

Winter 2022

Oswego News

The official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, Illinois



Main Street dazzles!

Christmas Walk presented by
Allied First Bank is Dec. 2 p.6

Welcome
new
businesses

p.5

Shop small Nov. 26 p.4

ARE YOU A CHRISTMAS CLUBBER???

Christmas Club pays 4.00% A.P.Y.*



Our interest-bearing Christmas Club Account is an easy way to have extra cash for the Holidays when Santa comes to town.

You decide how much to save and how often. Allied First Bank can automatically debit your checking account if you prefer, making it easier to save. **Our Christmas Club pays 4.00% A.P.Y.***

Small amounts saved regularly can give you the amount you need for Holiday travels, festivities, and gifts!

Open your Christmas Club today!
Go to AlliedFirst.com or call (630) 383-0000 for more info.

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Offer subject to change. Effective 11/1/2022. To receive APY, account holder must make the minimum deposit to open the account, of \$10. Interest rate will be paid until maturity date of October 31, 2023; interest accrues until maturity date. No accrued interest will be paid if the account is closed prior to maturity. Total aggregate dollar amount in deposits to account during any calendar month may be no more than \$1,000. No withdrawals allowed prior to maturity date.



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Holiday greetings, everyone!

LAST YEAR I WROTE ABOUT LYRICS from the song Silver Bells, "In the air there's a feeling of Christmas." This is now both figuratively and literally true in our Village of Oswego! Residents and visitors alike will be greeted with the sounds of Christmas music as you shop and dine in our beautiful downtown. Public Works recently completed installation of a sound system. Pairing this with the year-round tree lights creates an even warmer feel

for our downtown that we are so proud of.

When you take a break from shopping downtown, you will soon find another dining option. Oak+Bean is getting close to opening their doors. Downtown is not the only area in Oswego with new restaurants. Anchor Bar recently opened on Rt.34 and Hell's BBQ opened on Orchard Road. I've tried the food from both places several times and the tastes are amazing!

This holiday season brings many opportunities for us to come together with a full schedule of events and outings around Oswego. We get started with Shop Small Saturday followed by Christmas Walk and the Cookie Walk. There will also be a Coffee & Conversations event at Village Hall and the Christmas Caravan will once again tour our neighborhoods.

This is a wonderful time indeed, but with all these things going on, don't forget to spend time with your families and friends. This season also provides an excellent opportunity to greet a neighbor you haven't spoken to in a while, make someone's day with a random act of kindness or reflect on the meaning of the season, the year past or the one to come.

I hope to see you out this year at one of the events! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Troy Parlier
Oswego Village President

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK

WATCH MEETINGS FROM HOME

The public is always invited to attend or watch the livestream of Oswego Village Board meetings at www.oswegoil.org. 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.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Staff can assist with voter registration at Village Hall, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details visit www.oswegoil.org/voting or Kendall County Election & Voter information at www.kendallcountyil.gov. ■

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

The Consolidated Election for the Village of Oswego will be held April 4, 2023.

One (1) Village President and three (3) Trustee positions are up for nomination.

For more information visit www.oswegoil.org and click on "I Want To"... "Run for Office." Information is also available from the State Board of Elections at www.elections.il.gov.

Any questions concerning nomination petitions may be directed to the State Board of Elections.

OSWEGO VILLAGE BOARD

TROY PARLIER *PRESIDENT*
TINA TOUCHETTE *CLERK*
TOM GUIST
KIT KUHRT
JAMES MARTER, II
TERRY OLSON
JENNIFER JONES SINNOTT
BRIAN THOMAS

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JEFF BURGNER *POLICE CHIEF*
CHRISTINA BURNS *DEPUTY VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR*
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ANDREA LAMBERG *FINANCE DIRECTOR*
KEVIN LEIGHTY *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIR.*
JOE RENZETTI *INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIR.*
JOSE ZAVALA *BUILDING & PERMITS MANAGER*
ROD ZENNER *DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR*



OSWEGO NEWS

Oswego News is the official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, published quarterly and mailed to more than 15,000 Oswego postal customers. Comments, suggestions and questions, including advertising, should be directed to:

BRIDGET BITTMAN
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
100 PARKERS MILL
OSWEGO, IL 60543

630-551-2392
BBITTMAN@OSWEGOIL.ORG

DEPARTMENTS

ADMINISTRATION 630-551-2360
BUILDING & ZONING 630-554-2310
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 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

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOV. 26



Shop small on Saturday, Nov. 26 to find great deals on unique holiday gifts and keep your tax dollars local. When you spend \$100 at a local shop, about \$68 continues to circulate in the community. Compare that to just \$14 spent at a national retailer, where profits go out of state. Support your community by shopping locally this holiday season.

