



## 2025 TAX COLLECTION INFORMATION



### WAYS TO PAY YOUR TAXES

#### U.S. MAIL

- For income tax purposes, any end-of-year tax payments received after 12/31 will be receipted in 2026 regardless of “postmarked” date. If you need your payment receipted in 2025, you must bring the payment to us on or before 12/31.

#### 24 HOUR DROP OFF

- A drop box is located on the east side of Village Hall – at 310 Chieftain Street. The drop box is checked daily, and tax payments found in the drop slot will be receipted daily using that day’s date or if on a weekend or holiday the following business day.

#### IN PERSON

- You may pay your taxes and receive your receipt at the Village Hall, during the regular office hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

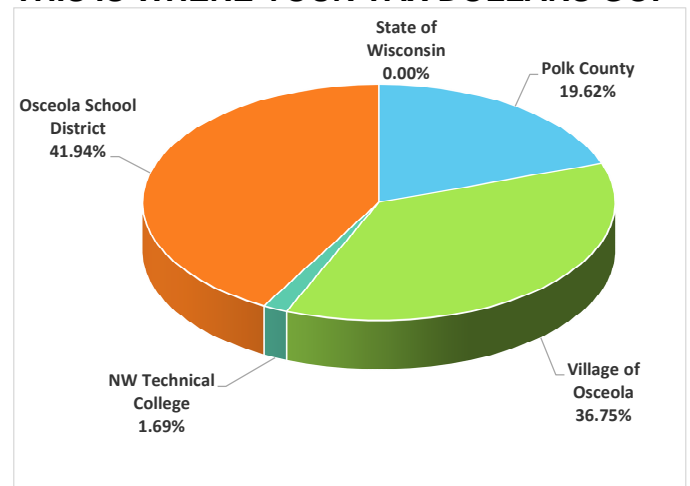
#### ON-LINE

- You may pay your taxes on-line with your debit card, credit card or e-check by going to [www.polkcountywi.gov](http://www.polkcountywi.gov), select Pay Taxes Online, Guest Sign In, Accept and Sign In. You can search by last name, parcel number, or bill number. The payment will automatically be sent to the correct municipality. A receipt may be printed from this page as well.

**Receipts for tax payments and dog licenses will be mailed out ONLY to those individuals that furnish a self-addressed stamped envelope.** You may also check online at [www.polkcountywi.gov](http://www.polkcountywi.gov), click on property tax search on the left-hand side to see if your payment was received and applied. Please allow time for the payment to show up online.

**LOTTERY CREDIT** If this tax bill is for your primary residence and you have resided there since January 1, 2025 (or before) and there is **NOT** a lottery credit deduction on your tax bill, please call the Village Office at (715)294-3498 to get the required form to claim this credit. **The lottery credit for this year is \$154.15.** PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO APPLY FOR THE LOTTERY CREDIT.

### THIS IS WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO:



**DOG LICENSING** Dog licenses are required in the Village of Osceola. Dog licenses must be obtained prior to April 1, 2026. Per state statues and Village ordinances dog licenses will not be issued without complete rabies information. Please call your veterinarian for a copy of your rabies vaccination certificate if you do not have one. The form can also be found on the village website at [www.myosceola.com](http://www.myosceola.com).

## POLICE DEPARTMENT, By Chief Bach



Hi everyone! I hope that you are having a great holiday season so far this year. We've been busy at the Osceola Police Department training our new officers, and I am happy to report that our police department is fully staffed! You may have met some of our new officers, most of them are through their field training and are out and about patrolling our community. I am thankful that we have arrived at this point and I look forward to providing more enhanced services to Osceola in the coming years.

This time of year we are able to participate in all kinds of community events. We had officers at the *Shop with a Hero* event in St. Croix Falls helping local kids pick out Christmas presents. Our *Stuff the Squad* event at the Osceola Police Department was held on December 20<sup>th</sup> and the community helped us collect non-perishable items for donation to the Open Cupboard, and *Coffee with a Cop* has kicked off and is scheduled for the last two Fridays of every month at Caribou Coffee from 8:30am – 10:00am. Check out our Facebook page for updates and we hope to see you out there!

In winter-related news, our overnight parking ordinance is in effect. Just a reminder that 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 with a permit. This ordinance is to allow for Village snow removal operations. Our plows need space on the roadway to effectively remove the snow.

On that same note, if there is a weather event and we need to remove vehicles we will have to tow them, and the owner will be issued a citation for snow removal emergency in addition to the cost of the removal. The definition of a snow removal emergency is *a condition of streets or other public highways where the snowfall has accumulated or has fallen in such manner as to produce a congestion of traffic. Any snowfall of four inches or more shall constitute a snow removal emergency.* This falls under Village Code 207-13 and notes that *as long as a snow removal emergency exists in any street, no vehicle shall park thereon or on any arterial street until the street is fully plowed.*

We will certainly try to notify the community if there is a snow removal emergency but sometimes it decides to snow overnight, and we are unable to do so. In any case, let's keep the streets clear for our Public Works folks so they can make driving conditions safer.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season this year and we look forward to serving in 2026!

Chief Andrew Bach

## VILLAGE REMINDERS



### 2026 ELECTION DATES

- Spring Primary - February 17, 2026 (if needed)
- Spring Election - April 7, 2026
- Partisan Primary - August 11, 2026
- General Election - November 3, 2026

**CHRISTMAS TREES** - Final day for Christmas Tree pickup will be January 31, 2026.

**ICE RINK** - The ice rink will be available pending weather conditions. Public Works Department will be working on the rink as time allows. Once the rink is up and running a news posting will be put on the Village website at [www.myosceola.com](http://www.myosceola.com) and an email will go out to all that have signed up to receive them.

