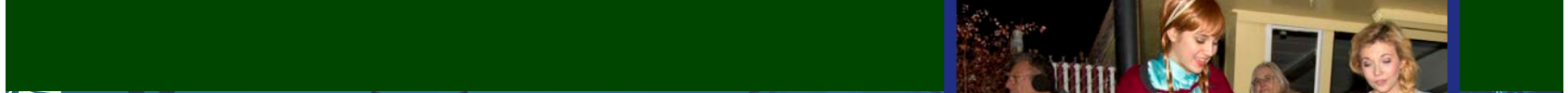


Village of Oswego News

Winter 2017
Volume 25, Issue 4

Serving the Village of Oswego Since 1833



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

* FROM YOUR *



from the Village President

Season's greetings, friends and neighbors!

Several years ago, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, I hosted a Friendsgiving dinner. I asked each person to bring their favorite Thanksgiving food that they didn't get at this year's Thanksgiving. You see, as our family has grown—and that's a beautiful thing—others have brought their traditions to blend with ours. Well, we all know what that means: CHANGE!



And so, I began to think about the significance of both tradition and change. Traditions are the way we keep our culture. They make us feel safe and comfortable. Change on the other hand, is the way we grow. As a community we constantly struggle with the balance of tradition and change. This is a good thing. After all, if nothing changed most of us would not live here.

Forty years ago, Mark and I drove west from our Elmwood Park apartment in search of our first home. We found this little village called Oswego. It's population: barely 3,000. Our family was only two: now we boast eight. The only grocery store was Eagle Foods: now we have several to choose from. Once we only had mashed sweet potatoes topped with melted marshmallows: now we have children who shudder at the thought of marshmallows on top of anything but chocolate and graham crackers.

Time changes everything. When our children married, their partners brought their family traditions to meld with ours. As our grandchildren were born, we wanted to start our own traditions with them. I'll never forget our first Christmas morning without a child in the house. Mark and I needed to start new traditions. What is a new tradition? A change. And Oswego has seen many.

In 1980, traffic signals finally replaced stop signs at the intersection of Route 34 and Route 71. In 1990, the Village annexed land on the west side of the river for the first time. In 1991, we hired our first Village Administrator. In 2016, Sages Meat Market opened its doors. This year, Longhorn Steakhouse joined the restaurants popular along Route 34 and Sakamoto doubled its size to accommodate their growing customer base. Route 71 is now four lanes and our downtown is in the midst of transformation.

What is change? It's simply a different way of doing things. Not inherently good or bad—just different. Traditions, the keeping of the culture—that is a thing of the heart.

This year as you look at the offerings for Christmas Walk: Home for the Holidays, our hope is that you will appreciate the traditions that will continue and enjoy the new offerings for years to come. Take a look at page 5 to see what's returning and what's new on December 1 and 2.

As we enter this special season of celebrations with family and friends, keep your old traditions close to your heart and be sure to leave room for some new ones.

With all the warmth of the season,

Gail Johnson

Village President

"The only way that we can live, is if we grow. The only way that we can grow is if we change. The only way that we can change is if we learn. The only way we can learn is if we are exposed. And the only way that we can become exposed is if we throw ourselves out into the open. Do it. Throw yourself."

— C. JoyBell C.

OSWEGO VILLAGE BOARD

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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.



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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

■ Election Day is Tuesday, March 20, 2018!

The 2018 General Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. throughout Oswego. You must vote in your assigned precinct. Information on your polling place can be found on the Kendall County Clerk's website: www.co.kendall.il.us/county-clerk/

Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018.

A grace period for voter registration and address change is available at the Kendall County Clerk's Office, 111 W. Fox Street, Yorkville, Illinois, beginning February 21, 2018. During this time, a person who wishes to vote in this election must register to vote or change their address and then cast their ballot at the same time.

Individuals may change their voting address at the Kendall County Clerk's Voter Registration Office, 111 W. Fox St. Room 103, Yorkville, Illinois, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Proper ID is required.

Residents can go online to www.elections.il.gov to verify that their registration is correct.

