

Spring 2019

Oswego News

The official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, Illinois

Downtown projects coming this spring

Clearing the way for luxury living, dining and shopping in downtown Oswego p. 4-6



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

Flip over your newsletter for a special section devoted to financial transparency!

Cheers! Wine on the Fox returns to Oswego on May 4 & 5!

TICKETS ON SALE SOON! p. 10

OSWEGO VILLAGE BOARDGAIL JOHNSON *PRESIDENT*TINA TOUCHETTE *CLERK*

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Oswego News is the official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, published quarterly and mailed to more than 14,000 Oswego postal customers. Comments, suggestions and questions, including advertising, should be directed to:

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FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT*Greetings Oswego friends and neighbors,*

Growing up there were a lot of rules in my parents' home. Some were concrete, hard and fast rules so you knew what to do and what not to do. These included things like: no hitting, scratching, or kicking; place dirty dishes in the sink (we never did have a dishwasher) and dirty clothes in the hamper; no staying out past 11 p.m.; and we eat dinner together at the table.

Then there were other rules, actually, they were family norms. Things we did and didn't do because, well, we were Vrunos. These were more difficult to discern and as I grew older they were more open to interpretation (or so I thought). They included: never kiss your date under the porch light, don't leave the family car low on gas (we only had one), call if you're going to be late, and never talk about certain subjects.

Top among these forbidden topics: politics, religion, sex, and money. Since the first three of these are still taboo as far as this newsletter is concerned, let's tackle the fourth and talk money. Primarily, what the Village does with yours.

There are only two ways government entities like the Village get funds with which to operate: fees and taxes. Some would argue they are one in the same. In Oswego we consider fees to be what you pay for water/sewer and garbage collection. There are a few other fees for things like permits and fines; however, they make up a small portion of our revenue stream. Taxes show up on your bills and receipts as such.

We have rules and norms surrounding how we manage the money you entrust to us, as well. Laws govern much of this and we have been recognized by the Government Finance Officers' Association for our budget, financial reporting, and our Popular Annual Financial Report, which is excerpted in the back of this newsletter.

Just like my family, every government agency also has norms. Oswego is no exception. We have made it our norm to be as transparent as possible when it comes to our finances. Each year since I have been Village President we have had a budget workshop. This workshop is primarily for the Village Board and staff to go over budget items and discuss them in detail. Almost all of our board and management team members attend. This session will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, at Oswego Village Hall and, like all our meetings, are open to the public.

Another norm: transparency. We post almost everything on our website. If we've not posted something you're looking for, simply ask. If we've discussed it, it's public and you have a right to the information. All our department heads and board members have their contact information on the website, as well.

Flip this newsletter over for more information on Oswego's finances. Sorry Mom and Dad, we're going to talk money. Where we get it, where it goes, and how we steward it. As Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

This consolidated election includes candidates for village president, trustee, school board, and other local positions, plus local referenda questions.

VOTE EARLY AT OSWEGO VILLAGE HALL MARCH 18-28

Early voting will be held at Oswego Village Hall from March 18 through March 28. Early voting times are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. There is no early voting at Oswego Village Hall on Sundays. More information is available at www.co.kendall.il.us.

The last day to vote early in this election is **April 1, 2019**, at the office of the election authority (Kendall County).

NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

We have the solution. Several employees at Village Hall are certified registrars. Staff is usually available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit www.oswegoil.org and click on *I Want To*. Information can be found in the *Apply For* section. More information can also be found on the Kendall County Election & Voter information page at www.co.kendall.il.us.

For more election and voter registration information, visit www.co.kendall.il.us/voter-registration/

WATCH MEETINGS FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

Log on to our website at www.oswegoil.org and click on *Meeting Agendas & Videos* on the homepage. Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., followed by the Regular Village Board meeting at 7 p.m.



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When complete, the Reserve at Hudson Crossing will add to the downtown Oswego landscape in a big way.

WE'RE BUILDING SOMETHING

A transformed downtown Oswego starts taking shape this spring and summer as construction begins on new restaurants, retail and public amenities. Here's more about what's coming soon.

WHEN IT'S FINISHED, The Reserve at Hudson Crossing will add to the landscape of downtown Oswego in a big way. The six-story, two building development will feature luxury apartment living, new retail, restaurants, free public parking decks for downtown shoppers, and street improvements, all on the site of the former Alexander Lumberyard on Washington Street in downtown Oswego.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, representatives from the Oswego Village Board and Shodeen, Inc., kicked off construction of the new project by popping a confetti-filled champagne bottle and counting down to demolition of an old structure on the lot with an excavator. The event celebrated the start of a busy construction year, a response to requests from the community for more unique shopping and dining experiences in downtown Oswego.

"Our residents told us that what they wanted most for Oswego was to strengthen the heart of this community with renewed interest in our downtown," Village President Gail Johnson said. "They wanted more unique dining options, an enhanced shopping district, and places to gather with friends and neighbors on a Friday evening to connect and have fun. This is a day we've been looking forward to for a long time, and I am pleased to tell you today that this dream is becoming a reality."

The Reserve is expected to take at least three years to complete.



Two projects: The Reserve at Hudson Crossing will include two large buildings just east of Hudson Crossing Park. Block 11 will include several new projects on the block bordered by Main, Adams and Washington Streets.

In addition to the demolition, work including plan approvals from state and Federal agencies is happening behind the scenes.

In December 2016, the Village Board voted to purchase the former Alexander Lumberyard, which had been sitting as a vacant eyesore, then sought proposals for the property. Geneva-based



BIG IN DOWNTOWN OSWEGO!

Shodeen, Inc., proposed combining the lumberyard with adjacent rental properties to develop The Reserve, complete with 280 luxury apartments, 10,000 square feet of retail along Washington Street, a restaurant with outdoor dining, and completely reconstructed streets with benches and other amenities. Parking decks on the lowest floors of the development will be owned by the Village and provide approximately 520 new spaces of free parking for both residents and downtown shoppers.

ALSO COMING SOON: BLOCK 11

Construction season this year will also include work on the new Block 11, a reimagined streetscape featuring a pedestrian-friendly shared promenade for shoppers and diners to gather on the block bordered by Washington, Adams and Main Streets. The block will be anchored by a three-story mixed-use development of first-floor retail and upstairs office space slated for the former Village Hall site, and a two-story Mexican restaurant along Washington Street from the team behind Naperville-based Potter's Place.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON DOWNTOWN BUILDING

More information on downtown Oswego's new developments is available at www.goOswego.org/coming-soon.