IN BRIEF

LEARN ABOUT OSWEGO'S FINANCES

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a concise, easy-to-read explanation of the Village's financial standing, including information on taxes, expenditures and funding for megaprojects. View Fiscal Year 2022 at www.oswegoil.org/financial-reporting.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Downtown Oswego Historic District (DOHD) has been officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The DOHD includes properties along Main Street between Jackson and Washington street.

Buildings in the district include the former Oswego Fire Station 11 and the former Oswego Post Office, as well as other historic institutional and commercial properties. The district's period of significance ranges from 1845 to 1972 with many of the structures constructed with architectural styles from the mid-19th century, late Victorian, and late 19th and 20th century revivals.

The listing of these properties in the Register not only recognizes its rich historical significance, but also extends additional benefits to property owners. Inclusion on the register does not limit a property owner from doing interior or exterior modifications. ■

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PRAIRIEFEST RESTAURANT WEEK JAN. 28 TO FEB. 4, 2023



The Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce, Village of Oswego, Oswegoland Park District and Oswego dining establishments will once again collaborate on seven days of culinary delights during PrairieFest Restaurant Week, January 28 through February 4.

All week long, enjoy special offerings from long-time favorites and new restaurants with exclusive bundled pricing. A full list of participating businesses will be shared on PrairieFestRestaurantWeek.com in late December. Support our small businesses in a tasty way. ■



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Manager line

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Oswego



NEW BUSINESSES

There continues to be significant business activity in the Oswego community. The following businesses have or will soon be opening:

TABLETOP GAME SHOP

The Reserve at Hudson Crossing's first retail space has opened for business. The Tabletop Game Shop (TGS), a trading card and board game retailer, carries brands and products such as Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Magic the Gathering, Digimon and Funko Pops.

ANCHOR BAR

This family-friendly bar and restaurant opened its doors at 2440 Rt. 34. The first location in Illinois, Anchor Bar takes pride in its Buffalo, New York roots and is the "birthplace of the chicken wing." In addition to tasty wings, pizza, sandwiches and a huge selection of drinks, Anchor Bar boasts 50 TVs to watch your favorite teams.



HELL'S BBQ

Originally established as a catering business, Hell's BBQ opened its first restaurant at 1019 Station Drive. Head on down to taste house-smoked meats, hearty sides like mac 'n cheese and quench your thirst at their full bar.

Coming Soon!

OAK + BEAN

The Reserve will soon be home to its second tenant, Oak + Bean, offering specialty coffee and wine options, as well as a variety of sandwiches and tasty small plates.

FREDDIE'S OFF THE CHAIN

Work continues at 11 S. Madison Street for one of the town's favorite food trucks, Freddie's Off the Chain. They hope to open their new brick-and-mortar restaurant in early 2023. In the meantime, taste their mouthwatering tacos and homecooked Mexican fare served on the outdoor patio. For hours and updates, check out Freddie's Facebook page. ■



God's Gifts Preschool

Oswego Presbyterian Church
www.godsgiftsps.com

Village of Oswego Christmas Walk

Oswego's beloved holiday tradition returns on Friday, Dec. 2.

presented by
 **ALLIEDFIRSTBANK.**

THE 2022 OSWEGO CHRISTMAS WALK, presented by Allied First Bank, will be 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2 along Main Street.

Bring the whole family to enjoy the holiday traditions you've come to know and love.

Take a ride on the Toyland train, meet Santa's reindeer, and snap a photo with Santa. Sip hot cocoa, shop sales at unique downtown Oswego businesses, enjoy holiday-themed activities at booths up and down Main Street, and watch the annual tree lighting ceremony,

sponsored by Hennessy's River View Ford. Listen to your favorite songs of the season thanks to Main Stage sponsor Xfinity.

As always, admission is free, so grab your Santa hat and join the Village of Oswego to usher in the holiday season.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHT PARADE

The parade of emergency vehicles steps off at approximately 8:10 p.m. complete with flashing lights but no sound. Watch as the festive parade winds down Main Street to officially end the event.



DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY CARAVAN ON DEC. 14

The Holiday Caravan returns to neighborhoods on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. Brightly decorated vehicles from the Village, Police Department and the Oswego Fire Protection District will visit many streets for a festive showcase.

Visit www.oswegoil.org/caravan for a map and schedule for the Holiday Caravan route. ■



PARKING

Shuttle buses will transport attendees from the Oswego High School parking lot to downtown beginning at 4:45 p.m. Free parking is also available in the public Downtown Parking Deck at The Reserve at Hudson Crossing, the Harrison Street lot, Village Hall, and on streets in and around downtown.