To be eligible to register to vote, a person must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old by Election Day
- Reside in their Kendall County precinct for 30 days prior to the next election
- Bring two acceptable forms of ID when registering to vote:
 - Driver's license
 - State ID card
 - Employee or student ID card
 - Social Security card
 - Lease or contract for a residence
 - Credit card
 - Selective Service card
 - Civic, union, or professional association membership card
 - Utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Government check

Early Voting

Early Voting is available at the Kendall County Clerk's Voter Registration Office, 111 W. Fox Street, Room 103, Yorkville, Illinois at the following days and times:

- Monday through Friday, February 8 through March 2, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 5 to Friday, March 9, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 16, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday, March 19, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hours of operation may be subject to change. For

the most up-to-date information, contact the Kendall County Clerk's Office at 630-553-4104.

Early voting will be available at Oswego Village Hall, 100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, in the weeks prior to the election; however, official dates and times have not been determined as of the date of this publication. For more information, visit www.oswegoil.org.

For more information on early voting and other voting options please contact the Kendall County Clerk's Office at 630-553-4104.

Voting by Mail (formerly called Absentee Voting)

Illinois registered voters may cast a ballot by mail without specifying a reason for being absent from the polling place on Election Day. The first day for the Election Authority to mail a ballot, if available, is February 8, 2018. To request a vote-by-mail ballot, call 630-553-4104 or 630-553-4105. Alternatively, an application form is available at www.co.kendall.il.us. Using the online form requires the individual to print the form and mail it to the Kendall County Clerk's Office.

Mailed ballot requests from registered voters within the U.S. must be received no later than March 15, 2018. However, it is not advisable to wait that long.

Automatic Voter Registration

Voters in Illinois will now be automatically registered to vote when applying for a driver's license or state ID, unless they opt out. This new state law, Senate Bill 1933, removes a barrier to voter participation by modernizing the voter registration process to make it simpler and more convenient for Illinoisans to vote. Effective August 28, 2017, automatic voter registration will be run through the Secretary of State's office. Implementation is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2018 elections.

The bill improves accessibility to the ballot for rural voters, active military personnel and senior citizens. It includes language compliant with the Federal Real ID Law, which screens out non-citizens and ensures that only legal Illinois residents will be registered.

Military and Overseas Voters

Citizens have the ability to vote regardless of whether they are abroad at the time of the election. Information regarding the Illinois Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act is available on the State Board of Elections website at move.elections.il.gov.

For more information on early voting and other voting options please contact the Kendall County Clerk's Office at 630-553-4104.

Check your polling place and registration prior to Election Day

Kendall County Clerk's Office: 630-553-4104
Clerk's Voter Registration Office: 630-553-4105
Election & Voter information page:
www.co.kendall.il.us

The following seats will be up for election on the March 20 Primary ballot:

- Illinois Governor/Lt. Governor
- Illinois Attorney General
- Illinois Secretary of State
- Illinois Comptroller
- Illinois Treasurer
- U.S. Congress – Districts 11 and 14
- Ill. State Senate – Districts 38 and 42
- Ill. State Representatives – Districts 50, 75, 84, 97
- Judges
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- County Sheriff
- Regional School Superintendents
- County Board - Districts 1 and 2

Resident's Guide to Village Meetings

The President and Board of Trustees are the governing Body of the Village of Oswego, and everyone is invited to participate in Village of Oswego meetings.

- The Oswego Village Board meets at 7 p.m. 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 p.m., providing it is not a holiday.

Meeting agendas and supporting documents are posted on the Village's website at www.oswegoil.org and are usually available on the Friday before the meeting.

Residents and other members of the public may address the Village Board of Trustees during the public forum held at the start of each Village Board meeting and during public hearings, which are held for specific agenda items.

To speak at a meeting, fill out a public participation form, available outside the board room on meeting nights, and hand it to the Village Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers are asked to keep their comments brief and to avoid personal attacks and abusive language.

All meetings are held in the board room of Oswego Village Hall, 100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, Illinois.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Dec. 11 - Special Meeting

Jan. 16

Feb. 6

Feb. 20

No meetings Dec. 5, Dec. 19, or Jan. 20, in observance of holiday schedules.

