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- Founder of the Oswego Crosstown Challenge
- Financing local business growth

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Village of Oswego News

Winter 2016
Volume 24, Issue 4

Serving the Village of Oswego Since 1833



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from the Village President

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 Karin McCarthy-Lange Village Trustee
 Pam Parr Village Trustee
 Luis Perez. Village Trustee
 Judy Sollinger. Village Trustee
 Joe West Village Trustee

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 Christina Burns .Asst. Village Administrator/HR Director
 Corinna Cole . . .Economic Development Director
 Jay Hoover Building and Zoning Manager
 Mark Horton Finance Director
 Jennifer Hughes Public Works Director
 Rod Zenner Community Development Director

Oswego News

This newsletter is published quarterly and mailed to over 14,000 Oswego postal customers. Comments, suggestions and questions are welcome at info@oswegoil.org.



100 Parkers Mill
 Oswego, IL 60543
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www.oswegoil.org

VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS

Administration 551-2360
 Building & Zoning 554-2310
 Community Development 554-3622
 Economic Development 551-2335
 Finance 554-0864
 Police (Non-Emergency) 551-7300
 Public Works 554-3242
 Village Clerk. 554-3259
 Utility / Water Billing. 554-2282
 Newsletter Advertising 554-4636

Greetings Friends & Neighbors!

Here we go! Full speed ahead into the holiday hustle and bustle: parties, celebrations, abundant food and drink, visits from friends and relatives, the music and movies we love, and glorious end of year celebrations!

We have much to celebrate in Oswego! We have grown our revenues by adding new retail and restaurant businesses—with more announcements to come! Planning and design for our new police facility is in full swing. We continue to aggressively market empty storefronts (we have very few).

In addition, we have welcomed our long-awaited Economic Development Director Corinna Cole (see related article on page 4). Corinna joins our dynamic management team bringing a new depth of expertise, perspective and experience to Oswego.

Simultaneously, we continue to improve our service to you—and it shows. In our recent community survey the overwhelming majority of residents think Oswego is a great place to live. I couldn't agree more. Your staff at the Village works tirelessly to improve services and actively seek ways to make our processes better, faster, and easier.

And so, as we revel in our successes we also look forward to the new year with you. As you celebrate with family and friends with gusto and responsibility, imagine the difference we could make if each one of us took time to think of all our neighbors and...

- Donate to a local charity.
- Volunteer a few hours of your time.
- Attend a local concert: our schools, Fox River Music Academy, Fox Valley Festival Chorus, and many more offer a variety of options.
- Take time to talk with an older adult—their insights will surprise you.
- Take time to talk with a child—likewise, they will surprise you.
- Shop locally and frequent our small businesses whenever possible. Your holiday meats, spices, center pieces, dinners, libations, coffee and desserts can all be found in our community. Specialty gifts and home accents abound in our neighborhood businesses. The Oswego Chamber of Commerce is a terrific resource. Please use them. (www.oswegochamber.org)
- Discover a new shop (or two) right here in Oswego.
- Show kindness to a stranger.

Imagine the difference we could make if each and every one of our 33,000 residents took this challenge!

May your winter be filled with great reads, joyful surprises, hours of snuggling, extended time spent with those you love, and reflecting on the amazing community that surrounds us.

Happy Holidays!

Gail Johnson

Village President



Are you looking for new opportunities to connect with people in your community? Submit the application below and join 50+ organizations from the Oswegoland area at a new event connecting community organizations with local residents at the #OswegoConnects: A Community Rally on Saturday, March 11, 2017 in the Oswego East High School Atrium. Learn about the many opportunities to volunteer and get connected with those with similar interests in the Oswegoland area! Community Organizations and Service Groups are welcome to get a booth and provide more details about their groups and help local residents cultivate their passions or learn about something new. For more information, contact the Village of Oswego at 630-554-4636 or info@oswegoil.org.


#OswegoConnects COMMUNITY RALLY

March 11, 2017 * Oswego East High School Atrium * 9am-2pm



Application Fee: \$20 by February 1, 2017 \$40 after February 1, 2017

What's your name?
What do you do?
Who should we call?
How should we reach you?
Where can we find you online?
Is your organization a Service or Special Interest Group? <input type="checkbox"/> Service/Volunteer Group <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest/Hobby Group
What are people going to do for your group?
Would your group be interested in providing a project for a Day of Service on April 29 th ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No *If yes, someone from the Planning Team will contact you.
Possible project idea:

For more information, please contact Michele Brown, Village of Oswego: info@oswegoil.org or 630-554-4636.