Sign up for email alerts on downtown road closures, parking restrictions, event information and more by visiting www.oswegoil.org and clicking on the blue **Email alerts** button.

Follow @VillageOfOswegoIL on Facebook and @OswegoIL60543 on Twitter. #BuildingOswego. ■



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Friends.
Community.**

Janna Misek Ins Agcy Inc

Janna Misek, Agent
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Oswego, IL 60543
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Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 12:00pm
Se habla Español

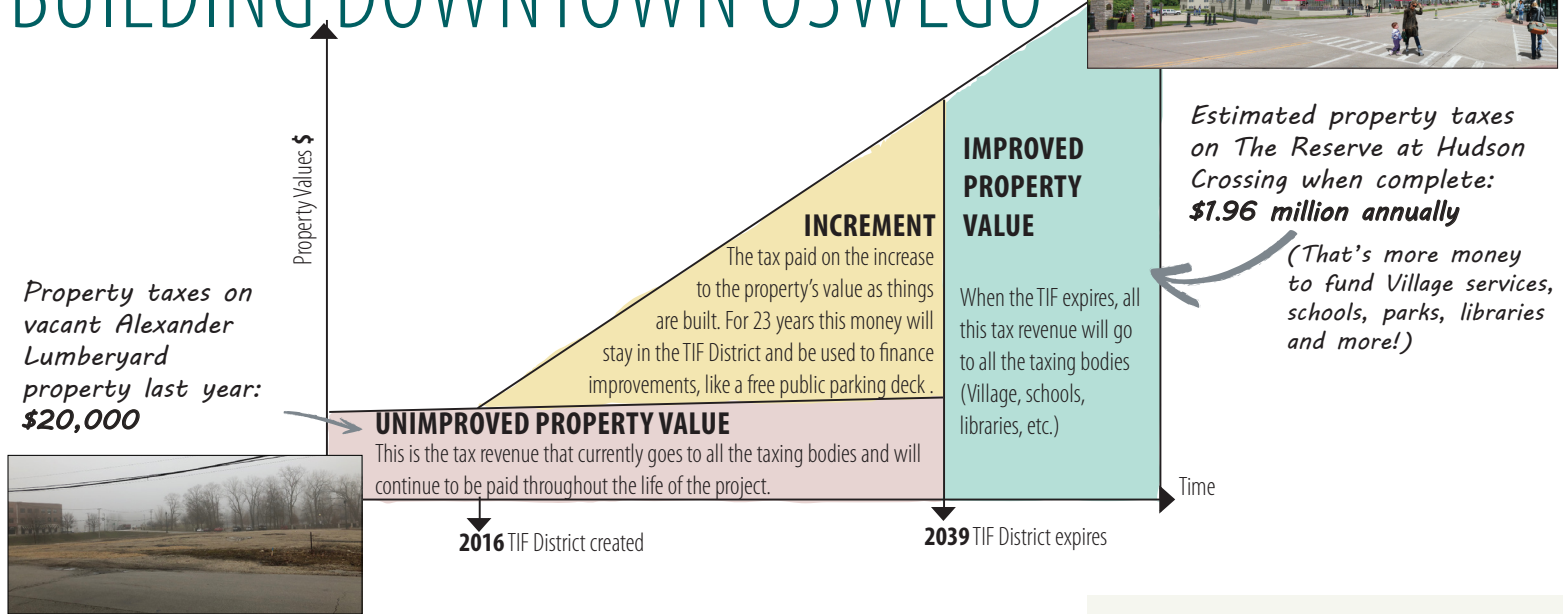
We're all in this together.

State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support The Community of Oswego.

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TAX INCREMENT FINANCING BUILDING DOWNTOWN OSWEGO



THE ALEXANDER LUMBERYARD property sat vacant for more than ten years. Suddenly, there's lots of interest from developers who want to invest in downtown Oswego. So what changed?

In 2016, the Oswego Village Board approved a TIF District that will help finance new projects. Here's how the math works for the new Reserve at Hudson Crossing:

In 2016, the empty Alexander Lumber lot and adjacent rental properties had an equalized assessed value (EAV) of approximately \$194,000. The owners of those lots paid a combined \$20,000 a year in property taxes. The developer Shodeen, Inc., purchased the adjacent lot from a private owner, and will get the Alexander Lumberyard lot from the Village.

The Village and Shodeen agreed to split the costs on the development, estimated to be about \$62 million. Shodeen will pay for \$46 million to build the retail, restaurants and apartments. Oswego will bond (get a loan for) \$16 million to pay for the parking deck. Shodeen will be required to pay back that \$16 million through its property taxes, and the Village will own the parking decks once constructed. Here's how:

When construction is complete, the value of the same property will increase exponentially and the property taxes will increase as a result. This is a two-phase project. When both buildings are open in 2023, the new property owner, Shodeen, Inc., will generate approximately \$1,400,000 annually in property taxes.

The original \$20,000 (give or take a few dollars) will go to the County as usual as regular property taxes and be distributed to the Village, schools, fire district and other taxing bodies, the same as every year.

The remaining \$1,380,000 is called the tax "increment." It will go into a special fund that will pay the \$16 million bond (loan) for all

the public expenses for the project, including the public parking deck.

When the TIF District expires 20 years from now, the property owner will pay the full \$1,960,000 for both phases annually in property taxes, bringing \$1,940,000 more every year to fund schools, parks, libraries, Village operations and more.

WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOLS?

The Oswego 308 School District will continue to get the same tax revenue it would have received on the unimproved land for the duration of the TIF District. In addition, Shodeen will pay a per-pupil fee determined by the state for each new student who moves into the development to fully cover the cost of their education.

When the TIF District expires in 20 years, Shodeen will be paying nearly \$2 million in tax revenue annually that will benefit schools, libraries, and much more.

Without this partnership between the developer and Village, the old vacant lot might have stayed an old vacant lot for years. Thanks to this partnership, our residents will get new independent dining and shopping options, plus free public parking, reconstructed streets, and a reinvigorated downtown. ■

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CONSERVE WATER THIS SPRING WITH SMART SPRINKLING

IN OSWEGO, drinking water is supplied by an underground aquifer with a limited supply. Ensuring the sustainability of our region's water supply takes the efforts of everyone. To that end, the following restrictions on watering are in place:

Properties with even-numbered street addresses may use Village-distributed water for sprinkling or automatic water systems for yard watering on even calendar dates 4-9 a.m. and 6-9 p.m.

Properties with odd-numbered street addresses may use Village-distributed water for sprinkling or automatic water systems for yard watering on odd calendar dates 4-9 a.m. and 6-9 p.m.