Christmas Walk

■ 2017 Christmas Walk invites residents home for the holidays Friday, Dec. 1

Come home for the holidays this December in downtown Oswego!

The 2017 Oswego Christmas Walk, presented by Jewel-Osco, returns to downtown Oswego on Friday, Dec. 1. This beloved community event offers tons of free family fun and showcases the fabulous, festive offerings of unique downtown Oswego shops for residents looking to shop local as they cross items off their holiday gift-giving lists.

The event runs from 5 to 9 p.m., and kicks off this year with a return to tradition: the annual tree-lighting ceremony, once again on the same evening as the Christmas Walk. The Village's tree will be lit with a theatrical Seussian ceremony starting at 5:30 p.m. in front of Village Hall, officiated by Village President Gail Johnson and The Grinch.

All along Main Street, from 5 to 9 p.m., join in on free activities for the young and young-at-heart, including crafts and games to the faux ice skating rink, ice sculpture demonstrations, holiday-themed improv comedy, and strolling carolers. Get your photo taken on Santa's lap at The Garden Faire beginning at 5:30 p.m., take a ride on the Toyland Train, meet a real reindeer, drop off your letters to the North Pole, and take a slide down the giant inflatable sled hill.

When little fingers and noses get chill, warm up inside Village Hall, with Christmas stories told by the real fireplace, a hot chocolate fundraiser for the Oswego Senior Center, and live music around the piano from Fox River Academy of Music and Art. Then go for a Belgian draft horse-pulled wagon ride along Parkers Mill.

At 7:30 p.m., make way along the crowded and festive Main Street for the Silent Illuminated Fire Truck Parade, featuring Anna and Elsa and other holiday celebrities.

As always, Oswego's holiday festivities continue into the next morning, with the annual Breakfast with Santa, brought to you by the Oswego Rotary Club, the Oswego Family YMCA, and Allied First Bank on Saturday, Dec. 2. Get another opportunity to meet Santa over pancakes and other tasty breakfast offerings.

The Cookie Walk tradition, hosted by downtown Oswego businesses, also returns Saturday morning for a uniquely Oswego experience – remember to buy your tins ahead of the event for just \$10 at participating shops all along Main Street.

For more information on the Christmas Walk, which runs from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, visit www.GoOswego.org.



Public Works

Yard waste collection ends Dec. 1

Curbside yard waste collection will continue weekly until Friday, Dec. 1.

Yard waste includes grass and shrubbery clippings, leaves, small tree limbs and branches, weeds, logs, and garden plants.

Yard waste will be collected only if it is placed in a 30-gallon kraft paper bag with one Groot Industries yard waste sticker affixed to the front of the bag. The bags and stickers are available at local retail grocery and hardware stores.

Yard waste will be collected on the same day that your regular trash is collected. Yard waste, trash and recycling must be at your curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day.

No trash pickup Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Thursday, Nov. 23, in observance of Thanksgiving. Garbage day will be as usual for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Garbage for Thursday and Friday will be delayed one day: Thursday's pick up will be on Friday and Friday's pick up will be on Saturday.

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Monday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. On both weeks, garbage will be delayed one day for everyone.

The next holiday that Groot Industries will be taking off is Monday, May 28, 2018, for Memorial Day. Details will be in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-554-3242.

Free Christmas tree removal through Jan. 12

Groot Industries will collect Christmas trees after the holidays through the second week of January, which ends Friday, Jan. 12.

Place your bare tree, free of lights, ornaments, tinsel, or other decorations, by the curb on your normally scheduled garbage day. Do not bag your tree or place a yard waste sticker on it.

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 required at that time, or your tree will not be collected.



■ It's snowing! Now what?

Don't park on snow-covered streets

Parking is prohibited on Village streets when two inches (2") or more snow has accumulated. Keeping cars off the streets helps Village crews clear the roads faster and prevents your car from being plowed in. Street parking is allowed again once the snow stops and the streets have been plowed curb to curb.

Shovel sidewalks and dig out hydrants

Although plow drivers take care to selectively place snow, sometimes snow must be placed at intersections. Help keep yourself and your neighbors safe by shoveling curb ramps and digging out fire hydrants. Shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow into public streets causes driving hazards and is prohibited by Village ordinance. Keep garbage cans and recycling totes out of the street so the plows do not hit them.