Decorating Safety

Indoor Lights and Electrical Decor

- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers.
- Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.
- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows, or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.
- Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Outdoor Decorations

- Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations used for outdoor decorating are marked for outdoor use.
- Match power needs (amperage) of electrical products with amperage rating of extension cords.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If circuits are not GFCI-protected, portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and require no special knowledge or equipment to install.
- Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage before using.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, the house, or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage, but take care not to attach the lights in a way that could damage the cord's insulation.
- Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Make sure spotlights used to illuminate decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather, and a safe distance from flammable items.
- Inspect ladders for loose or missing screws, hinges, bolts, and nuts before using.
- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when decorating outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
- Use the right ladder height, ensuring ladders extend at least three feet past the edge of the roof.
- Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

Holiday 2016

■ 2017 Consolidated Election

April 4, 2017

The following terms are expiring:

Village Trustee (3 positions for a 4-year term each)

1. Pam Parr
2. Luis Perez
3. Judy Sollinger

■ Early Voting

Consolidated Election

February 23, 2017 - April 3, 2017; times and locations to be determined.

For more information on early voting and other voting options please contact the Kendall County Clerk's Office at 630-553-4104, 111. W. Fox Street, Yorkville, IL.

■ Citizen's Guide to Village Meetings

The President and Board of Trustees are the governing Body of the Village of Oswego. Your comments and concerns are important to us. We invite everyone to participate in our Village meetings.

- Oswego Village Board of Trustees meet at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month, providing it is not a holiday.
- Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, providing it is not a holiday.

Agendas and supporting documents, for the meetings, are posted on the Village's website at www.oswegoil.org and are usually available on the Friday before the meeting.

Citizens may address the Village Board of Trustees during the Public Forum, or Public Hearing portion of the meeting. A Public Participation form shall be submitted, to the Village Clerk, prior to the beginning of the meeting. Forms will be available, outside the Board room, on meeting nights. All comments shall be brief, avoid personal attacks, and abusive language.

Kendall County Clerk's Office is in need of Election Judges.

Qualifications:

- To be eligible to serve as an election judge, you must be:
- A citizen of the United States;
 - A resident of Kendall County;
 - A registered voter;
 - Be able to speak, read and write in English; and
 - Be of good understanding and capable of performing duties.

For more information, please visit the Kendall County Clerk's webpage at: <http://www.co.kendall.il.us/voter-registration/16132-2/>

■ Voter Registration

Individuals registering to vote must have two (2) forms of identification with at least one showing their current residence (i.e. photo ID; utility bill). To register to vote you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 18 years of age by Election Day.
- Be a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.
- If you are a naturalized citizen please bring your papers with you or know the court, city, state and date of naturalization; the registration form requires this information.

The last day to register to vote in the Consolidated Election is March 7, 2017.

Voter Registration Locations:

Village Hall
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego
8:00am-5:00 pm. M-F

Library District- Oswego Campus
32 West Jefferson St.
630-554-3150

****Please contact them directly for availability of registrars at their locations**

Oswegoland Park District
630-554-1010

****Please contact them directly for availability of registrars at their locations**

Kendall County Clerk's Office
111 W. Fox Street, Room 103 Yorkville, IL
8:30am-4:30pm

Voter registration forms and a complete list of voter registration locations can be found on the Kendall County Clerk's website at <http://www.co.kendall.il.us/voter-registration/>

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Economic Development News

■ Vacant Retail Space

We have received a great deal of outreach from the Oswego community concerning the empty Dominick's site and the Village's efforts to fill the property. We want you to know that we are also concerned by the ongoing vacancy and are deploying our resources to get new, high quality tenants in the space. However, here are some important facts about the site:

- The lease is held by Jewel-Albertsons, the parent company of Jewel Osco.
- Jewel-Albertsons lease on the Dominick's property is through 2021.
- We have spoken with other municipalities and understand the standard lease agreement with the local landlord gives Jewel-Albertsons the unilateral right to renew the lease automatically, in five year increments, for over 15 years.
- Through our collaboration with other Chicago-area towns, we know that Jewel-Albertsons has allowed these stores to remain empty and, in some cases, has recently renewed their lease for another five years.
- From what we understand, if this practice continues, Oswego's former Dominick's building could remain vacant for 20 years.