All non-addressed properties including but not limited to subdivision entrances, roadway islands and parkways may use Village-distributed water for sprinkling or automatic water systems for yard watering on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 6-9 a.m. and 6-9 p.m.

There are no restrictions when using a hand-held watering device to water gardens, trees, shrubs, or other plants.

Automatic watering of trees and shrubs with root feeders within the drip line of the tree or shrub follows the same even/odd restrictins.

Planting sod or grass seed is prohibited during July and August.

Property owners or residents who want to continuously water a newly seeded, slit-seeded, or sodded area of more than 10 square yards must get a water permit at Village Hall or Public Works. This permit is free; however, violators will be fined.

Residents wishing to fill a swimming pool may have water brought in by tank through a contractor or may use a private garden hose. Filling swimming pools with hydrant water is prohibited. Residents using a private hose must follow the water conservation rules above.

FREE WOOD CHIPS!

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT has free wood chips available for residents. These wood chips are the product of our brush pick-up program and other tree removal. This is coarsely cut wood from a variety of species, not the fine, uniformly sized and colored mulch you might purchase at a home improvement store. Still, these woodchips are effective at keeping water from evaporating from soil and will break down into nutrients for your garden.

Homeowners may pick up the wood chips at the Public Works Facility, 100 Theodore Drive. Public Works hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. ■

If the filling will take longer than the conservation limitations, residents can get a permit to allow the hose to run for a period of 48 hours.

Questions? Call Public Works at (630) 554-3242. ■



FREE REGISTRATION & \$100 TUITION CREDIT*

*New families only. Please see School Director for offer details.

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RAIN BARRELS AND WATER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING

Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Oswego Public Works, 100 Theodore Drive

Sponsored by The Conservation Foundation and Village of Oswego

Learn how to install, maintain and use rain barrels, plus learn about rain gardens, how native plants can solve many water issues, and how nature can help keep you happy and healthy too. Come learn how to collect and keep precious rainwater on your property at this free workshop. Attendees will receive a native plant guide, learn how to get a free yard visit to help solve their specific problems and get information on obtaining a rain barrel. Free. Registration is required.

RSVP by March 11 to jchurch@theconservationfoundation.org or call (630) 553-0687 x204.

BRUSH AND YARD WASTE PICK-UP

BAGGED YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Groot's yard waste pick-up begins Monday, April 1, and continues weekly through Friday, Nov. 29.

Yard waste is defined as grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, small tree limbs and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees.

Yard waste material will be collected only if it is placed in a 30-gal. Kraft paper bag with a Groot Industries yard waste sticker affixed to the front of the bag. Yard waste stickers do not expire, regardless of any dates which may appear. Yard waste stickers purchased in 2019 will cost \$2.00 each. Kraft bags and stickers are available at local retail grocery and hardware stores.

Set your yard waste at the curb by 6 a.m. on your regularly scheduled garbage day.

COMPOST WITH A YARD WASTE CART!

Do you generate a lot of yard waste and food scraps? Want to do the best for the environment?

Consider a Yard Waste Subscription cart from Groot. You'll get a 95-gal. cart to dispose of compostable food scraps and yard waste. Just put it at the curb on your regular garbage day and never sticker again!

A fee applies for this optional service. Contact Groot to sign up at (800) 244-1977. ■

BRUSH COLLECTION ZONES

Zone A includes all properties east of the Fox River and north of Route 34 as well as those properties west of the Fox River and north of Mill Road. (Marked in yellow.)

Zone B includes all properties east of the Fox River and south of Route 34 as well as those properties west of the Fox River and south of Mill Road. (Marked in pink.)

A list of neighborhoods by zone is at www.oswegoil.org/government/departments/public-works/brush-leaves-yard-waste.aspx



Correct (left) and incorrect (right) brush piles for collection. To ensure that your brush is collected, place it neatly at the curb blah blah blah.

BRUSH PICKUP STARTS APRIL 1

THE VILLAGE of Oswego offers free brush collection throughout the growing season.

ZONES

The Village collects brush on alternate weeks by zone. There are two separate residential brush collection zones. See the map below. A list of the neighborhoods located in each zone can be found on the Brush, Leaves and Yard Waste page at www.oswegoil.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Brush is defined as tree and bush branches less than 5 inches in diameter. The brush collection program is not intended to handle branches, logs, or tree stumps as a result of large-scale tree trimming or removal. Crews will not pick up logs, wood, root balls,

ZONE COLLECTION DATES

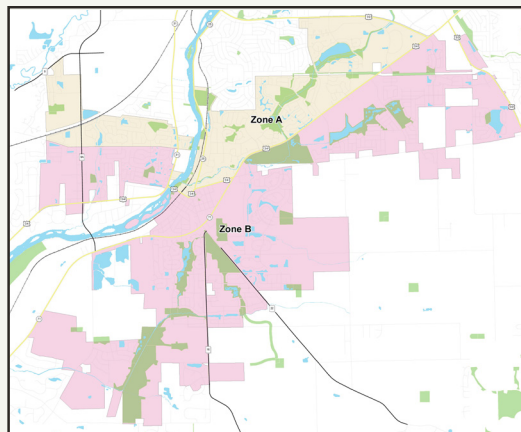
| Zone A | Zone B |
|-------------|-------------|
| April 1 | April 8 |
| May 6 | May 13 |
| June 3 | June 10 |
| July 1 | July 8 |
| August 5 | August 12 |
| September 3 | September 9 |
| October 7 | October 14 |

cuttings, or grass clippings. Crews will place an orange tag on your door indicating the reason they did not pick up the brush if it is the wrong material or placed at the curb too early.

FOR COLLECTION

Place brush at the curb by 7 a.m. on Monday morning of the designated week but no earlier than noon the Friday before. The Public Works trucks will pass through an area once and will not return for brush placed after the deadline. Place unbundled brush parallel or perpendicular to the street in neat bundles with all cut ends facing the same direction. Do not put brush in a container or in the street.

The Village does not accept landscaping waste, tree branches, or tree removals as a result of contracted work. Crews will not remove brush from commercial, industrial or other non-residential properties. ■



CALL JULIE BEFORE YOU DIG THIS SPRING

Whether you are planting shrubs or building a house, hidden dangers may lurk below the ground. Electrical, gas, communications and other underground pipelines and cables are unseen but always present. Underground cables and pipelines can be damaged or ruptured by tools, power equipment, or explosives, whether you are grading, trenching, digging, drilling, boring, tunneling, or scraping.