DETAILS

Get details about entertainment, activities, food options and more at www.oswegochristmaswalk.com. ■



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Friends.
Community.**

Janna Misek Ins Agcy Inc

Janna Misek, Agent
1136 Douglas Road
Oswego, IL 60543
Bus: 630-554-1540
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 8:00pm
Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 12:00pm
Se habla Español

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WINTER PREPARATION TIPS



Secure your mailbox before snowfall to prevent damage by snowplows.

PREPARE YOUR MAILBOX

Village of Oswego snowplow 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 before the ground freezes.
- Inspect the connection point between the box and post to ensure that the mailbox is securely fastened.

If your mailbox is damaged during a snow storm, report it within 3 business days of the snow event. Email info@oswegoil.org, call Public Works at 630-554-3242, or click on "Report an Issue" on www.oswegoil.org.

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 \$100 for mailbox replacement. If the damage is caused by snow coming off the plow blade, or another undetermined cause, the Village cannot provide reimbursement. All receipts must be submitted by April 28, 2023 for reimbursement. ■

HELP OUR SNOW PLOWS CLEAR YOUR STREETS

SNOWPLOW CREWS in the Public Works Department work hard to keep you safe during the winter driving season. You can pitch in on the effort to keep the streets clear—and save yourself some headaches—by taking a few steps around your home:

Clear the area around your mailbox. This helps prevent damage to your mailbox and the hassle of getting a replacement. (See left.)

Clear snow from the parkways on either side of your driveway's apron. This lets our plows unload their snow before crossing your driveway, so extra slush doesn't block in your cars.

Pile your driveway snow in your yard. Remember, shoveling or blowing snow into the street is prohibited by Village ordinance.

When plowing, crews prioritize collector roads such as Douglas Road and Boulder Hill Pass since 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 snowplows is limited both for pedestrians and drivers. Keep a safe distance and remind children to stay away from plows. ■

SHOVEL SIDEWALKS, HYDRANTS AND DRIVEWAYS THIS WINTER



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.

When clearing snow, do not deposit snow onto the roadway. 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. ■

WASTE COLLECTION



AVOID FROZEN WATER PIPES

FROZEN WATER PIPES flood the homes of a quarter-million families nationwide each winter. This damage is largely preventable.

Before winter hits, 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, and keep your thermostat set at the same temperature both day and night.

Before you leave town, set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F. Ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing. If you plan on being gone for a longer period of time, shut off and drain the water system.

If your pipes freeze, never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame because it causes a fire hazard. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house!

Take time to locate your main water shutoff valve before you experience an emergency. If your water pipes burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve and call a plumber for assistance. ■

FREE DECEMBER YARD WASTE COLLECTION

During the week of December 5, you may put out yard waste bags without stickers. All yard waste must be placed in 30-gallon Kraft yard waste bags. This new collection was added when the Village renegotiated the waste contract with Groot Industries earlier this year.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Groot Industries will not collect residential trash on Monday Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas Day, and Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day. Trash and recycling pickup following the holidays will be delayed by one day.

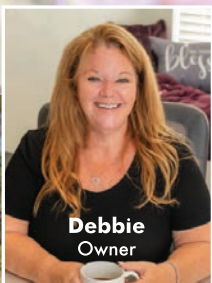
DISPOSE OF CHRISTMAS TREES THROUGH JAN. 13

Groot will collect Christmas trees after the holidays through Friday, Jan. 13. Place your bare tree, free from lights, ornaments, tinsel, or any decorations by the curb on your normal scheduled garbage day. Do not bag your tree or affix a yard waste sticker.

After the second week in January, residents will be required to wait until April to dispose of their tree when the yard waste program resumes. In April, a sticker must be used. ■

Now Is The Time For A New System!

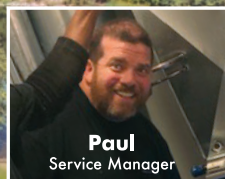
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Visit www.oswegoil.org/newsletter for information.

FROM THE OSWEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

To help keep residents safe while driving this winter the Police Department has some tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Check the weather before you leave. Assess the road conditions and traffic.
- Always remain vigilant and drive slowly in the winter—it takes longer to slow your vehicle on an icy, wet or snowy surface.
- Allocate extra time for travel during the winter to compensate for driving more slowly. Do not rush or put yourself in a situation where you feel pressured to speed.
- Either drive behind a snow plow or use caution whenever passing them. Never crowd a snow plow, and do not drive next to them other than for passing. Snow plows are slow, make wide turns, frequently stop, overlap lanes and exit the road often.
- Stock your vehicle with supplies to help you drive safely and stay warm in an emergency during the winter, including a snow shovel, broom/ice scraper, sand or kitty litter for stuck vehicles, flashlight, jumper cables and warning devices like flares or emergency markers.
- Keep blankets, warm clothing, cell phone charger, water, food and extra medication doses in cars in case your vehicle breaks down.