Oswego's Village President Johnson recently attended a press-event, alongside eight other municipalities with similarly vacant, former Dominick's stores.

The fact of the matter is that the Village is not a party to the lease and cannot change the current situation without assistance from Jewel-Albertsons. We are distressed by the vacancy and continue to reach out to Jewel-Albertsons and work with our neighbors to place a new business in the site. We are very willing to work with any potential new tenants, the landlord, and Jewel-Albertsons to fill that space immediately.

■ Contact Us

Visit our website for vacancy reports on retail, office, and industrial properties and to sign up for monthly ED e-Newsletter:

www.oswegoil.org/ED
630-551-2334

■ New Economic Development Director for the Village

My name is Corinna Cole and I am thrilled to introduce myself as Oswego's new Economic Development Director. I join the Village after almost 10 years working in Economic Development in New York City.



The term "economic development" is a vague concept. What does real economic development involve? Many people assume that it involves attracting new businesses, supporting current businesses, and facilitating those efforts. All of that is true. But – in my opinion – the most underrated and important aspect of economic development is building a sense of community.

Think about it: Where do you want to live? Where do you want visit a park or take a walk? How far do you want to go to shop? All of those things happen, for the most part, in the community in which you reside. And you chose that community based off of things like good schools, neighbors, the beauty of your surroundings, and convenience to work and shopping. That's the place you want to invest in, shop in, build up. That is an enormous part of building a vibrant, local economy.

What attracted me to Oswego is that sense of community. I've spent the past few weeks getting to know many people within this community; I've visited with local business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, nonprofits leaders, municipal employees, and elected officials. The thing that everyone here values most about Oswego is that sense of community. Even when I attended a conference in Chicago, so many people came up to me and said "I live in Oswego. What a great community!"

So as I get to work over the coming months, I'll be looking to attract new business, do my best to fill vacant space, and strive to improve downtown. However, throughout all of that, I am committed to partner with all of you to strengthen that feeling of community and ownership, so that Oswego continues to shine as a great place to live and have fun.



The church tried to merge with the Oswego Prairie Church, a Methodist congregation then located on Wolf Crossing Road. That merger fell through after the Methodists voted to remain independent apart from the Federated Church. Finally, in January 1958, the congregation voted to become an Evangelical United Brethren Church. In celebration of its new affiliation, the congregation renamed itself the Church of the Good Shepherd.

The church building received some alterations over the years, including replacement vinyl siding, columns, and railings and a reconstructed front porch. The largest alteration is the significant addition built onto the west side of the church. The congregation saw a large population



boom in the first half of the 20th century and recognized that it needed more space to accommodate everyone. The addition was completed and dedicated in 1965.

In a 2009 report completed by the Granacki Historic Consultants of Chicago, the Church of the Good Shepherd was recognized for its historic significance to the architecture of this community. Its 120-year history as a building and as a meeting place for Oswego's various religious congregations is a fascinating example of this town's growth and evolution.

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Winter 2016 Property of the Season A Short History of the Church of the Good Shepherd

By Sarah Kime



Exterior of the Federated Church, 1914

Those donors were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knapp, William Shoger, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Burkhart, Mrs. Minnie Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Shoger, Mr. and Mrs. Mundsinger, John Roth, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Schoger, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Willie, Sophia Hansing, and Minnie Shoger.

Interestingly, a building in one form or another has always occupied that corner of Washington and Madison Streets from the beginning of Oswego's settlement. In fact, another church stood on the exact same spot, as was reported in the Kendall County Record on October 16th, 1895. The editors wrote:

"Another old landmark is gone, namely the stone church on the southeast corner of Madison and Washington Street. The building stood there for over 50 years and in the first place was a two-story dwelling house."

building stood there for over 50 years and in the first place was a two-story dwelling house."

Apparently, the stone church that was built prior to 1845 was erected for the first French Canadians to settle in Oswego. The Presbyterian congregation bought and used the old stone church until selling it to the German Methodists, who demolished it to make way for their new church building.