Prepare your mailbox

Village of Oswego snow plow drivers are careful to avoid damaging mailboxes; however, with limited space to pile snow and with hundreds of miles of roadway to plow during each snowstorm, drivers cannot avoid pushing snow against mailboxes.

Secure your mailbox now before winter weather strikes and the ground is frozen:

- Check that your mailbox post is straight and that the box is not leaning over the curb.
- Replace damaged or rotting posts.
- Check the connection point between the box and the post to ensure that the box is securely fastened.

If your mailbox is damaged during a snow storm, report it within three business days of the snow event by calling Public Works at 630-554-3242, clicking on Report an Issue on www.oswegoil.org, or submitting a request through the Oswego Click 'n Fix app available for most major smartphones. A Public Works representative will determine if the damage is caused by a plow blade or vehicle. If so, the Village will reimburse the homeowner up to \$75 for mailbox repair or replacement. If the damage is caused by snow coming off of the plow blade, or some other undetermined cause, the Village cannot provide reimbursement. All receipts must be submitted by April 30, 2017, to be reimbursed. No reimbursements can be made after that date, and all costs will be the responsibility of the homeowner.



■ How do the roads get cleared?

The Public Works Department works hard to keep you safe during the winter driving season.

In addition to plowing, Public Works crews use an anti-icing program that includes two different applications of a liquid mixture of salt brine, calcium chloride, and an agricultural product (typically beet juice). Crews custom-blend the mixture for each snowstorm based on projected pavement and air temperatures and wind speeds to efficiently slow roadway icing.

This mixture is applied to roads up to 48 hours before it snows, and can be seen in longitudinal stripes along the pavement. It is applied again directly to the rock salt just prior to distributing the salt onto the roadway. When applied to the rock salt, the liquid mixture helps the rock salt activate and work in colder temperatures, plus reduces how much the salt bounces when it hits the pavement.

The anti-icing system has several benefits. Most importantly, it helps crews remove snow and ice from the pavement faster and at lower temperatures. Second, it reduces the average amount of salt applied during each storm by 15 to 20 percent – that saves money and is good for the environment.

When plowing, crews prioritize collector roads such as Douglas Road and Boulder Hill Pass as these roads provide access for large areas.



Crews then address neighborhood streets. The Village contracts with a private service to plow cul-de-sacs, which are labor intensive.

The State of Illinois plows US Routes 30 and 34, and Illinois Routes 71 and 25. Kendall County plows Orchard Road.

Visibility from within snowplows is limited. Keep a safe distance, and remind children to also keep away from plows, including building snow forts away from streets.

■ Frozen water pipes can be avoided

Frozen water pipes affect a quarter-million families each winter, and when they break, the damage can cause thousands of dollars to your home and its contents. This damage can be prevented with a few simple steps:

Before winter

Disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

When temperatures plummet

A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night during extreme cold snaps.

Before you leave town

Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55 degrees, ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing, and shut off and drain the water system if you are gone for long periods.

If your pipes do freeze

If you turn on the faucet and water does not come out, your pipes may have frozen. Contact a licensed plumber for assistance. Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame because it could cause a fire hazard. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house!

If your water pipes have already burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house.



Small Business Saturday

■ Shop small in downtown Oswego on Saturday, Nov. 25

Are you in search of a unique gift that can't be found anywhere else? Do you pride yourself on your community spirit and want to support Oswego's small businesses?

Then shop small!

Downtown Oswego businesses will be throwing open their doors with extended hours and in-store specials on Small Business Saturday, held Saturday, Nov. 25.

When you shop in local businesses, more of your money stays right here in the community, and 1.75 cents of each dollar spent in a retail store in Oswego helps directly fund Village operations large and small, from fun events like the Christmas Walk to important public services like roadway maintenance and public safety.

More importantly, when you shop local your dollars do more work for you and your neighbors in keeping Oswego's economy strong: you help create local jobs, build Oswego's unique downtown experience, cut down on pollution and waste, and generate up to 70 percent more local economic activity than shopping at a chain or big box store.