**MAILBOXES** - Mailboxes should be made of sturdy materials and installed appropriately with USPS standards. Mailboxes and the posts they mount on degrade with time in the elements of Northwest Wisconsin. They suffer wind, rain, snow and the wintry blast of snow and ice from the plows maintaining the streets. If you have questions if your mailbox is installed and maintained appropriately, please visit <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>. If you believe your mailbox has been damaged by snow removal efforts by the Public Works Department, please contact the Public Works Department or email [info@myosceola.com](mailto:info@myosceola.com).

## NEW IN 2026 – BADGER BOOKS/E-POLL BOOKS



Beginning with the 2026 Election Cycle, the Village will be moving away from traditional paper poll books. In their place, the Village will be using what is known as “Badger Books”. What is a Badger Book? It is an electronic poll book. They are used to check in voters, print tally slips, enter registrations, and record absentee voters.

In 2017, Wisconsin Elections Commission staff developed an electronic poll book system to be used in polling places in Wisconsin on Election Day. The “Badger Book” is electronic poll book software that is specific to Wisconsin elections practices and statutes. It is the only electronic poll book software created to integrate with the statewide voter registration system. Badger Books do NOT use an internet connection.

### On Election Day

Voter will still state their name and address.

Poll worker will look up the information in the Badger Book.

Voter shows proper photo identification.

Badger Books screen provides all valid types of ID selections that can be used including specific expiration dates.

Poll worker turns the Badger Books screen around and the voter signs with finger.

Machine automatically prints a voter number slip that the voter uses to get their ballot.

### Registration on Election Day

Badger Books will ask the poll worker to input what type of ID they received and select what type of Proof of Residence (POR) the voter provided.

Election day registration information is encrypted.

### Important things to know

Badger Books have the entire statewide database so that a poll worker can look up any registered voter in the State of Wisconsin. Poll workers will be able to tell the voter if they are at the right polling location, what forms of ID are accepted, etc.

The actual process of voting will not change at all. Voters will still vote on paper ballots and Badger Books will be used in the Village of Osceola polling place beginning with the February 17, 2026 Spring Primary Election (if election is needed). If you have any questions regarding Badger Books, please contact the Village Clerk's Office.

## LIBRARY NEWS, By Director Miller

The Wilberg Memorial Public Library will be the place to be this winter! Adults (individuals 18+ years of age) are invited to join in the fun of the WMPL 2026 Cold Nights, Hot Reads Challenge beginning January 2 through March 31. Stop into the library to pick up a challenge sheet and complete challenges to be entered into the grand prize drawings which will be held on March 31. The challenges range from reading a book from the library's New shelf to checking out and watching a DVD documentary to attending any of the number of programs that will be happening in January, February and March.

Storytime (Tuesdays at 10:30am), LEGO Club (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 4pm) and Chess Club (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays) will continue through the winter.

Watch our Facebook and Instagram pages and website ([www.osceolapubliclibrary.org](http://www.osceolapubliclibrary.org)) for more information about library happenings.

## STORMWATER UTILITY UPDATE

The Village has created a Stormwater Utility to help fund the maintenance, repair, and improvement of our stormwater infrastructure, including ditches, pipes, basins, and ponds that manage rain and snowmelt. This utility ensures a dedicated, sustainable funding source to protect homes, streets, and waterways from flooding and erosion.

Stormwater Utility charges will begin appearing on utility bills in **Quarter 2 of 2026**. For a **single-family home, the monthly charge will be \$2.75**. Keep checking our website for additional information as implementation approaches.

## ADJUSTMENT TO UTILITY RATES

**Notice: Monthly billing and changes to your water and sewer rates**

The Village will begin monthly utility billing with the first bill to be mailed 02/01/2026  
 New utility rates are effective 01/13/2026 and will be reflected on the monthly bill mailed 03/01/2026

**Water rates effective January 13, 2026:**

Water Volume Charges:

- First 1,333 cubic feet used each month: \$3.73 per 100 cubic feet.
- Next 8,667 cubic feet used each month: \$2.80 per 100 cubic feet.
- Over 10,000 cubic feet used each month: \$1.69 per 100 cubic feet.



Meter Size	Monthly Charge	Meter Size	Monthly Charge
¾"	\$8.24	2"	\$55.62
1"	\$20.60	3"	\$93.73
1.5"	\$33.99	4"	\$113.30

**Sewer rates effective January 13, 2026:**

Volume Charge: 11.07 per 100 cubic feet.

Meter Size	Monthly Charge	Meter Size	Monthly Charge
¾"	\$ 13.73	2"	\$ 39.83
1"	\$ 19.23	3"	\$ 151.07
1.5"	\$ 24.72	4"	\$ 192.27

**No changes to rates are reflected on your current bill.**

**New Utility Billing Option:**

With the transition to monthly billing, we are pleased to offer ACH payment options. All ACH payments will be withdrawn on the 22nd of each month, beginning February 22, 2026. If the 22nd falls on a weekend or holiday, the withdrawal will occur on the next business day.

To enroll, you must provide either a voided check or a printout from your bank that includes your routing number and account number. The ACH Authorization form is available at [www.myosceola.com](http://www.myosceola.com) under **Residents → Residential Forms → ACH Authorization**. Forms may also be picked up at the Village Office, or you may request one be emailed to you by calling **715-294-3498**.