The German Methodist Evangelical congregation celebrated the completion of its church with a dedication ceremony that took place on Sunday, July 12th, 1896. This included sermons conducted in German to accommodate its large German-speaking population. The Evangelicals worshipped primarily at this church until the Congregational Church on the corner of Main and Benton Streets burned to the ground on February 29th, 1920. The Congregational members voted not to rebuild and decided to use the German Methodist Evangelical church as their meeting place instead.

This decision opened the church's doors to Congregationalists, Baptists, and Lutherans as well as the Evangelical Methodists. Church leaders began talk of officially joining together as a federated group under one roof. This led to the decision to rename the church the Federated Church where different religious groups could share the pulpit. This unique partnership lasted for nearly three decades.

However, a significant challenge arose for the churchgoers - securing long-term pastors for the congregation. Most of the pastors who came through the church's doors stayed for only a few years before moving on to other congregations or retiring altogether. Keeping a pastor for any length of time had become a problem, one that the church would need to solve if it hoped to continue to serve its growing membership.

The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission is proud to announce that The Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist has been chosen as the Winter 2016 Property of the Season. Its height, white siding, and Gothic Revival architectural style make it an eye-catching addition to the town's historic architecture. Although there have been some additions and improvements made to the building over the years, its original construction remains largely intact.

Located at the corner of Washington and Madison Streets in downtown Oswego, Illinois, the Church of the Good Shepherd was originally built as a place of worship for the German Methodist Evangelical congregation. Construction of the building began in the fall of 1895 and was officially completed in the summer of 1896. It was designed and built in the Gothic Revival style. Its tall bell tower houses a 958-pound bell that was cast by the Van Duzen Company in Cincinnati, Ohio and delivered to Oswego via locomotive. Its foundation is stone and concrete and its white siding was originally wood shingle.

Not surprisingly, the building's construction made for good headlines. The writers and editors of the Kendall County Record shared updates on the building's progress, including the anticipated installation of its notable stained glass windows. Many congregation members from several prominent Oswego families contributed funds to have these windows installed. Most donated to have them placed in memory of relatives and loved ones. The editors of the Kendall County Record made a note to print the names of each person who generously contributed over the course of two issues from March 25th to April 1st, 1896.

Emergency Preparedness for Winter

Ready or not, here it comes. Unless you have recently located to the area, there is a good chance you have experienced a good old fashioned northern Illinois winter. Anything can happen, including thunder and lightning, heavy rain, an ice or snow storm, extreme cold, above average temperatures, and that could be in a single day! If you haven't thought about how to handle these conditions before they happen, you may find yourself wishing you had.

So what should you be concerned about? If you plan on traveling outside the local area you may want to make sure you have emergency supplies in your vehicle. Some items to consider include a first aid kit, jumper cables, a shovel and ice scraper, blanket, flashlight, warm clothes and accessories, water and snacks, and a flashlight. If you are just traveling within the community, unless it's a major storm, local public services, including police, fire, and public works should be able to assist before you have to reach for that emergency snack, although you may wait depending on road conditions and volume of calls for service. Regarding vehicle maintenance, be sure the window washer fluid reservoir is full to help visibility, tires have a safe amount of tread and required air pressure, the battery charge is sufficient, you have plenty of fuel, and the brakes are good. For most people it's not fun dealing with sudden vehicle repairs when it's nice out, let alone when it's snowing and the wind chill is below 0. Before heading out on the open road be sure all windows are clear of snow and ice. Most of us have seen that car on the road with just a small area of visibility through the windshield. Don't be that guy.

Don't forget about your home when preparing for or dealing with extreme winter weather. There is plenty you could do regarding energy efficiency: upgrade insulation, caulking and winterizing doors and windows, covering windows in plastic, installing storm windows, etc. But what should you do to prepare for an emergency? How are you going to handle an extended power outage? We have been very fortunate in this community to have excellent utility services. Having no power for a short period of time is an inconvenience; not having it for a long period of time can be life threatening, especially in cold conditions. A generator for the home is a luxury few of us have. Portable generators sell quickly at supply stores during an emergency so plan ahead. Have a supply of salt available for those slick surfaces and get those snow blowers dusted off and burn off that gas that's been sitting in those tanks since last spring.

Pets are very sensitive to extreme cold. You wouldn't want to be left out in the cold, would you? Pay attention to severe weather warnings and check on senior citizens to make sure their needs are taken care of. Visit the Oswego Police website, www.oswegopoliceil.org for locations of warming centers in the area.