Follow @DowntownOswego on Facebook for updates and specials, and use #shopsmalloswego to share your Oswego holiday finds.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

GIVE A GIFT WITH HEART

EXTENDED HOURS | HOLIDAY SPECIALS



 DowntownOswego
#ShopSmallOswego



Photo: Locked In Photography

Public Safety

■ Sign up for life-saving alerts!



In an emergency, the Oswego Police Department through KenCom sends out important and even potentially life-saving information using a program called EverBridge. The program, used by municipalities around the country, can send alerts via whatever methods of communication that you choose, including recorded phone calls, text messages, emails, or the Everbridge app. In the

event of an emergency such as a tornado, severe winter storm, or manmade catastrophe, residents who have registered will get phone calls, texts, or emails alerting them to possible danger and giving important instructions.

If you do not have a traditional landline phone in your home, you must register your cell phone, VOIP, or other non-traditional phone service to receive these potentially life-saving alerts. If you rely only on a cell phone and have not registered

your phone number with Everbridge, you will not be alerted in the event of an emergency.

To register your phone number and sign up for alerts, visit <https://www.co.kendall.il.us/kencom/alert-kendall/>.

While there, you may also opt in to receive other potentially useful alerts, such as local traffic updates or community notices.

■ Shop safe this holiday season

Jingle bells are ringing, cash registers are ch-chinging, and everywhere you look holiday cheer is swinging.

In an effort to make sure your holidays are filled only with visions of sugarplums and reindeer, the Oswego Police Department has compiled a list of safety tips to keep both you and your valuables safe and secure.

Lock your vehicle: A locked vehicle is the number one deterrent to a thief. Anything trickier will send most on their way.

Hide your valuables: Place purchases in your trunk or cover piles of shopping bags with a blanket.

Keep an eye on your purse/wallet: Both in the store and in the parking lot, be aware of where your purse or bag is. Avoid setting down bags in stores, and while outside, be to retrieve your purse and purchases from the shopping cart,

including beneath the cart, before you return it to the corral.

Don't leave items unattended: Even if you're just popping away down an aisle for a quick moment that's all the time someone needs to take your items.

Leave the extra cash and cards at home: The more you have on you the more you have to lose, and losing a credit card could lead to possible identity theft or credit card fraud.

Parking lot safety: Remember where you parked your vehicle so you don't spend additional time wandering the lot. When possible if shopping in the evening hours, park in well-lit areas near the doors so you do not have to travel far.

Be aware of your surroundings: Remain alert to suspicious activity and report it to either the store or the police.

Do not park in the fire lanes: The striped fire lanes in front of many stores are there for emergency vehicles and even just stopping in one is a violation that could result in a ticket. If you do purchase a larger item ask a store employee for assistance in where to safely load it into your vehicle.

No matter how well prepared you are, things can still happen. Should you find yourself the victim of some greedy Grinches, make a report with the Oswego Police Department, either in person at the Oswego Police Department front lobby, or by calling to have an officer dispatched to the location of the crime.

Call the Oswego Police Department at 630-551-7300 at any time to report a crime or suspicious activity, and as always, dial 911 in an emergency.

Happy Holidays from everyone at the Oswego Police Department!

■ Steps to aging well

Brought to you by the Oswego Senior Center

With modern medicine and access to good food, we have reduced many barriers to longevity and we are living longer than ever. Today's average life expectancy is at least 86 years old for women and 84 years old for men. But the fastest growing population in the United States is the age 85+ population, as many people are now living well into their 90's and 100's.

If we know that we have that longevity to look forward to, how can we help ensure ourselves many good years, instead of just many years?

First, the most important step to good health is reliance. Learn to be adaptive and resilient at every age. As challenges arise, resilient people adapt and move forward, and this personal characteristic leads to better mental, emotional and physical health.

Second, incorporate physical activity into your lifestyle. Today, many of our jobs are sedentary. Setting aside at least 20-45 minutes a day for activity that raises our heart rate and engages our muscles will do you good for a lifetime. You don't have to exercise all at once -- you can have segments of exercise throughout the day with good results. Do something you enjoy, so that you'll stick with it! It can be as easy as turning up the music at home for a dance party to get started.