When damaged, these lines can endanger you, your neighbors and nearby property. Damaging natural gas, telephone, water, or electricity lines can leave your community without vital fire, police and medical services. These damaged lines are also expensive and time-consuming to repair. **State law requires that you call JULIE to assist with finding such lines before you dig.**

Call JULIE toll free at (800) 892-0123 or 811 two working days before you dig, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. JULIE operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.julie1call.com or call 811 or (815)741-5000. ■

APRIL 1-19

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

The Public Works Department will flush water mains April 1-19, beginning at 7:30 a.m. each day. Signs will alert residents of the upcoming flushing in their neighborhoods a week before flushing. Do your laundry before 7 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on days that crews are in your neighborhood to avoid rust discoloration of clothes. If your clothes become discolored, call the Public Works Department at (630) 554-3242.

The Public Works Department flushes all fire hydrants in the spring and fall as recommend by the Illinois EPA. Flushing gets rid of iron deposits that could produce discolored water and allows Village staff to ensure that fire hydrants are in working order. ■

APRIL 15-19

FREE SPRING CLEANUP WEEK

During the week of April 15th, Groot Industries, the Village's contracted waste hauler, will collect additional household waste, yard waste, and bulk items from residents curbside for free.

Yard waste must be placed in 30-gallon Kraft bags but stickers will not be required during this week. Residents cannot put out appliances, televisions, electronics, or plastic bags containing yard waste.

Place all items at the curb along with your regular garbage and recycling by 6 a.m. on your regularly scheduled collection day. If you have any questions regarding this collection week, call the Public Works Department at (630) 554-3242.

MEMORIAL DAY

NO TRASH COLLECTION

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash or recycling on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day. Trash pickup will be delayed by one day that week. ■

PARKWAY TREES AT HALF PRICE!

If your parkway tree is removed for any reason, as a homeowner you can get a tree for half the price through the 50/50 tree replacement program.

This program allows homeowners to select the species of the tree from a list provided by the Village. If you choose to participate in the 50/50 replacement program, you will be responsible for half of the wholesale cost of the tree. You are not charged for the removal, stump grinding, or planting. Call the Public Works office at (630) 554-3242 to sign up. ■



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Toast the return of spring May 4 & 5



OSWEGO WELCOMES spring each year with a toast! Join your neighbors and the Village of Oswego at Wine on the Fox, on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5.

Try more than 100 wines from independent Illinois wineries, plus enticing varietals from Italy, Spain and more, enjoy live music, food, and engaging spaces for children to play. Then buy your favorite bottles and cases to take home to savor the day.

This year's event will be held on the Village Green at Oswego Village Hall to avoid construction dust, and will feature new wine and food pairing specials. Proceeds help support other events and amenities in Oswego all year long!

Discounted early bird tickets go on sale March 4 at www.wineonthefox.com. ■



Raise a glass! Sample and learn about Illinois and international wines, discover new favorites, and listen to live music. Wine newbies and vinophiles alike will discover new finds, and all proceeds benefit events and amenities in our community like Fourth of July fireworks, holiday decorations and more!



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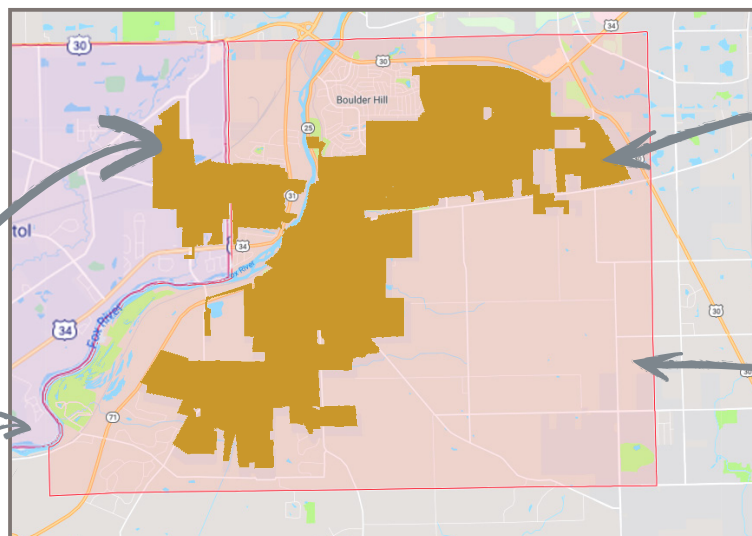
Village of Oswego or Oswego Township?

Your address may say Oswego, but for unincorporated residents, living outside Village boundaries affects taxes, municipal services, law enforcement and more.

Everyone in gold lives within the Village of Oswego, pays taxes to the Village of Oswego, and gets Village of Oswego services.

Live in a gold AND purple area? You live in both the Village of Oswego and Bristol Township.

Everyone in the purple area lives in Bristol Township.



Live in a gold AND red area? You live in both the Village of Oswego and Oswego Township.

Everyone in the red area lives in Oswego Township.

Northeast Kendall County. Gold indicates Village of Oswego limits.

IN ILLINOIS, each county is divided into townships, and every resident in the state lives in a township and pays taxes to the township for basic services like property assessment. Every Oswegoan lives in either Oswego Township or Bristol Township.

Most residents of Illinois also live in a municipality – a city, town, or village, like the Village of Oswego. These incorporated municipalities offer local services like policing, road maintenance, trash collection and more, paid for by taxes to the municipality.

Locally, this means that all Oswego residents live in a township, but not all township residents live in Oswego. Township residents who do not live in the Village of Oswego live in unincorporated areas, sometimes referred to by the post office that services their area, i.e. “unincorporated Oswego.”

For example, Boulder Hill is not

incorporated into Oswego. Its residents do not pay Village of Oswego taxes or receive any services from the Village of Oswego. Law enforcement is conducted by the Kendall County Sheriff and brush collection and other services are offered by Oswego Township. However, because of their ZIP code, many residents of Boulder Hill may have an “unincorporated Oswego” or “unincorporated Montgomery” address.

If you live in and pay taxes to the Village of Oswego, you get Village of Oswego services, including Oswego police, water treatment, trash and recycling, brush and snow collection, and much more. Residents who do not live within the Village of Oswego do not pay those same taxes and thus do not get those same services.

Many services may be available to unincorporated residents through your township. For more information on available services, contact your township. ■

Oswego Township

www.oswegotownship.org
 Supervisor: 630-554-3211
 Road District: 630-264-4587
 Assessor: 630-554-3214

Bristol Township

www.bristoltownshipassessor.com
 Supervisor: 630-553-0101
 Highway Department: 630-553-0101
 Assessor: 630-553-3940

PROPERTY OF THE SEASON

The stone houses of Oswego

Have you ever passed one of Oswego's many stone houses and wondered just how old it is? Many of Oswego's stone houses are among the oldest structures found in the village.

