

March 2025
Volume 13, Issue 1

VILLAGE NEWS



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

www.vil.osceola.wi.us

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES, by Andrew Bach



Spring is back again, and as we all adjust and try to remember if the clock on the stove was moved ahead an hour, I want to take a minute to give you all some important updates. First off, it has been a turbulent year at the Osceola Police Department. Looking back one year ago we were in talks to merge departments with St. Croix Falls and since then have shifted to rebuilding our police department from nearly the ground up. This has been a demanding process, but I am happy to report that we have made progress and found a great candidate for our police department. In February, we hired McCade Miller as our first Officer-In-Training. McCade is currently attending the part-time law enforcement academy at Northwood Technical College and is anticipated to graduate later this year. Until then, we have McCade working around our office and observing our officers to learn about policing in our community before hitting the road himself. If you see McCade around, be sure to say hello and give him a warm welcome!

Another exciting update that I'm happy to announce is that the Osceola Police Department and the School District of Osceola will be entering into an agreement to implement a school resource officer for the 2025-2026 school year. This position brings many benefits to our community, including providing a law enforcement contact who will foster positive interactions with our kids and provide dedicated safety to our schools. In addition, a school resource officer will remove a lot of the call burden from our regular patrol officers concerning school-related calls and will provide our regular officers with a backup officer if we are responding to more serious calls. When school is not in session, the school resource officer will be assigned to regular police officer duties within the village which will bolster our department during the busy summer season. I believe the benefits that we'll see with this position will have a noticeable impact on our community for minimal cost to our residents, and I look forward to finding a suitable officer for the role.

In other springtime related topics, we will be starting our monthly siren tests beginning on April 10th in conjunction with the statewide test and will continue to do a test on the first Wednesday of each month until we're through storm season. These tests ensure that our equipment is functioning properly in case there is a storm event. As a reminder, we will activate the sirens in response to a tornado warning when severe weather is imminent.

A lot of us are also beginning to do some spring cleaning. We often see a lot of curbside items set out for sale or for free around town. We ask residents to make sure that they are monitoring their items and removing any unwanted items from the side of the road in a timely manner. In some cases, unattended items could be considered abandoned and could constitute a nuisance under the village code. Many of us will also be burning this spring and we ask residents to adhere to Chapter 168-16 in the village code relating to burning regulations. Some of the more common burn-related issues that we run into are making sure residents are burning in a proper container or fire pit, and are not burning any garbage or leaves that are not screened in. So, as we work to clean up our properties, let's make sure that we're also working to keep Osceola beautiful!

We wrapped up our *Community Coffee with a Cop* event at Caribou Coffee on March 28th. We would like to thank the staff at Caribou Coffee for hosting and to all the folks that came by to talk with us. We hope to get other community events set up throughout the year, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

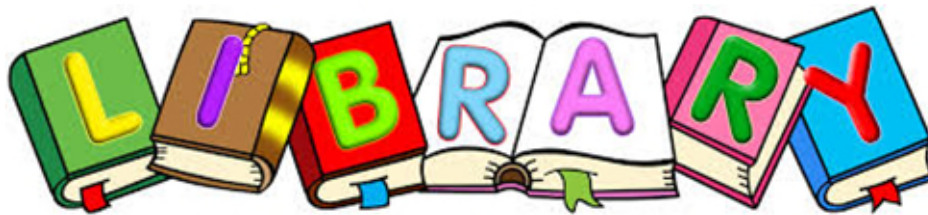
On a final note, as we work to fill the vacancies in our department, I just want to remind residents that if you are unable to reach an officer through our main line at the office, you should contact the non-emergency number for the Polk County Sheriff's Office at 715-485-8300; they will be able to dispatch an Osceola PD officer or a Polk County deputy to assist you. Thank you for all the support that we've received this past year, and we look forward to growing our police department and providing more exciting updates in the coming months!

LIBRARY NEWS, by Anne Miller

At the library, books are just the beginning! If you haven't been to the library in a while you might be surprised by what you can find and do while here. Of course, we still have books for everyone, but we also have Memory Care Kits for connecting with friends or family that might be dealing with memory issues. We have book club kits which contain 8-10 copies of the book as well as some discussion questions. We have Xcel draft meters and energy check meters to help you make your home more energy efficient. We even have a hygge kit to help you get cozy. For families we have STREAM kits (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, & Math) that are available for check out, as well as at-home story time, puppet, or outdoor exploration kits.

At home your library card provides access to a wealth of opportunities and information. The Libby app gives access to thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines FOR FREE! You can also access the Chilton Library if you need to do vehicle repairs. Are you interested in learning a new craft or fixing up your house? You will be able to find that information online with your library card. Learn a new language with Transparent Languages.

Programs and events are happening year-round at the library. From children's story time to craft classes to author visits, there is something to do at the library. Take a look at our Facebook page or website (www.osceolapubliclibrary.org) for more information about what you can find happening at the library. Or stop in to see what we have to offer!



PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS



LEAF PICK-UP - Leaves will be picked up as time permits **beginning April 15th and running through April 29th**. 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 5th**. If it is not out by May 5th, **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 9th** making a single lap of each residence and completing by 11am.

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 of 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.

VILLAGE INFORMATION & REMINDERS

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

HOLIDAYS – Facility Closed

Monday, May 26, 2025

Friday, July 4, 2025

Open Book & Board of Review – The annual Open Book and Board of Review dates with the Village Assessor, Appraisal Services, will take place this spring. If your property is being reassessed you will receive an assessment notice with dates & times of the meetings. Please call Appraisal Services directly if you have questions (715) 834-1361.

Volunteers Wanted – Please consider serving your Village by volunteering your time for one of the following:



- **Board of Appeals (3-year term)** – 2 citizens needed: The role of the Board of Appeals is directed by Wisconsin State Statute 62.23(7)(e). Primary responsibilities include: to hear and decide zoning related appeals, exceptions to local zoning code, grant variances to zoning and local building regulations and to grant applications for temporary uses in a district that may not have otherwise permitted that use.
- **Ethics Board (3-year term)** – 2 citizens needed: Issue advisory opinions regarding the propriety of any matter to which an individual subject to Chapter 18 of Village Code may become a party.

- **Historic Preservation Commission (3-year term)** – Architect and citizen needed: This commission is responsible for providing site plan review and façade compliance as directed by Chapter 130 of the Village Code. Area of focus is established within the Village's Historic District and Historic St. Croix River District. The Commission provides guidance on signage, façade design and improvements, building construction and enhanced landscaping.
- **Micro Loan Fund (Annual term)** – Citizen needed: The Micro Loan Fund Committee is charged with accepting, reviewing, and deciding micro fund loans for Village entities. The Committee is generally only active when direct funding or resources are available for projects and programs.
- **Redevelopment Authority (5-year term)** – 2 citizens needed: Osceola's Redevelopment Authority is directly responsible for the targeted development of available properties. The RDA targets development opportunities to properties within its jurisdiction. The RDA is a government body dedicated to urban renewal and has a Village focus on downtown and industrial park development.

Please contact the Village Clerk at 715-294-3498 or villageclerk@vil.osceola.wi.us to volunteer.

Board Meetings - All Village Board meetings meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm and are open to the public and there is an opportunity for anyone in attendance to speak to the Village Board. The Village President will ask for public comment for matters not on the agenda. This is your opportunity to let Board know your questions/concerns/comments about things happening in our community.

Dogs – Please be considerate of your neighbors and don't let your dog roam outside the yard or bark excessively. When walking around the neighborhood or any trail, please pick up your dog waste. **Dogs must be licensed, leashed, and within your control.** Dog licenses, for dogs 5 months and older, must be obtained prior to April 1, 2024.

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.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

Information regarding your water and sewer bills

Emailed bills: Water and Sewer bills can now be emailed to you. If you choose this option, your bill will no longer be mailed to you via USPS. If you would like your utility bill to be emailed, please return an E-Billing Consent Form available at myosceola.com/residents/residential-forms/. E-Billing Consent Forms are also available by request at our Village office.

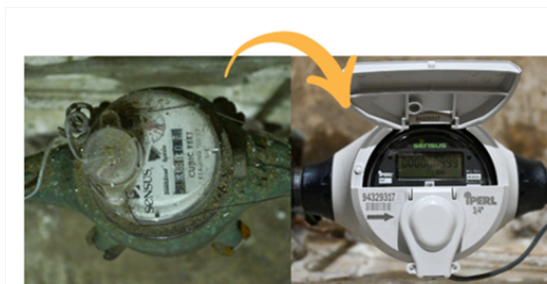
Paying your bill: You can also pay your utility bill online at <https://myosceola.com/residents/online-payments/> using Payment Services Network (PSN). Payments can be set up for auto withdrawal or can be made as a one-time payment using this method. Please note there is a service fee from PSN of \$1.10 for ACH payments or 3% if paying via credit/debit card.

Another option is to use the Village's secure drive-up drop box to deliver your payment to Osceola Utilities. Please be sure to include your payment slip along with your payment in an envelope and place it in the box labeled "Payment Drop" next to the library book drop at the Village Hall.

Bank Pay or 3rd Party Payments: Please note that any payments made through your bank are sent to a third party to print and mail the checks. Though the money comes out of your bank account immediately, and you enter a pay by date, that does not mean it will get here by the due date.

Bill Due Date: All payments need to be at the village office on or before the due date. Osceola's utility bills are due on the 22nd day of the month and late fees will be added the morning on the 23rd day.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT COMING IN THE FUTURE



The Village has partnered with HydroCorp to replace water meters throughout Osceola to modernize the meter reading process. Property owners who do not already have a modern meter will be receiving a letter from the Village with instructions for scheduling an appointment with HydroCorp. Please be on the lookout for this letter that will arrive within the coming months. Also note that meter replacements and appointments under this program have no direct cost to property owners.