6 Planning Commission 6:00 pm
- Nov 7 Admin & Finance 4:30 pm
- Nov 12 Village Board 6:00 pm
- Nov 14 Library Board 5:30 pm
- Nov 18 Airport Commission 4:30 pm
- Dec 3 Planning Commission 6:00 pm
- Dec 5 Admin & Finance 4:30 pm

**Regular Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

HOLIDAYS – Facility Closed

**Thursday & Friday, Nov. 28 & 29, 2024 - Thanksgiving
Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 24 & 25, 2024 - Christmas
Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2024 & Jan. 1, 2025 – New Year’s**

- Dec 10 Village Board 6:00 pm
- Dec 12 Library Board 5:30 pm
- Dec 16 Airport Commission 4:30 pm

All Commission and Board Meetings are tentative and subject to change. Check the Village website at www.myosceola.com for more information.



PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS



BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush chipping for residents within the Village of Osceola will be the week of **October 21st through October 25th**. Final run will be completed Friday, October 25th at 9:00 am. If it is not curbside beginning Monday, October 21st IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. Residence are allowed one pile 6' length, 6' tall and 6' wide with brush being less than 3" in diameter and 6' in length.

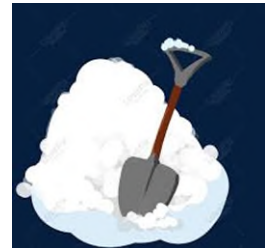
LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning Monday October 28th and running through November 8th**. Leaves **MUST** be in **biodegradable paper bags** and placed along the curb. We **WILL NOT** pick up plastic bags, bags with grass or mixed materials, or bags weighing more than 40 lbs.

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.

Please keep private trees and shrubs from obstructing pedestrians, driver sightlines, or impeding vehicular traffic flow and parking. Village code states sidewalk clearance height shall be 10 feet and roadways must be a minimum of 13 feet. Public Works may bill the resident appropriately for the cutting, trimming, and removal of branches and vegetation that impede these areas.

TRASH RECEPTACLES - 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 to eliminate it from being removed during maintenance efforts.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL - Village Code 186-6 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. As we move into and beyond the 2024 and 2025 winter season, the Public Works Department will **ONLY** maintain sidewalks that border public lands and buildings.



MAILBOXES - Please inspect the integrity and placement of your mailboxes and ensure they conform to USPS standards. The Village of Osceola Public Works Department, during snow removal efforts, will not be responsible for the loss or damage of mailboxes due to snow or ice contact from equipment. Best practices are to have an updated and suitable mail receptacle appropriately placed to endure northwest Wisconsin winters. Snow removal around the mailbox after each storm plays a critical role in keeping your delivery space open for both delivery and space for the snow removed from the roadway. If Public Works makes physical contact with a mailbox or post while operating snow removal equipment, please report it immediately to the Village of Osceola Public Works Department. We will only provide a suitable alternative or temporary repair if we have made direct contact with our equipment.



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.

ELECTION INFORMATION



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 am to 4:00 pm. You must provide proof of residency including

items such as an 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 22nd at 9:00 am and ending Friday November 1st at 5:00 pm.** 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 5, 2024 will be at the Village Hall Municipal Building upstairs **for Village of Osceola residents only.** Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you are in line to vote at 8:00 pm, you will be permitted to vote. ***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 or dropping it off at Village Hall. You can track the status of your ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>. All absent ballots must be received at Village Hall by November 5, 2024 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!