Do your part to prepare for extreme winter weather. Your local public safety employees will do their best to ensure your safety and the safety of those traveling in the community.

Jim Cargo
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OSWEGO SENIOR CENTER

Call or email for information on how to purchase tickets

New Year's Eve Luncheon
Friday, December 30

Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, January 24

Valentine Dinner & Dance
Oswego Kickers Club
Saturday, February 11

Spring Craft Fair
Saturday, March 18

Oswego Senior Center
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Oswego, IL 60543
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Email: info@oswegoseniorcenter.org

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Secure your mailbox:

With winter just around the corner and snow plowing season not far behind, now is the time to secure your mailbox. **The Village of Oswego is not responsible for mailbox repairs** unless damage is physically done by a village vehicle. Nearly all mailbox damage is from snow off the plow hitting an unsecured box, not the vehicle.

No Trash Pickup on December 26th and January 2nd

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 2nd for New Year's Day observance. For both weeks garbage will be delayed one day for everyone.

The next holiday that Groot Industries will be taking off is Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day. Details will be in the next newsletter.

FREE Christmas Tree Removal

Groot Industries will collect Christmas trees after the holidays through the second full week of January (through January 13th). Residents are asked to place their bare tree (no lights, ornaments, tinsel or any decorations) by the curb on their normal scheduled garbage day **WITHOUT** a yard waste sticker and **NOT IN A BAG**. After the second full week in January residents will be required to wait until April when the yard waste program starts up again and a sticker will be needed at that time.



■ Parkway Trees

Urban Canopy

Trees in the parkway are owned by the Village of Oswego. The parkway is generally defined as the area between the curb and sidewalk. There are more than 16,500 trees in the parkway so the Village asks residents to help maintain the trees by watering during extended dry spells and doing light pruning to keep sidewalks clear.

Trees are important for many different reasons. Trees provide us with shade that helps cool us in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. They also beautify our neighborhoods and improve our property value. Trees also help to combat climate change by cleaning the air and removing carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen.

Tree Inspections

Trees are regularly inspected by a village arborist. The arborist is looking for cracks in the trunk, broken or hanging branches, obstruction of streets and sidewalks, and clear site of street signs. The arborist is also inspecting for signs of disease or insect infestation. At the same time we are checking for dead or dying trees that need to be removed. Contact the Public Works office at 630-554-3242 with any concerns you may have regarding your parkway tree.

Tree Trimming

The village is currently on a 5-year pruning cycle which means once staff completes an area, those trees will be pruned again in approximately 5 years. Certified/trained staff will go through a designated subdivision and prune all parkway trees to a height that will allow traffic flow, which will include snow plow trucks and garbage trucks, bikes and pedestrians, signage clearance, and any other issues there may be. Although we are on the pruning cycle, residents may still call the Public Works office for individual tree maintenance issues, and we will send a staff member out to check the tree for any needed maintenance. Staff is trained according to the National Pruning Standards.

Tree Removal

Village crews or contractors remove dead trees within the right-of-way. The Ash tree is our largest project that has affected over 3,000 trees throughout the village. Before removing any parkway Ash tree, the tree is thoroughly examined by a trained Village Arborist. If there is any sign of the tree having the EAB (Emerald Ash Borer), the tree is marked for removal. Once the tree is marked, it will be removed. Later the stump will be ground out of the area dirt and seeded. With the large amount of Ash trees with which we are dealing, this process can be quite lengthy. We plan to remove all infested parkway Ash trees by the end of 2016. The stumps will be ground out and the tree replaced at no cost to the homeowner, provided there is room for a replacement.

Tree Replacement

Due to the large number of Ash trees removed in the past few years, there is currently a backlog to replace trees. The Village generally replaces trees in the order they were removed. The backlog is approximately three years as of June 2016. The Village chooses the tree species suitable for installation within the right-of-way and with an eye towards species diversity.

If your tree was removed due to the Emerald Ash Bore or for any other reason, homeowners may choose to participate in the 50/50 tree replacement program. This program allows homeowners to select the species of the tree from a list provided by the village and be advanced to the top of the replacement list. If you choose to participate in the 50/50 replacement program you will be responsible for ½ of the cost of the tree that the village gets wholesale. You are not charged for the removal, the stump grinding, or the planting. Contact the Public Works office at 630-554-3242, to sign up for this program.