All of them date back to the mid 19th century, with most of them built between the 1840s and the 1860s.

Owners built the majority of these structures to serve as private residences. But a few of them were constructed for business purposes. Take the Curry Home located at 2470 Route 31 (locally known as Turtle Rock). Early owners used it as an ice, dairy, and cheese factory before it was renovated into a private residence.

As far as the building materials used, contractors worked with what they had on hand. For these structures, that meant limestone harvested from local area quarries.

Comparing them side-by-side, you will notice that these homes vary in style, often reflecting the most popular ones at the time. Take the houses located at 56 Jackson Street and 2094 Route 25 as examples. Both exemplify the Greek Revival style used in many structures built in the 18th and 19th centuries. They include specific details of this architectural style like hipped roofs and widow's walks. But by the time these houses were completed, the style was on its way out and new ones were cropping up around Oswego.

For this spring's Property of the Season, the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission chooses to honor the town's various stone houses. As we steadily approach the 200th anniversary of Oswego's founding, these buildings stand as a reminder of our town's rich local history.

For more resources and information about the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission and upcoming Preservation Month activities in May, visit our website at www.oswegoil.org/government/board-and-commissions-and-committees/historic-preservation-commission.aspx.



The stone house at 56 Jackson Street in 2014 (top) and in 1860 (bottom). Historic photo courtesy of the Little White School House Museum.

JOIN US IN 2019 FOR PROVEN WAYS TO FEEL BETTER!

**Healthy Habits
and
Fit & Strong**
January 2019

Heart & Bones
ongoing
Matter of Balance
April 2019

Kendall County Senior
Congregate Meal Program
Lunch is served Mon, Wed & Thurs at noon.



Oswego Senior Center

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www.oswegoseniorcenter.org

Oswego Senior Center is open to all
area Seniors age 60 or more!

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MARCH

05 Meet with banks, local government agencies and nonprofits that can offer financing, technical assistance and other resources to help your small business grow at **Scale Up: A Small Business Resource Fair**, from 8 to 10 a.m. in the community room of Oswego Fire Station 1. Free. More details at www.oswegoil.org/economic-development.

05 The **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Oswego Village Hall to vote on Village business. Meetings are open to the public and include a public forum for those wishing to speak. A Committee of the Whole meeting precedes at 6 p.m. to allow for more in-depth discussion on issues before they reach a final vote of the Board. Agendas and streams of live meetings are available at www.oswegoil.org.

13 Learn how to install and use a rain barrel at **Rain Barrels and Other Water-friendly Landscaping Ideas**, by The Conservation Foundation and the Village of Oswego, at 7 p.m. at Oswego Public Works, 100 Theodore Drive. Register by March 11. More details on page 7.

18-28 Avoid the lines. **Early voting** for the April 2 Consolidated Election is available at Oswego Village Hall. See page 3 for times and details.

19 **Oswego Village Board** 7 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** 6 p.m.

Follow us on social media for up-to-the-minute announcements and event information.

26 Considering a new business opportunity, but not sure if it'll be worth it? Join Oswegrow for **'Choosing a Business Opportunity That's Right For You'** and start your research on the possibilities and pitfalls of new businesses. For details, visit facebook.com/oswegrow.



APRIL

01 Curbside bagged **yard waste** and unbundled **brush collection** begins on your regular garbage day and continues throughout the season. Details on page 8.

01-19 Crews will be conducting **water main flushing**. Avoid washing clothes during working hours. Details on page 9.

02 Cast your vote in the **Consolidated Election**, including open seats for the Oswego Village Board. Polls are open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Details on page 3.

09 **Oswego Village Board** 7 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** 6 p.m.

13 Recycle old electronics, medications, batteries, Styrofoam and just about everything else at the **Recycling Extravaganza** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Public Works Facility, 100 Theodore Drive. Details at www.oswegoil.org.

13 Hop on over to downtown Oswego for the **Bunny Hop!** Meet the Easter Bunny and go on an Easter egg hunt from shop to shop at our downtown businesses. Details at facebook.com/DowntownOswego.

15-19 It's **Spring Cleanup Week!** Toss extra trash and bulk items at the curb on your regular garbage day for free! Details on page 9.

18 Gain confidence, conquer your content, and learn to present a stellar elevator pitch for your small business at **Perfect Your Pitch**, an Oswegrow workshop, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Oswego Public Library downtown campus. Free. Details at facebook.com/oswegrow.

23 **Oswego Village Board** 7 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** 6 p.m.