Nutrition is the third key ingredient to aging well. While we are not always what we eat, what we eat dictates how we feel. If you are eating a diet high in saturated fat and sodium, you might feel less energetic and bloated than if you incorporate more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains into your diet. And don't forget dairy or products containing calcium for bone health.

Connection is another ingredient to aging well. Engage with friends or volunteer with a local social service agency to better your community and for the good of your soul.

Lastly, reduce stress. Traffic, work, family, finances and much more can create stress. While stress may sometimes feel unavoidable, there are healthy ways to cope with it, such as mindfulness practices like deep breathing. The next time you're stressed, try breathing in for four counts, out for six, in for six, out for eight, in for eight, out for ten, then repeat, and watch your stress abate.

The Oswego Senior Center offers many opportunities to get active, connect with others, and develop healthy habits to bring more life to your years. Learn more at www.oswegoseniorcenter.org or 630-554-5602.

Development and Finance

Join a commission and guide Oswego's future

The Village of Oswego offers many opportunities for residents to get involved with their local government and help guide decision-making for the community. Currently, the following commissions have vacancies:

Cultural Arts Commission: The Cultural Arts Commission organizes and promotes diverse cultural and artistic programs for the Oswego community and adds to the Village's public art collection. There is one open seat on this commission, which annually helps to produce events like Lunafest and the Oswego Literary Festival.

ECO Commission: Environmentally Conscious Oswego has opening for two members who live in the Village or within 1.5 miles of the border of the Village. These volunteer stewards for the environment help guide Village of Oswego policies on carbon footprints and local food, advocate for green spaces and the river, and organize events like the annual recycling extravaganza.

Historic Preservation Commission: The Historic Preservation Commission preserves and enhances Oswego's unique historical character by identifying significant sites, implementing a review process for preservation, and promoting the Village's historic character through projects like "Property of the Season" (see page 11). The Historic Preservation Commission has five openings.

Planning and Zoning Commission: The Planning and Zoning commission, which has one vacancy, advises the Village Board by reviewing and making recommendations on proposed residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Oswego. These recommendations are given to the Village Board before the Board approves or deny a variety of new construction.

To apply to serve on a commission in Oswego, contact Village Clerk Tina Touchette, at 630-554-3259 or ttouchette@oswegoil.org.

New construction returns to Estates of Fox Chase, Ashcroft neighborhoods

Say hello to your new neighbors.

Though residential growth never stopped entirely in fast-growing Oswego even during the worst of the nationwide recession and mortgage crisis, many in Oswego had become accustomed to looking across their new neighborhood streets at empty fields.

But for many residents, half-built neighborhoods will soon be just a memory. In the past year, the Village of Oswego has seen renewed interest from residential home builders in restarting these incomplete subdivisions. This year, construction on new housing units has begun in the Estates of Fox Chase along Mill Road, which held a grand opening of its new models in October, as well as at Ashcroft Place and the Towns of Ashcroft Walk, both along Woolley Road.

Along with continuing construction in Southbury and Hunt Club subdivisions, the new construction shows that homebuilders are confident that Oswego, with high-quality schools, libraries and park, plenty of shopping and dining choices, and a strong sense of community, is a great place that new residents want to call home.



The Estates of Fox Chase

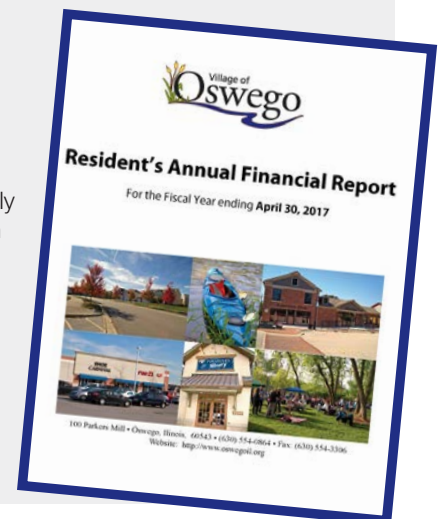
Learn about the Village of Oswego's finances

In October, the Village of Oswego released its Resident's Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2017.

