

Winter 2018

Oswego News

The official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, Illinois

Shop Oswego this holiday season! p. 9

PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER!

Get helpful reminders from the Public Works Department. p. 8

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LENDER



Joy to Oswego this season!

Greetings Oswego friends and neighbors,

JOY! Many years ago, a woman shared a bit of her philosophy on life with me. She said that life is made up of many small moments of joy. Ever since, I have deliberately tried to discover and create small moments of joy. During this season from Thanksgiving through the New Year I wish for each of you many moments of joy.

Joy when you are grocery shopping and the perfect parking space appears right in front of the store; and joy when you pass it up, so the shopper behind you can pull into it.

Joy when you receive a thoughtful gift; and joy when you find the perfect gift for that special someone.

Joy when you witness children seeing Santa Claus arrive and joy when you still want to believe.

Joy when you bake your family's favorite holiday treats; and joy when you bring them to someone who needs them more than you.

You get the idea. Let's spread joy around and fill Oswego with moments of joy this season.

Comfort and joy,

Gail Johnson
Oswego Village President

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OSWEGO NEWS

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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- ADMINISTRATION 630-551-2360
- BUILDING & ZONING 630-554-2310
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 630-554-3622
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 630-551-2335
- FINANCE 630-554-0864
- POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY) 630-551-7300
- PUBLIC WORKS 630-554-3242
- VILLAGE CLERK 630-554-3259
- UTILITY/WATER BILLING 630-554-2282

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

156 E. Washington
Street, Oswego
(630) 554-5602

www.oswegoseniorcenter.org

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

BECAUSE OF SPONSORS THE CHEER DOESN'T END AFTER CHRISTMAS WALK

THIS YEAR'S Christmas Walk, held Nov. 30, was produced with fewer tax dollars thanks to the generous support of our event sponsors. The Village's new sponsorship program helps promote Oswego businesses of all sizes throughout the community, while providing engaging family-friendly events all year long for our residents.

When our sponsors give to support Oswego events, their dollars go further. That's because proceeds from certain events, like Wine on the Fox, go back to providing amenities for the community, like the new holiday lights you'll see enlivening Main Street this season. In return, our community relations team works closely with sponsors to ensure their sponsorships are effective in promoting their business.

The Village of Oswego offers sponsorships for several events throughout the year, including a women's film festival, a recycling extravaganza, Fourth of July fireworks, and many more.

Learn more about how you can get your business out into the community by contacting Community Engagement Coordinator Julie Hoffman at 630-551-2344 or jhoffman@oswegoil.org.



The Christmas Walk Toyland Train, sponsored by Two Men and a Truck, took happy passengers up and down Main Street all night!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 CHRISTMAS WALK SPONSORS!



Interested in showcasing your business to the community? Contact Community Engagement Coordinator Julie Hoffman at jhoffman@oswegoil.org for a 2019 Sponsorship Guide.

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK

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.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

We have a page for that. Log onto our website at www.oswegoil.org and click on "I Want To." Information can be found in the Learn About section. The next Consolidated Election for Oswego Village Board seats is Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

U.S. EPA NAMES OSWEGO A GREEN POWER PARTNER

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

has recognized Oswego as a Green Power Partner community for our dedication to using 100 percent renewable energy for our Electrical Aggregation program.



Currently, 74 percent of all energy used in Oswego is from renewable resources like wind and solar. That's more than 10 million kWh each year – equivalent to the amount of power needed to drive 29 million miles in an electric car.

To be named a Green Power Partner, communities must meet a minimum percentage of renewable power, between 3 and 20 percent, based on the amount of power a community uses annually.



Seventy-four percent of power used in Oswego supports renewable energy sources like wind. Residents can help by participating in the Village's Electrical Aggregation program, offered at the same cost as conventional energy supplies.

What can residents do to support green power?

Unless a resident has opted out, they are automatically signed up to participate in the Village's electrical aggregation program that contracts for renewable energy at the same price as conventional energy.

If you have opted out, you can opt back in by calling MC Squared at 877-MC2-POWR, or 877-622-7697, and giving a few pieces of information from your ComEd Bill. Opting into Oswego's electrical aggregation program takes about 15 minutes.

OSWEGROW

Grow your small business: Follow Oswegrow on Facebook

SMALL BUSINESS moves fast. Keep up on all of the latest new workshops, one-on-one mentorship opportunities and more that Oswegrow has to offer by following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oswegrow.

Oswegrow is a partnership between the Village of Oswego, the Oswego Public Library, Fox Valley SCORE and the Waubonssee Small Business Development Center to provide Oswego's entrepreneurs and small business owners with resources to help their businesses grow and succeed.

Oswegrow workshops are typically scheduled the third Thursday of every month, and cover a wide range of topics for small business owners and entrepreneurs from business contracts to taxes to marketing. Follow us to learn more!