MAY

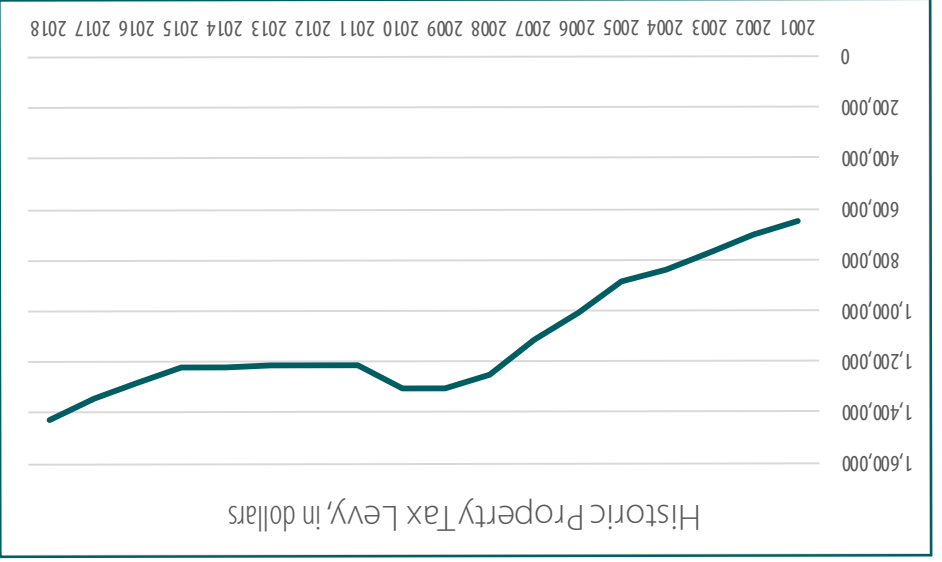
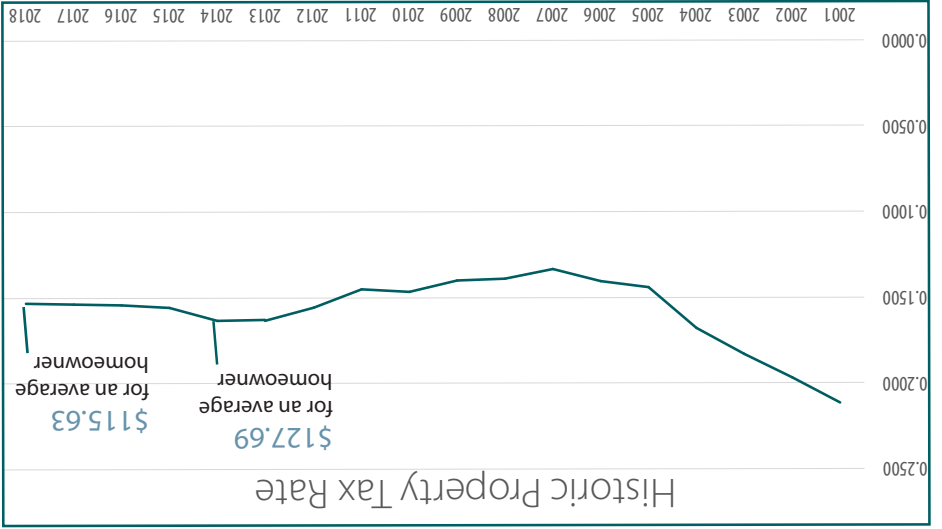
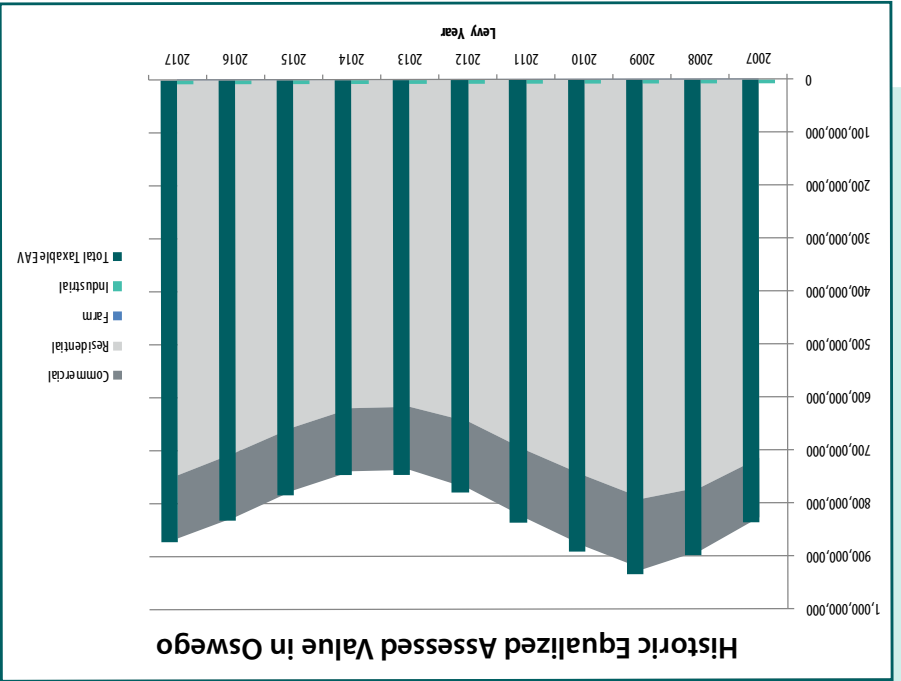
04-05 Bring the neighbors and celebrate the arrival of spring with wine samplings, live music, food and fun at **Wine on the Fox!** Proceeds benefit special events and amenities in our community all year long. Find early bird ticket deals at www.wineonthefox.com. More details on page 10.

07 **Oswego Village Board** 7 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** 6 p.m.

21 **Oswego Village Board** 7 p.m. **Committee of the Whole** 6 p.m.

27 Join the Oswego American Legion Post 675 in honoring those who have died in service to the country for a **Memorial Day** parade through downtown Oswego. Village Hall will be closed and garbage collection will be postponed one day all week.





Top: The Historic Equalized Assessed Value graph shows the total value of all properties in town, broken down year over year, by type of property. Values for all properties in the Village, as determined by the Kendall County Assessor's Office, are on the rise, both as construction begins again in the community and as home prices recover from the recession of the last decade.

Left: The Historic Property Tax Rate graph shows the property tax rate that homeowners have historically paid to the Village of Oswego. Property tax rates, the percentage of your home's value that you pay to the Village for services, have fallen every year since 2014, and will continue to either remain steady or fall again in the 2018 calendar year.

Bottom: The Historic Property Tax Levy shows the total dollar amount that the Village collects from all property owners in the Village to provide its services. Because of increasing development and property value in the Village, the total dollars collected has continued to increase, even as Village leadership has continued to lower the tax rate. This ensures that dollars are available to provide the same level of service to all residents, even as new residents move into Oswego.

Property Taxes

Your property tax dollars are split between many different local government bodies to provide services you use every day, including schools, libraries, fire protection and more.

- Oswego Township 0.29%
- Oswego District 1.50%
- Village of Oswego District 1.7%
- Forest Preserve District 1.28%
- Road District 1.78%
- Oswego Library District
- Oswego and Park District
- 2.44%
- Oswego Community 4.53%
- Walborsse Community College 5.38%
- Walborsse Community College 5.38%
- Kendall County 6.91%
- Oswego Fire Protection District 2.0%
- Oswego 67.44%
- School District 308 67.44%



The Village of Oswego receives the second smallest share of property tax of any taxing district in town. Of your total property tax bill, just 1.5%, or less than two cents of every dollar, goes to the Village of Oswego to provide development, road maintenance, public safety, and all of our other services.

The amount due that appears on your tax bill is based on the following equation:

$$\text{EAV} \div 100 \times \text{Tax Rate} = \text{Taxes Owed}$$

Your EAV, or equalized assessed value, is equal to one-third of the value of your home, as determined by the Township assessor, minus any exemptions you receive.

Of this total amount, only \$144,711 would be distributed to the Village of Oswego. The rest is split among other taxing bodies.

