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VILLAGE NEWS



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POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES, by Andrew Bach



As we spring forward into 2024, I felt that I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. In case we haven't met before, I'm Andrew Bach, and I have been the acting Chief of Police for the Osceola Police Department since Ron Pedrys' retirement last December. I have been working for the Osceola Police Department coming up on thirteen years when I was first hired as a part-time police officer in 2011. I'm from the Village and graduated from Osceola High School in 2006. I enjoy all kinds of outdoor activities from hunting to farming and love nerding out playing Magic: The Gathering as well as anything Star Wars. I'm excited about this opportunity to continue to serve the Village of Osceola and to provide residents with quality police services.

A couple of topics which I wanted to inform residents of are that our last two days of *Community Coffee with a Cop* will be March 22nd and March 29th. These events will be hosted by Caribou Coffee and last from 8:30am to 10:00am. I welcome anyone to come by and have a chat! We'll be picking the program back up sometime this Fall. Another spring topic that I wanted to bring up is that *Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week* in Wisconsin will take place April 8-12 this year. We will be testing our storm sirens at 1:45pm and 6:45pm on Thursday April 11th. This drill is 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. Beginning in May, we will be testing our storm sirens on the first Wednesday of each month to ensure that they are functioning properly during the storm season.

Finally, I wanted to talk about the biggest issue that the Osceola Police Department is facing, which is staffing. For several years now, the policing profession has seen fewer and fewer applicants in the job market. With retirements and resignations, every police department is having difficulty filling these newly available positions. This has been a nationwide problem of which Osceola is not immune. While we continue to search for and recruit quality applicants to serve our community, I don't want there to be a lapse in policing services. Because of this, I have been working with the Village Board and the Saint Croix Falls Police Department to enter into a temporary agreement for police services for the Village of Osceola. What this means is that when there is a lapse in police coverage in the Village, the Saint Croix Falls Police Department will respond to any calls for service for Osceola. So don't be surprised if you meet with a Saint Croix Falls Police Officer if you need police services. I believe that this agreement is necessary while long-term solutions can be explored and implemented. I, as well as the rest of the department, look forward to working with the Saint Croix Falls Police Department to provide quality service to the residents of Osceola.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 715-294-3628 or stop by to meet with me in person.



LIBRARY NEWS, by Anne Miller

Calling all LEGO builders! LEGO Club is back! Should you choose the challenge, there will be one available at each club meeting, or you can free form build. If you'd like, your creations from the club meeting will be displayed at the library until the next meeting. The club will meet the first and third Thursday of the month from 4-5:30pm.

Did you know we have Memory Care Kits available for checkout at the library? These kits, which are available to check out for 3 weeks, are a curated collection of stimulating materials and activities for older adults with dementia or Alzheimer's and are a way for caregivers to connect and reminisce with the memory patient.



Adventure Begins at the Library this summer! Watch for more information about the 2024 Summer Learning Program. The kick-off event will be on Saturday, June 1.

Check the library Facebook page and website (www.osceolapubliclibrary.org) for dates and times on all upcoming programs.

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS, continue on Page 4



The Village of Osceola Public Works Department looks forward to welcoming Spring. We have a lot of maintenance to be completed in 2024 and the transition from winter to spring presents heightened maintenance actions. Due to the unusual warm weather, we may be looking forward to completing seasonal tasks earlier in the season than usual. The Public Works Department now has a hot asphalt trailer for fixing potholes so we look forward to starting very early in the season as well as spring cleaning to begin on our 13 parks and the street sweeper will also be out removing debris from streets.

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

LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning April 16th and running through April 30th**. 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.

BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush needs to be out starting **May 6th**. If it is not out by May 6th, **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 10th** making a single lap of each residence and completing by 11am.

CROSS CONNECTION, by Rick Caruso

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected.

The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure that everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections, and possible corrective actions by building owners, if required.

What is a Cross-Connection? A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connection must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur? When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it was pumped and treated at the well. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply.

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: back siphonage and backpressure.

Back siphonage may occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a firefighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system, which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

Backpressure is created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS



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.