If your car breaks down, follow these tips:

- Stay with your vehicle.
- Keep the interior dome light turned on.
- Don't run your car for long periods in an enclosed space or with the windows up—this is a carbon monoxide hazard.
- If you must keep your vehicle running to stay warm, clear snow away from the exhaust pipe and run the vehicle only as long as needed. ■

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

The Police Department has recently reported an uptick of catalytic converter thefts.

Here are some prevention tips:

- Keep your vehicle parked in your garage whenever possible.
- Park in a well lit area.
- Park in areas with video surveillance.
- Install an anti-theft device on the converter.
- Etch your VIN number on the converter and/or paint it a bright color.
- Cars that sit higher off the ground like large trucks and SUVs are popular targets.
- Check with your car insurance to see if you're covered for stolen auto parts.

And as always, if you see something, say something! ■

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DECEMBER

02 Celebrate the season at the **Oswego Christmas Walk**, presented by **Allied First Bank** from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on Main Street with music, dazzling decorations and activities for all ages. Details, p. 6.

03 Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the **Cookie Walk**. Yin purchase required prior to event. While supplies last.

10 Seniors, join President Parlier for **Coffee & Conversation** at 9 a.m. at Oswego Village Hall. Treats served at 8:30 a.m.

13 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall to vote on Village business. Meetings are open to the public and include a public forum for those wishing to speak. Committee of the Whole precedes at 6 p.m. Agendas and live streams of meetings are available at www.oswegoil.org.

14 The **Holiday Caravan** will visit neighborhoods with Village vehicles festooned in colorful decorations and lights. Details, p. 7.

23 Village offices are closed in observance of **Christmas Eve**. Trash collection is unaffected.

26 Village offices are closed in observance of **Christmas Day**. Trash collection delayed one day.



JANUARY

02 Village offices are closed in observance of **New Year's Day**. Trash collection delayed one day.

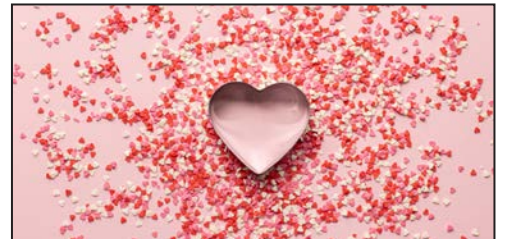
09-13 Last chance to put out old Christmas trees. Details, p. 9.

10 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m.; Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.

16 Village offices closed for **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

28-04

PrairieFest Restaurant Week
Tempt your taste buds at local dining establishments with special offers from Jan. 28 to Feb. 4. Details, p. 5.



FEBRUARY

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

14 Happy Valentine's Day, Oswego!

20 Village offices closed for **President's Day**.

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

23 **State of the Village** presentation by Village President Troy Parlier hosted by the Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce at 4:30 p.m., Classic Cinemas Kendall 11.

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NO PARKING ON SNOW-COVERED STREETS

Parking is prohibited on Village streets when two inches 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 can resume once the snow stops and the streets have been plowed curb to curb.

Connect with the Village of Oswego!

Find the most up-to-date information through our website, email alerts and social media.

 Visit www.oswegoil.org for information about services, meetings and more.

 Sign up for email alerts and get reminders about Village meetings, services, events and more at www.oswegoil.org/alerts.

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 [@villageofoswego](https://www.instagram.com/villageofoswego)

Visit www.oswegoil.org/alerts and complete the online form to the right to receive email updates on specific Village topics, as well as subscribe to meeting agendas for the Village Board and its commissions.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend and speak at any meeting. All agendas are posted at Village Hall, on the Village's website, and emailed to subscribers at least 48 hours before each meeting.

Committee of the Whole and Village Board meetings usually take place at 6 and 7 p.m., respectively, on the first and third Tuesday of the month, with some exceptions.

Want to know about new developments before they happen?

The Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) usually meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Special meetings are added as needed. PZC provides the President and Board of Trustees with guidance and direction on matters related to land uses, planning and zoning for residential, commercial and industrial proposals.

The commission reviews and makes recommendations to the Village Board for special uses and zoning amendments, well as reviews and make recommendations for subdivisions,

preliminary and final planned unit developments, and amendments to planned unit developments. Attend a meeting to learn about future developments in town and share feedback. Email subscribers can get agenda notices as they are published through the Village's email alerts.

Visit www.oswegoil.org/alerts to subscribe to Village email alerts and meeting notifications. Sample below.

Subscription Topics

For Residents

- o General Announcements and Seasonal Reminders
- o Special Events
- o Police Announcements
- o Traffic Alerts
- o Biweekly News Digest

Meeting Agendas

- o Village Board
- o Planning & Zoning Commission
- o Cultural Arts Commission
- o Economic Development Commission
- o Historic Preservation Commission
- o Police Commission