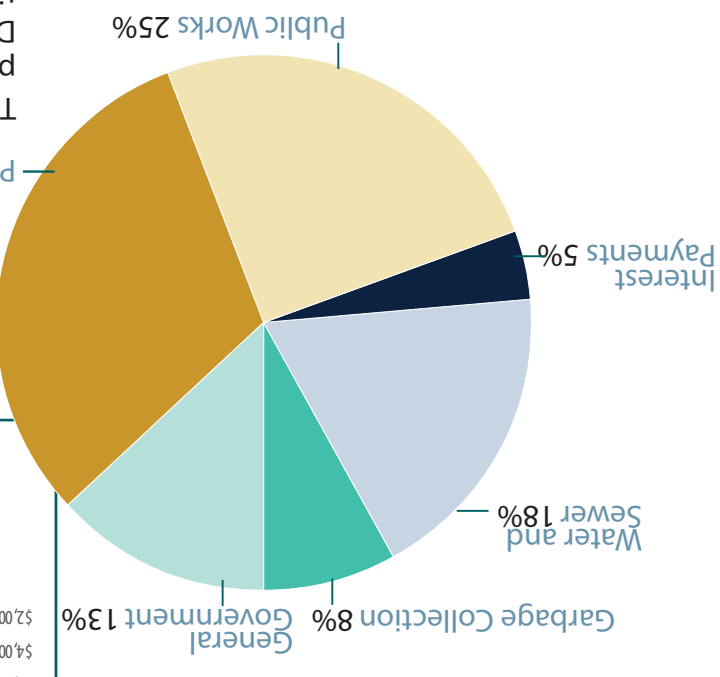
$$\$94,000 \div 100 \times 10.25143 = \$9,636.34$$

Therefore, if you own a property valued at \$300,000, your EAV would be \$100,000. A home-
stead exemption of \$6,000 would further reduce this amount to \$94,000. The tax rate is expressed as an amount per \$100 of EAV. Assuming a combined tax rate from all taxing bodies of 10.25143, your taxes owed would be \$9,636.34 and are calculated as follows:

Less than 2¢ of every dollar you pay in property tax goes to the Village of Oswego

Village Expenses

The Village of Oswego spent \$30.3 million in the past fiscal year to provide all of the services it offers to the community. This is a breakdown of how those dollars were spent.



Public Works \$7.6 million
 Costs for the annual maintenance and rehabilitation of the roadways, snow plowing and ice control, street maintenance issues, storm damage pickup, parkway tree maintenance, leaf pickup, roadway right of way maintenance and other miscellaneous tasks.

Water and Sewer Services \$5.5 million
 The Village provides water and sanitary sewer services to 11,000 customers. All the costs to deliver clean water and maintain the 162 miles of water main and 119 miles of sanitary sewer lines are paid from the usage fees charged to customers.

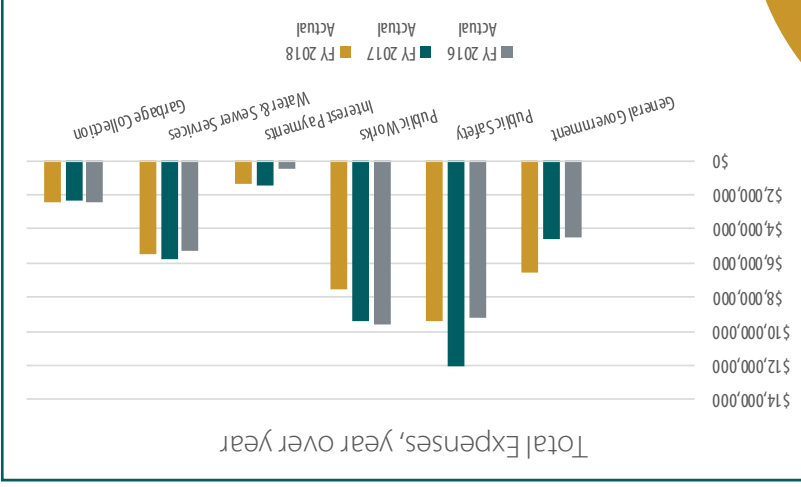
General Government \$4.0 million
 Costs for administrative services, building and zoning, community development, maintaining public facilities and financial operations.

Public Safety \$9.4 million
 All of the costs of operating the Village police department and providing safety to the residents and businesses in Oswego.

Interest Payments \$1.3 million
 Payments made for the interest cost on outstanding bond issuances. The Village issues bonds to pay for large capital projects. The widening of Douglas Road from two lanes to four is an example of a large capital project. The Village has \$27.1 million in outstanding debt.

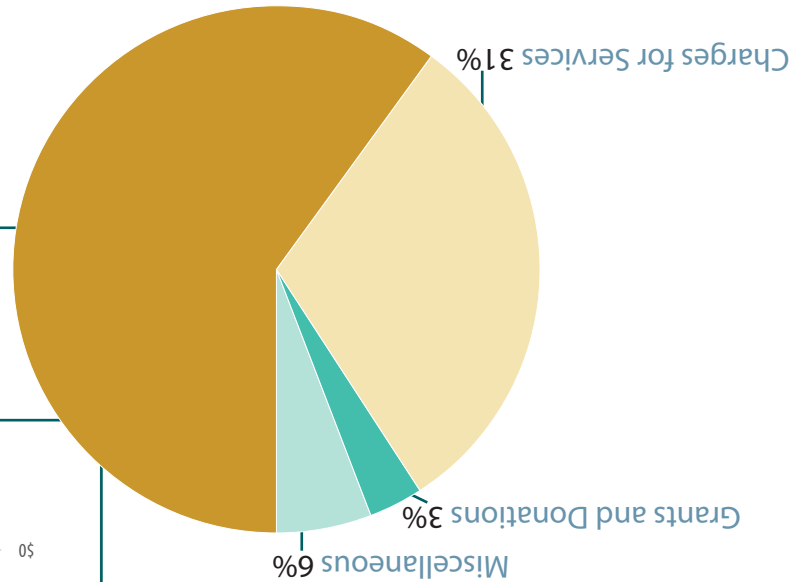
Garbage Collection \$2.4 million
 The costs for having curbside garbage collection are paid by the residents and businesses at rates established in the negotiated contract between the Village and the vendor selected through competitive bidding to provide the collection service.

The Village of Oswego spent just \$230 per resident to provide all of the services provided by the Public Works Department in 2018, from snow removal to leaf collection to street repairs.