Oswegrow
Small Business Development

 @Oswegrow

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.

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION - APRIL 2, 2019

February 21, 2019 First day of early voting at the office of the election authority (Kendall County)

March 5, 2019 Last day to register to vote

April 1, 2019 Last day of early voting at the office of the election authority (Kendall County)

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

PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

PREPARE YOUR MAILBOX

Village of Oswego snow plow drivers are careful to avoid damaging mailboxes, however, with limited space to pile snow and 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 3 business days of the snow event by calling Public Works at 630-554-3242, clicking on Report an Issue on www.oswego.org, or by submitting a request through the Oswego Click 'n Fix app available for most 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 replacement. If the damage is caused by snow coming off the plow blade, or some other undetermined cause, the Village cannot provide reimbursement. All receipts must be submitted by April 30th, 2019, to be reimbursed. No reimbursements can be made after that date, and all costs will be the responsibility of the homeowner. ■



Village plows clear hundreds of miles of roadway each snowfall.

ALL ABOUT SNOWPLOWING

SNOW PLOWING CREWS in the Public Works Department work hard to keep you safe during the winter driving season.

In addition to plowing, crews use an anti-icing program that includes two applications of a liquid mixture of salt brine, calcium chloride, and an agricultural product (typically beet juice). Crews 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 48 hours before it snows, and can be seen in 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 faster and at lower temperatures. Second, it reduces the average amount of salt applied during each storm – 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 keep away from plows, including building snow forts away from streets. ■



Secure your mailbox to prevent damage by snow plows.

Jake Nahorski

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SHOVEL SIDEWALKS, HYDRANTS AND DRIVEWAYS

Although plow drivers take care to selectively place snow, sometimes snow must be placed at intersections and heaped on parkways.

Help keep yourself and your neighbors safe by shoveling curb ramps and digging out fire hydrants so they can be accessed quickly in a fire.

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. ■



Ella, the Public Works pup, helps keep her neighbors safe by digging out hydrants. Good dog, Ella.

THRU JAN. 11 FREE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Groot will collect Christmas trees after the holidays through January 11th. Place your bare tree, free of lights, ornaments, tinsel or any decorations by the curb on your normal scheduled garbage day. Do not bag your tree or place a yard waste sticker on it. After the second 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. ■

CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEARS DAY

NO TRASH COLLECTION

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Tuesday December 25th in observance of Christmas Day and Tuesday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day during those weeks. ■

NEW WATER METERS COMING SOON

Your water meter may soon be getting an update. The Village has contracted with Water Services Co. to replace water meters in home throughout the Village. Your new meter will be more accurate, and will transmit information electronically, saving the manpower and fuel that would otherwise be required to go door-to-door reading meters.

There is no charge for the new meter or installation. A charge may apply only if your water shut-off valve needs repair. Homeowners are not required to have this repair made in order to swap their water meter, however, it is recommended that all homes have a

working shut-off valve. Contractors will need access to the inside of your home to replace your meter.

Replacing all meters across the Village will take about four years. Residents will get a letter in the months prior to their meter exchange with additional information and instructions on how to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit oswegoil.org and click on 'Meter Replacement.' ■

The new meters will be more accurate, eliminate the need for door-to-door meter reading, and will be able to detect leaks like running toilets.



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OSWEGO DEDICATES NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS

THE NEW Oswego Police Headquarters, 3355 Woolley Road, was dedicated on Friday, Oct. 26, with a ceremony that included a flag-raising, pipe and drum performance, ribbon-cutting and remarks from Village President Gail Johnson, U.S. Congressmen Bill Foster and Randy Hultgren, Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti, project architects Dean Roberts (McClaren, Wilson & Laurie) and Peter Ruggiero (HOK), builder Tom Leonard of Gilbane Building Co., and Police Chief Jeff Burgner.

The ceremony was broadcast live and can be viewed on the Facebook page of Oswego Police Department, www.facebook.com/OswegoPolice. ■



Village President Gail John and Police Chief Jeff Burgner cut the ribbon on the new headquarters on Friday, Oct. 26, 2018.



The Oswego Police Department Honor Guard raised the flag over the new headquarters. During his remarks, Rep. Hultgren presented a flag flown over the nation's capitol.



