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VILLAGE NEWS



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LIBRARY NEWS, by Anne Miller, Director

As we move into the Fall months, we welcome cooler weather, pumpkin spice everything, sweaters, cheering on our favorite football team, and as the evenings get longer, more time for curling up in a comfy chair to savor a new book from the library. We receive new materials every week, so make sure to visit the library catalog website at <https://more.bibliocommons.com/lists/show/1537349179> to check out our lists of the new materials being added to our shelves. Place your holds for the items you are interested in because we follow local holds rules, which means that Osceola patrons with a hold on one of our items will receive the item before the item fills holds for patrons from other libraries.

Fall also means that we are back on our school year schedule of events, so make sure you check our website calendar (www.osceolapubliclibrary.org) or Facebook events page for the dates and times of our upcoming events.

We are very excited for two upcoming author events this fall! On Saturday, October 17 join us for the Friends of the Osceola Library's annual Books & Biscotti author event featuring Allen Eskens. Refreshments (biscotti, cookies, coffee, etc.) will be served beginning at 1pm, and Allen's presentation will start at 1:30pm. We currently have copies of Allen's books on display and ready for you to check out and read before his October visit.

On Saturday, November 14 we will be welcoming Craig Blacklock back to the library for a presentation on his beautiful new book, Superior: A 50-year Photographic Journey, which celebrates the 50 years Craig has spent photographing the amazing inland sea that is Lake Superior.

We look forward to seeing you at the library!



UTILITY INFORMATION



HYDRANT FLUSHING - 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.

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.

ACH PAYMENTS - Did you know the Village offers ACH payment option? All ACH payments will be withdrawn on the 22nd of each month, or if the 22nd falls on a weekend or a holiday, the withdrawal will occur on the next business day. To enroll, you must provide an authorization form, along with either a voided check or a printout from your bank that includes your routing number and account number. Forms can be found on website or picked up in the office.

WATER RATES

Meter Fee Per Month:

3/4-inch meter: \$8.24	2-inch meter: \$55.62
1-inch meter: \$20.60	3-inch meter: \$93.73
1 1/2-inch meter: \$33.99	4-inch meter: \$113.30



Plus 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

SEWER RATES

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Fee</u>
3/4"	\$13.73
1"	\$19.23
1 1/2"	\$24.72
2"	\$39.83
3"	\$151.07
4"	\$192.27

Plus Volume Charges:

\$11.07 per 100 cubic feet

Late Payment Charges:

A charge of 3% water and 15% sewer will be added to bills not paid by the due date. Please note utility payments must be **received** by the Village by the due date. Please take this into account when mailing payment or using a third party bill pay.

Account Setup Fee: \$45.00



PUBLIC WORKS REMINDERS



BRUSH PICK-UP - Brush chipping for residents within the Village of Osceola will be the week of **October 26th through October 30th**. Final run will be completed Friday, October 30th at 9:00 am. If it is not curbside beginning Monday, October 26th **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 26th and running through November 6th**. 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.

VILLAGE NATURAL DEBRIS SITE - Located at 103 Depot Road with the entrance and exit of the site signed appropriately on the gate located on the east side of the building. The current hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. The site will be closed for observed holidays and at times Public Works will close for regular maintenance. Hours will be strictly enforced.

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.

LITTERING - Per Village Code §168-17, no person shall throw any glass, refuse or waste, filth or other litter upon the streets, alleys, highways, public parks or other property of the Village, upon any private property or upon surface of any body of water within the Village.

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, or unoccupied lot in the Village to clean the snow and ice from the entire width of the sidewalk 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 2026 and 2027 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT, by Andrew Bach, Police Chief



Hello everyone. I hope you all had a great summer and were able to enjoy the warm weather. As we prepare for fall, I wanted to give you a few updates. Our officers have been very busy handling calls, investigations, and taking part in community events. Officer Tremblay is back in the schools, and we are developing a new casual uniform specifically for the school resource officer position which will be a fun change. Our new Officers Dodge and Valleen have been patrolling on their own and have been performing well. We are expecting to receive our new squad vehicle, a Ford F150 Responder. Once it's delivered, we will need to upfit it with equipment and we hope to have it deployed later this fall. We are looking forward to having more utility capabilities in our fleet and can't wait to reveal the new squad when it's finished. We are still short one police officer position which I'm hoping the board approves to fill for next year. This vacancy has left us shorthanded, but we will try to maintain consistent coverage in the meantime.

I've heard an increased number of concerns about Flock LPR cameras and would like to take this opportunity to explain a bit about our program and how we use this technology. The program started in late 2022 and includes five license plate reading cameras which we had installed throughout the village in 2023. These cameras capture an image of vehicles traveling past them and log details such as the license plate number, vehicle make, model, color and some unique identifier information such as whether the vehicle has a trailer or roof rack. If a vehicle is "wanted" such as having a stolen status or is associated with a missing person Flock notifies our officers when such a vehicle passes one of our cameras. Our officers then verify the accuracy of the license plate, and the vehicle status before further action is taken. The information collected by these cameras is retained for 30 days, during which agencies within our network can access and query the information for law enforcement purposes. This program has been a valuable investigative tool for our department. Our Flock program has helped us with several serious cases including multiple juvenile runaway incidents, stalking cases, and burglaries, as well as low level incidents such as retail thefts, vandalism, and gas drive-offs. We have also been able to assist other local law enforcement agencies using our Flock cameras. All of the searches that we conduct are logged for audit purposes and we have not had any incidents of misuse at the Osceola Police Department. One of the concerns that has been brought up is whether Flock Safety sells the information that is being collected. Flock Safety has maintained that it does not sell any of the information that it collects and that each department owns the information that is collected from their cameras. Another concern is that as more areas adopt Flock cameras, they are building the infrastructure for mass surveillance. I understand this argument; however, my experience is that each agency determines who can view data from their cameras and that it is not a streamlined nationwide network. I want to remind everyone that I am available if you have any questions or want to voice your concerns about the program. Osceola PD is a community-based police department where transparency and public trust are among our highest priorities.

Coffee with a Cop will be starting again this fall beginning November 20th at Caribou Coffee located inside of Dick's Fresh Market. We are looking to run it from 8:30am to 10:00am on the last two Fridays of every month until spring. This event is a good opportunity to meet some of our officers and talk about concerns within the village or more casual topics. We'll send out reminders and updates on our Facebook page, so be sure to follow us. We hope to see you there!



Finally, I just wanted to remind residents about our winter parking restrictions. 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 designated stalls authorized by a village-issued permit. This ordinance is to allow for Village snow removal operations. Our plows need space on the roadway to effectively remove the snow.

Thank you for taking the time to read the updates and I hope you have a safe fall season.