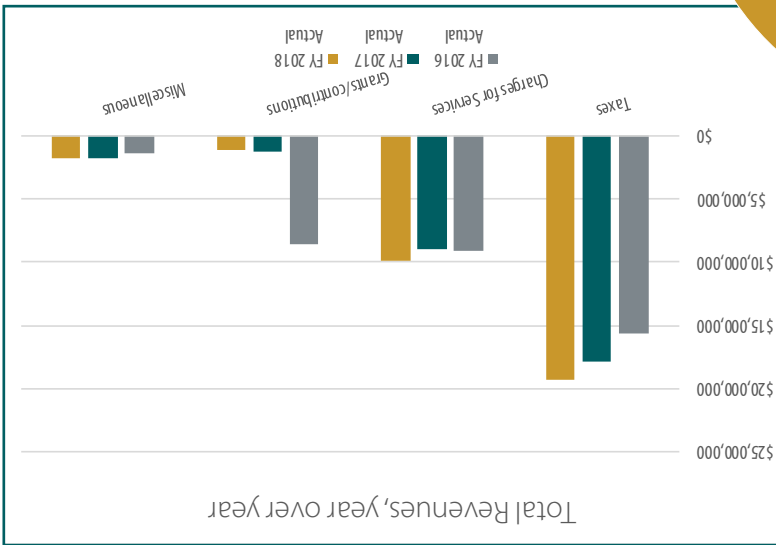


Village Revenues

The Village brought in \$32 million in revenue from a variety of sources. By having several sources of revenue, the Village can rely less on property taxes paid by residents.



Taxes account for just 60 percent of revenue to support Village operations, which are further split into property and sales taxes. By diversifying revenue sources, the Village becomes more resilient to future economic downturns.



Taxes
\$19.3 million
Approximately 60% of total revenues are from taxes. Sales taxes, income taxes, property taxes, utility taxes and other miscellaneous taxes are included in this category. Sales taxes are 57% of all tax revenue received by the Village. Of all the sales tax generated by retail sales in Oswego, approximately 60% are paid by residents from outside of Oswego.

Miscellaneous
\$ 1.8 million
All other revenues received from various sources

Charges for Services
\$ 9.9 million
Revenue received from water/sewer billings, garbage collection fees, building inspection and code enforcement fees, plan review fees, licenses and permit fees, fines and violation fees, cable franchise fees and other miscellaneous fees charged to cover operational costs.

Grants and Donations
\$ 1.1 million
These revenues are received from Federal and State grant programs, contributions from developers, pension fund contributions and employee contributions for health insurance.

Oswego

...ish more for our residents. Here are and quality of life in Oswego.

Oswego. The Oswego Brewing Company was the first business to use the award and opened in May in the old firehouse.

An agreement was struck to develop The Reserve at Hudson Crossing, a new six-story mixed-use development of luxury apartments, retail and free covered parking on the site of the former Alexander Lumberyard.

Two developers have agreed to build on Block 11, the former Village Hall block. In addition to a new Mexican restaurant, residents can look forward to a mixed-use development that includes office, retail and restaurant space.

The Public Works Department has initiated engineering on these two transformative downtown projects. The Reserve will get reconstructed utilities, plus streetscaped roads and sidewalks. Plans for Block 11 include a new pedestrian-friendly alleyway, plus new water main, storm and sanitary sewers, and more public

friendly services, economic development, building inspections, and so any other services that affect your life every day, all year long.

Commitment to Financial Transparency We hope you'll read on and learn more about how the Village of Oswego manages our finances. If you're interested in learning more, you can find the full Popular Annual Financial Report as well as the Village's complete annual budget right on the homepage of our website, www.oswegoill.org. (Look under *Quick Links*.)



The complete Popular Annual Financial Report is available at www.oswegoill.org under 'Quick Links.'

Community Engagement

Staff reorganized the annual special events program to provide opportunities for residents to gather and celebrate without relying as heavily on tax dollars.

The Village launched an expanded GoOswego.org, Oswego's online home for events and local tourism. The Village also joined the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to expand its reach and attract additional tourism dollars to town.

Amenities

A new Police Department headquarters was built on time and on budget, and will be paid for with sales tax revenue, approximately 60% of which is generated by non-residents. The new facility includes space for community organizations to provide outreach in areas like health and domestic violence. The Village negotiated with MetroNet to bring a competitive high-speed fiber Internet connectivity option to Oswego residents and businesses.



The new Oswego Police Department includes space for organizations like the Kendall Co. Health Department and Mutual Ground to provide critical support services for a healthier, safer community.

About this special section

Better Together: The 2018 Popular Annual Financial Report

Every year, the Village of Oswego produces the Popular Annual Financial Report, which includes detailed information about the Village's finances -- revenue, expenses, our accomplishments, long-term goals, and financial statements. The next few pages are highlights ripped straight from that report.

More for your tax dollar
In a recent community-wide survey, 88% of residents said they love living in Oswego, but just 31% of residents were satisfied with the value they get for their tax dollars. The average household in Oswego pays just \$115.63 a year to the Village of Oswego, which provides road maintenance, snow plowing, leaf collection, tree care, policing, special events, drinking water, disaster preparedness, environmentally

Accomplished this year in

'Better together' means moving beyond business as usual and looking for innovative ways to accomplish just a few things the Village has accomplished in the past year to improve efficiency, service delivery

Residential and Commercial Development

Oswego is a hot residential market again for new home builders, who have begun work on several neighborhoods like the Estates of Fox Chase and Hunt Club, which had been left half-finished in the housing crisis. Over the past year, the Community Development Department processed and approved 58 development projects, including new single and multi-family homes and new retail in vacant commercial spaces.

The uptick in new housing is partially attributed to a decision to reduce impact fees for multi-family developments, and building has restarted in townhome neighborhoods Seasons of Southbury and Ashcroft Walk.

Several new businesses opened their doors, including LongHorn Steakhouse, Kiss My Dish, Steve Buresh's Cheesecake and many more. See page 9 for a complete list, and be sure to welcome them to town by patronizing their establishments.

Finances

Finance staff have been implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning System. This large-scale software

The Village passed a balanced budget, keeping the property tax rate steady at its lowest rate since 2011, without any cuts to services.

The Village also passed a balanced budget, keeping the property tax rate steady at its lowest rate since 2011, without any cuts to services for residents.

program will help staff accurately track Village resources including staff time and money spent on specific programs and services. Having this information will help guide decision-making and improve efficiency throughout every department in the Village.
Staff also refinanced \$5.2 million in debt, saving residents more than \$300,000.

Downtown Development

The Village partnered with other local government bodies to share services, staff and equipment, saving taxpayer dollars. That includes a new Facilities Manager and a Purchasing Manager, shared with Yorkville, to provide professional services at half the cost. By comparison shopping and negotiating, the Purchasing Manager position has saved residents \$157,000 in the first eight months.
The Village revamped its economic development award program to help small businesses locate in



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A complete version of the Popular Annual
Financial Report is available at www.oswegoil.org

**EXCERPTS FROM THE
POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2018**

2018

*Better, together.
In Brief.*