Three reasons to shop Oswego this holiday

- 1 **Unique gifts you'll find nowhere else.** Downtown Oswego retailers boast a large variety of handcrafted, reclaimed and vintage and new pieces, each of them hand-selected by shop owners, that are perfect for everyone on your list. Find: A vintage typewriter for your favorite wordsmith at Happenstance Goods (23 W. Washington), the perfect cozy sweater for your bestie at Bella-Gia (27 Main), and artisanal stocking-stuffer truffles from The Peach Ring (12 W. Washington)!
- 2 **A diverse tax base.** When you shop in the Village of Oswego, the sales tax generated from each purchase helps fund projects big and small throughout town. For example, our new police station was built using sales tax and not property taxes. A diverse tax base, split between property, sales and other taxes and fees, helps keep our community resilient to the outside economy.
- 3 **Locally spent dollars stay in the community.** In addition to creating local jobs, when you spend \$100 at a local shop, about \$68 continues to circulate in the local community compared to just \$14 spent at a national retailer, where profits can go out of state. ■

Hudson Design House (76 Main) in downtown Oswego is decked out for the holidays and offers clothing, home decor, unique jewelry and more. Photo credit: Locked In Photography (14 W. Washington).

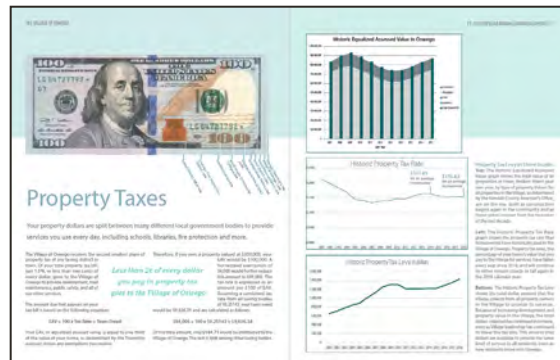
REPORT GIVES RESIDENTS A VIEW INTO VILLAGE FINANCIALS

IN OCTOBER the Village of Oswego released its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2018.

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 on the financial health of the community. Residents can read about the Village's long-term planning, local economy, megaprojects and more.

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

Find 'Better Together: The 2018 Popular Annual Financial Report' on the Village's home page, www.oswegoil.org under Popular Links, or issuu.com/oswegoil/docs/pafr. ■



The PAFR contains the Village's financial information from the past fiscal year in a visual, easy-to-read format.

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PROPERTY OF THE SEASON



Above: The Little White School House Museum today. Top Right: The school house in its original state, in 1901. Bottom right: The shuttered school house, in 1975.



Fifty seasons, countless stories

AS 2018 comes to a close, the Oswego Historic Preservation Commission is proud to reflect upon the success of the Property of the Season program featured on these pages over the past 14 years. Our last feature, 26 West Tyler St., marked the 50th season of this program.

Preservation is not only about restoration. The Property of the Season program recognizes that preservation is often accomplished through adaptive re-uses that allow properties of the past to continue to have value today. Through the years, feature articles have not only retold the stories of prior owners and significant events, but have often revealed a photographic chronology of how structures evolved, like the Little White School, pictured above. In most cases the program

has honored homeowners and building owners like you. It has showcased examples where the original character has persisted through the years and illustrates the progression of how Oswego came to be the community it is today.

The owners of these properties contribute to a rich legacy that benefits us all. Because of their stewardship, we have a physical, visible connection to stories of the past -- properties we can associate with the individuals who shaped this community and structures that played pivotal roles in the growth of commerce, education, and religion. Like pages of a book, they hold countless stories waiting to be told. We know these stories thanks to the experts at the Oswegoland Heritage Association for both source material and their extensive research help, plus Village staff and records.

By continuing the Property of the Season, we hope to grow an already rich historical record, to recognize Oswego's pride in the maintenance and preservation of its properties, and to give life to the Architectural and Historical Survey available through the website. We hope to root newer residents to the community, and we hope to encourage you to investigate the advantages of Local Landmark status for your property.

To learn more or to tell the story of your property, contact Planner Natalie Zine at nzine@oswegoil.org. The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Visit www.oswegoil.org for additional information and access to the Downtown Tour. ■

Have 401(k) questions? Let's talk.



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DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

18 The **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

24 Village offices are closed for **Christmas Eve**.

25 Village offices are closed for **Christmas Day**. Trash collection will be delayed by one day.

01 Village offices are closed for **New Year's Day**. Trash collection will be delayed by one day.

07-11 It's the last week for curbside **Christmas Tree collection**. See details on page 9.

15 The **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

17 Join Oswegrow for a workshop on Google Ads, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Oswego

05 The **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

09 Grab the girls and catch an afternoon of movies by, for, and about women at **LUNAFEST**. Brought to you by the Oswego Cultural Arts Commission, this celebration of women in film includes a small makers market, and a variety of sweet treats. Proceeds from this event benefit Mutual Ground.



18 Village offices are closed for **President's Day**.

19 The **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

23 Meet new businesses and learn about everything happening in Oswego at the Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce' **Hometown Expo**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oswego High School. See ad next page.

Public Library. Details are at **facebook.com/oswegrow**.

21 Village offices are closed in observance of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**.



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Friends.
Community.**

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