The report, known as the PAFR, breaks down a variety of financial information about the Village in an easily digestible format. It includes information on how tax dollars are collected and spent as well as information of the financial health of the community.

Last year's edition of the PAFR was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association with the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for its reader appeal and presentation.

Find the 2017 Resident's Annual Financial Report online at www.oswegoil.org under Popular Links.



Property of the Season

Winter 2017 Property of the Season 26 West Tyler Street

Sarah Kimes
Little White School Museum

The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission has chosen the residence at 26 West Tyler Street as its Winter 2017 Property of the Season.

The house dates to around 1850 and showcases several defining features that make it both architecturally and historically significant. For example, it still showcases many of its original structural characteristics, including its limestone exterior façade, its wooden lintels, and its corner quoins.



26 W. Tyler Street, 2009

Some structural changes have been made to the house over the course of 160 years. At one point, the limestone was covered with a thin coat of mortar to protect it from deterioration in a process known as parging or parge coating. At another point in time, a wooden

staircase was built onto the south side of the house that led to the second story. Both of these additions were later removed, and the house has since been restored to what it looks like today.

The layout of the original building was based on the I-House architectural style that was popular in rural areas during the mid-19th century. Most I-Houses are two stories tall, feature side-facing gables, and must be at least one room deep and two wide. The I-House was considered for many families “a move up the housing hierarchy,” and a symbol of economic attainment in agriculture-based societies, according to *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*.

Although 26 W. Tyler Street has had many owners over the years, it is best known as George Barnard's blacksmith shop. Barnard purchased the private residence from Sarah E. Young in May 1893 and began remodeling it for his smithing work. It would serve as a business and workshop until it was renovated once again for private use.

Before George became a blacksmith, he worked as a farm laborer. He was born on October 13, 1848, in Rochester, New York where he lived until adulthood. He moved west to Matteson Township in southern Michigan, possibly to pursue farm work, and that was where he married Amanda Jane Hibbard on April 24, 1870. They had three children together between the years 1871 and 1879: Herbert, Clarence and Herman.



George Barnard standing outside of his workshop with Watts Cutter, Robie Herren and Max Cutter, September 4th, 1916 (courtesy of the Little White School Museum)



George and Amanda Barnard at the time of their marriage, 1870 (courtesy of the Little White School Museum)

It was around the time of their marriage that George decided to make a career change to pursue blacksmithing. Eight years later, he and Amanda decided to move their family west again, this time to Illinois. They came to Oswego in 1878 where George found plenty of work in the area. He traveled between Oswego and Aurora, leasing different shops from their owners to practice his trade. He did this for several years before finally purchasing the property at 26 West Tyler Street to set up a shop under his own name.

George continued to own and use the building until his sudden and surprising death on May 11, 1919. He was 71 years old. He is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Montgomery, Illinois. The Barnard family continued to own the property for nearly two decades after his death until finally selling it to Ralph M. Burkhart in June 1937.

<p>UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OSWEGO SENIOR CENTER</p>	<p>Call or email for information on how to purchase tickets</p>
<p>Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, November 18</p> <p>New Year's Lunch Friday, December 29</p> <p>Ice Cream Social Tuesday, January 23</p> <p>Valentine Dinner Dance Saturday, February 10</p> <p>Culinary Bites Cultural Fusion Tuesday, April 3</p>	 <p>Oswego Senior Center 156 E. Washington Street Oswego, IL 60543 (630) 554-5602 Email: info@oswegoseniorcenter.org</p> <p><small>Join us for lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; call a business day ahead to make your reservation, sug. don., \$5. Classes on health, financial, caregiver, computers, mobile devices, martial arts, cooking, art, language, history and more! Tai Chi, Gentle Yoga, Hearts & Bones, Woodshop, Ceramics, Knitting & Crocheting, Bunco, Bridge, Euchre, Mah Jong, Scrabble and more!</small></p>



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Holiday Closures

Oswego Village Hall will be closed on the following holidays:
Monday, Dec. 25, 2017, in observance of Christmas Eve
Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in observance of Christmas Day
Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in observance of New Year's Day
Monday, Jan. 15, 2018, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, Feb. 19, 2018, in observance of President's Day



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