The Village plants trees in the spring and fall. No trees are planted between June 15 and September 15 due to summer heat.

Are you prepared for winter driving?

Here are a few helpful tips from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get you ready: **Check, or have a mechanic check your car** to make sure all components are operational, your fluid levels are adequate and your winter tires are ready to go.

• Update the emergency kits in your vehicles with the following items:

- o a shovel
- o windshield scraper and small broom
- o flashlight
- o battery powered radio
- o extra batteries
- o water
- o snack food
- o matches
- o extra hats, socks and mittens
- o first aid kit with pocket knife
- o necessary medications
- o blanket(s)
- o tow chain or rope
- o road salt and sand
- o booster cables
- o emergency flares
- o fluorescent distress flag

On street parking Ordinance No. 02-72: it shall be unlawful to leave unattended, or park any motor vehicle upon any Village Street when there has accumulated upon any streets two inches (2") or more of snow. This prohibition shall remain in effect until such time as the street has been plowed, the snow has been removed there from, or the snowfall has stopped. Your vehicle is in danger of being struck by other vehicles. It also hampers snow removal. Unfortunately, our plows cannot stop to remove snow around your car. It is the owner's responsibility to move their car before the plow gets there. Once the snow stops and the streets have been plowed, you may again park in the street.

Although plow drivers take care to selectively place snow, we unfortunately need to place more snow at intersections. We appreciate your help in clearing snow from curb ramps and around fire hydrants. Do not blow or plow snow into the streets when clearing your driveways and sidewalks. This creates issues for drivers and neighbors and is against the law.

Visibility from within snowplows is limited. We ask you to talk to your children about keeping a safe distance from the snowplow. Keep snow forts away from the street and islands. You should keep your garbage cans and recycling totes out of the street so the plows do not hit them.

The harsh winter temperatures in 2014 caused some water service lines to freeze. You can minimize the potential for frozen lines by running a small stream of water through your faucet on extremely cold days. For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/winter-storm/preventing-thawing-frozen-pipes>.

The Public Works Department is prepared to take on the challenges of winter as well. The department continues the anti-icing program that will supplement our fleet of snowplows. The anti-icing program consists of two applications of liquids. We apply a mixture of salt brine (water and sodium chloride), an agricultural-based liquid product (typically beat juice), and liquid calcium chloride prior to the start of the event. We custom make the mixture based upon projected pavement temperatures, air temperatures and wind speed. The mixture leaves telltale stripes on the pavement. We can place this mixture on the pavement up to 48 hours prior to the start of the snow to mitigate ice accumulation.

We make a second application of liquid to the rock salt just prior to distributing the salt onto the road. The liquid helps activate the salt, allow it to work to colder temperatures, and reduces bounce when the salt hits the pavement.

The anti-icing system has several benefits. The most important benefit is that it helps during the removal of snow and ice from the pavement faster and at lower temperatures. A second benefit is that it helps reduce the average amount of salt applied during each storm by 15-20%. This reduction saves the Village money and helps the environment.

When conducting snow plowing, collector roads such as Douglas Road and Boulder Hill Pass are the first priority as these roads provide access for large areas. Next neighborhood streets are addressed followed by cul-de-sacs and alleys. The Village contracts with a private service to plow cul-de-sacs.

If you discover that your mailbox is damaged, please report it within three (3) business days of the snow event to the Public Works Department at 630-554-3242 or by reporting it through Oswego Click-'n-Fix. A Public Works representative will assess the damage to determine if plow blade or vehicle caused the damage. If this is the determination, the Village will reimburse the homeowner in an amount not to exceed \$75.00 for repairs or a new mailbox. If the Village determines that thrown snow or other indeterminate issue caused the damage, the Village will not provide reimbursement.

You must submit receipts for reimbursement within ten days or by April 30, 2017 to the Public Works Department. We cannot issue payments after that date. All repairs and replacement of all mailboxes will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Please keep in mind that you are not allowed to deposit snow on streets per Ordinance No.04-02. It shall be unlawful to deposit snow onto the streets while removing snow from resident driveways and sidewalks.

Refuse reminder: Please do not place your garbage cans/bags and recycling totes in the street. If they are in the street, village plows cannot plow close to the curb during the clean up process.

The Public Works Department thanks everyone for their help and cooperation during the winter season.